

CONVENTION OF B.C. MUNICIPALITIES— (Continued.)

It has been stated, in view of this Act, that the Government are now used as collectors of Municipal revenues. This, as far as it goes, is true, but at the same time the Government are forcing the collection of their own taxes, which is eminently sane, and is in keeping with the advice that the Municipalities have always received from the Governments, namely, to collect the money owing to them, and not to keep on adding to their liabilities by borrowing money against their arrears of taxes. We know that times are hard, but if we are ever collectively to assume a sounder financial position in this Province, we must do so by collecting the monies owing to us, and having the property eventually in the hands of those who can afford to carry the liabilities attached thereto, and I feel that this convention should record its appreciation of the action of the Government in placing such a wise provision on the Statutes.

There will be many questions before you for consideration, and I have taken the responsibility this year of having only one paper, kindly contributed by Mayor Gray, of New Westminster. This will leave the convention more time to discuss business placed before them.

The Good Roads convention, now being held at Duncan, is a very important one, and as this is a movement which has an intimate connection with all our Municipalities, I have arranged for a meeting with them this evening, when their views will no doubt be laid before us for endorsement.

The City of Duncan have very kindly invited us to have lunch and spend Thursday afternoon as their guests, and knowing the lovely nature of the country, I feel sure we shall thoroughly enjoy the outing prepared for us, which will be instructive as well as pleasurable.

In all the deliberations which will take place, I know that the same spirit and unanimity of purpose will be shown as at former conventions, and would like those who are attending for the first time clearly to understand that the privileges of the floor are equal, and that no relevant discussion of any question will be curtailed; at the same time, I would ask all present, for the sake of the business in hand, to be as concise as possible, which will result in benefit to all. And I would also ask the convention to exercise great care that all amendments should be of such a nature that they work to the advantage of all municipalities throughout the Province, otherwise we may ask for something which may be advantageous to one section of the community, but detrimental to others.

Many of you are probably aware that our solicitor, Mr. McDiarmid, was very ill for some months since we met at Vernon, but notwithstanding this, he has rendered his usual valuable assistance to his Union, and I have pleasure in recommending, as the past President did, that he should be reimbursed for his expenses to this convention.

In conclusion, I would like to record my personal regret at the absence of our President, who for so many years has taken an active part in the affairs of this Union. His retirement from municipal life is a distinct loss both to his own city of Vernon and to the Union.

The work of your executive has not been as heavy as last year, but we have conscientiously worked in your interests and trust that our stewardship will be found satisfactory to this convention.

Moved by Mayor Todd, Victoria.

Seconded by Cr. Purdie, District of North Vancouver and carried.

That the Vice-President's report be received and filed, and the two recommendations therein adopted, namely,

- (1) Request the Provincial Government to redraft the Municipal Act.
- (2) Record, and inform Provincial Government of, appreciation of action of Government in enacting regulation enforcing payment of all taxes in order to obtain Registration of Title at Land Registry Office.

LATE SIR RICHARD McBRIDE.

Moved by Mayor Gray.

Seconded by Mayor Todd and carried.

That the heartfelt sympathy and condolence of the representatives of the Municipalities of British Columbia now in Convention assembled in the City of Duncan, be tendered to Lady McBride and family on account of the bereavement which they have suffered by the death of Sir Richard McBride. And this Convention desires to record its sense of the loss of one who while Premier of this Province was ever ready to lend a sympathetic ear, and to render all possible assistance to those in charge of the Government of the Municipalities of this Province.

The Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. H. Bose, presented his report which was received and referred to the Auditing Committee.

Solicitor McDiarmid presented his report which was in printed form.

Resolved, that the same be adopted as read and referred to the Resolutions Committee.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mayor Gray reported from the Resolutions Committee dealing with the Solicitor's report as follows:

INSPECTION OF DAIRY CATTLE

1. Whereas it has been scientifically demonstrated that untreated milk is one of the readiest and most effective media for the propagation and the dissemination of disease-breeding germs, and when produced from diseased animals or amidst unclean or insanitary condition or surroundings, is a most fruitful source of tuberculosis and many other diseases, especially amongst young children, and

Whereas it has been proved beyond the possibility of doubt that the dairy herds in practically all sections of the Province have been and are now more or less affected with tuberculin diseases, and

Whereas the work carried on for the last few years by the Department of Agriculture, in the inspection of dairy premises, the testing of dairy cattle, and the destruction of affected animals has considerably reduced the percentage of diseased animals in the dairy herds, and

Whereas the amount appropriated for the carrying on of this work is entirely inadequate and there is grave danger that the large amounts already spent will be utterly lost, and that conditions may, shortly be as bad or worse than before, and

Whereas it is reasonably certain that if this work is carried on for a few years, the effective measures taken to prevent the importation into the province of any but tested animals, certified free from disease, bovin tuberculosis at least, and probably most other diseases affecting dairy and other cattle, will be entirely eradicated, to the great and lasting benefit of the Province, and

Whereas there is a lack of necessary information amongst some of the dairymen and others, as to the best and most effective methods of producing, caring for, handling and using milk and milk products;

Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Government be strongly urged to continue the present or an improved system of inspection and testing of dairy and other cattle, inspection and grading of dairy premises, buildings, machinery and appliances used in the production and handling of milk and milk products, that such testing and inspection be carried out by properly qualified inspectors; that it be compulsory that it be carried out at intervals of not more than six months, and that reasonable compensation be paid for all animals it may be found necessary to condemn and destroy.

Resolved, that we consider it imperatively necessary for the Government to take immediate steps to inspect and test all cattle imported into the province and when such cattle are not certified by competent authorities to have them tested and found free from disease immediately previous to their shipment.

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention it is the duty of the Government in order to safeguard the public health, to take every other necessary step to more effectively control and regulate the conditions under which milk is produced for sale and use, and also the conditions under which milk and milk products are manufactured, transported, stored and used, and to this end would suggest:

(1) That such regulations be formulated and enacted into law, as will compel the use in every case of proper methods, appliances and buildings for the production, handling, storing, transportation and sale of all milk and milk products, and also the observance of such sanitary measures as will tend to preserve the health of the herds, and prevent the contamination of all milk and milk products;

(2) That such regulations and sanitary measures be enforced by the frequent and rigorous inspection by qualified inspectors, and by the infliction of adequate penalties for violation of the same;

(3) That accurate scientific knowledge, as to the best methods of producing, transporting, storing, handling, preparing and using milk and milk products, be compiled, arranged and disseminated throughout the province for the better information of the people.

The Act relating to Contagious Disease (animals) was amended this year along the lines suggested, and such other matters as are matters of regulation in the Department are receiving the careful consideration of the Minister.

(Solicitor's Report, Continued on Page 504.)