

which destroyed Fernie and entailed a heavy loss of life. Fire on Vancouver Island, it is estimated, caused the destruction of 24,000,000 feet of timber.

Engineers appreciate the loss such fires cause. They should be among the first to show great concern and care, and thus educate those they come in close touch with.

### EDITORIAL NOTE.

Ontario's railway mileage was increased during 1908 by 679 miles. There are now in that Province 8,399 miles of steam road and 119 separate systems.

### PRECIPITATION FOR AUGUST.

The amount of precipitation which fell during August varied greatly with the district. In the southern parts of Vancouver Island and the Central Valleys of British Columbia, throughout Alberta, in most districts of Ontario and locally in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces the amount was much less than the usual quantity, whereas in some of the remaining portions of the Dominion, the positive departure was very marked, especially so in the eastern portion of Quebec, the extreme southwestern portion of the Peninsula of Ontario and also in portions of Prince Edward Island.

In British Columbia, a nearly normal temperature in the south decreased northwards to the Cariboo District, where there were negative departures of from 3° to 7°. In the Peninsula of Ontario, the Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence Valleys and throughout the Maritime Provinces the average was just, or not quite reached. Elsewhere in the Dominion the average was generally exceeded. Positive departures of from 3° to 5° were recorded from Saskatchewan to northwestern Ontario.

The table shows for fifteen stations included in the report of the Meteorological Office, Toronto, the total precipitation of these stations for the month.

Ten inches of snow is calculated as being the equivalent of one inch of rain.

Station.	Depth in inches.	Departure from the average of twenty years.
Calgary, Alta. ....	0.60	— 1.98
Edmonton, Alta. ....	0.90	— 1.06
Swift Current, Sask. ....	2.40	+ 0.62
Winnipeg, Man. ....	4.70	+ 2.16
Port Stanley, Ont. ....	4.20	+ 1.62
Toronto, Ont. ....	1.33	— 1.50
Parry Sound, Ont. ....	1.50	— 1.30
Ottawa, Ont. ....	3.20	+ 0.17
Kingston, Ont. ....	3.00	+ 0.55
Montreal, Que. ....	2.30	— 1.07
Quebec, Que. ....	5.20	+ 1.38
Chatham, N.B. ....	4.30	+ 0.29
Halifax, N.S. ....	3.40	— 0.93
Victoria, B.C. ....	0.50	— 0.11
Kamloops, B.C. ....	0.60	— 0.40

### UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES.

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities met at Yarmouth, N.S., on Sept. 2nd, the report of the Committee on Resolutions was the first matter taken up. It made two recommendations, namely that voting by ratepayers in incorporated towns on extraordinary expenditures should be by ballot, and that the suggestions, as to improvements in the administration of justice as it affects towns and municipalities should be referred to the incoming executive. Both recommendations were adopted without dissent.

On motion of Arthur Roberts, of Bridgewater, and Mayor Richardson, of Sydney, the meeting decided that towns and municipalities should be given full control over the taxation,

and the relicensing of all hawkers and pedlars within their respective limits, and that there should be no special or exceptional legislation in their behalf.

Mayor Stewart, of Bridgewater, read a highly interesting paper on "Municipal Assessment." He sharply criticised the present methods of assessment, mainly on the ground of under valuation, Warden Bishop, of Halifax, and Warden McMahon, of King's spoke upon the subject. On motion Dr. Stewart was cordially thanked for his paper.

The following officers were elected: President—Warden A. E. McMahon, Kings County.

Vice-President—Mayor W. A. Richardson, Sydney.

Secretary—A. Roberts, Bridgewater.

Treasurer—F. W. W. Doane, Halifax.

Executive Committee—T. S. Rogers, K. C., Amherst; Mayor Kelly, Yarmouth; Mayor Chisholm, Halifax; Mayor Murray, Truro; City Solicitor Finlay McDonald, Sydney; County Clerk W. Kerr Dimock, Windsor; County Stipendiary J. L. McDougall, Halifax.

Kentville was decided upon as the next place of meeting, and the convention adjourned.

### ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

The Ontario Municipal Association met in Toronto, Sept. 1st and 2nd, 1909. Forty of the townships, towns and cities of Ontario were represented. In the absence of the president, Mayor W. Kennedy of Owen Sound, the first vice-president, George Geddes, Mayor of St. Thomas, occupied the chair, and made the opening address.

After pointing out that the association is prosperous financially and is holding its own in the matter of membership, he mentioned some of the matters which are to be discussed during the session. He said that a strong committee should be formed to watch, and, if necessary, aid in the amending of the Ontario Municipal Act. He suggested that serious consideration be given the question of federating the various Provincial associations.

#### Government by Commission.

"Then, too," he said, "we want legislation allowing smaller cities and towns to choose government by a Board of Control or a commission without having to go through such elaborate stages as are at present necessary. What is just as important, too, is that municipalities should receive at least a portion of the liquor prosecution fines. We have all the trouble and expense of the prosecution."

A letter was read from the Council of Fort William, urging that a law be made preventing corporations from appointing special constables without notifying the municipal authorities or the chief of police of district. The matter was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

The following resolutions were presented to the meeting and referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

That the legislature be requested to give municipalities the power to elect that the affairs of the community be conducted by a commission appointed by the people for three years and capable as a commission of initiating legislation for the people. Moved by W. C. Mikel of Belleville, and W. H. Ross of Dundas.

#### Assessment Matters.

That this association request the Legislature to amend the Municipal Act of 1904 by adding a clause declaring that the courts shall have power to consider the value of property for county purposes, which the assessors of individual municipalities cannot consider. Moved by A. J. Johnston and R. Bailey.

That the Registry Act be amended to provide that plans of sub-divisions of land within three miles of a city of over 25,000 population must be submitted for the approval of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board before being registered. Moved by Mayor Hopewell of Ottawa, and seconded by Mayor Kyle of Brockville.

W. C. Mikel, K.C., of Belleville, wanted the association to back Winnipeg in asking the Ottawa Government for a grant towards the proposed Winnipeg Fair in 1912.