

CONVENTION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES— (Continued)

To provide special libraries dealing with specific industries, such as shipbuilding, fruit growing, mining and fisheries, and which will prove of the greatest benefit to the industry and finance of the province.

To reach any person desirous of book service and to be distributed through the local postmaster, etc. for the benefit of the man up in the woods in the logging camps for the lonely fisherman or miner.

3rd.—The local service in highly organized municipalities. The public library is the cinderella of municipal finance. The library board has usually to beg for money each year, and sometimes the municipalities are unable to give this money. It is proposed to put the municipal library on a self supporting and self respecting financial basis. Where a library is desired those who do desire it can put up a petition to the municipality, for the passing of a money by-law to be voted upon by the people and finally passed by a three-fifths majority. The by-law to provide for disbursements, just as for schools, and to establish a library rate of three-quarters of a mill on the dollar unless increased by consent of the Council. This places the library on a self-supporting and self-respecting basis.

Between the travelling library and the municipal library there is a gap which should be filled up by the organization of a voluntary library association, which might be a body corporate. Twenty people may form a voluntary library and the commission may give a certain grant in support.

We are not quite satisfied yet with the details of the Act as drafted and would be glad of any suggestions. It is a question whether it would be best that the people should levy on themselves for a general service. On the other hand there is no machinery to make a general levy, as in a city, and I would be very thankful to have suggestions to better this feature of the Act. I am not thoroughly satisfied as to the question of the partly locally supported and partly commission supported library association. However, I regret that I am not able to go into the matter more fully at the present time."

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Ridington for his very interesting address.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

The undersigned members of the Committee, appointed on Credentials reported that credentials have been received from 44 cities and municipalities, with a total vote of 89, allotted as follows:—

West Vancouver (2)—Reeve Vinson, M. J. Crehan.
Coldstream (2)—Reeve John Kidston, A. D. Herrott.
Kamloops (3)—Ald. J. R. Colley, Mayor Miller, A. E. Meighen.
Saanich (3)—Reeve Borden, Hector Cowper, Harold M. Diggon.
Vernon (3)—Mayor Shatford, Ald. C. F. Costerton, J. E. Edwards.
Port Coquitlam (2)—John Smith, W. G. McQuarrie.
Dist. North Vancouver (3)—Reeve E. Bridgman, J. Loutet, J. Farmer.
New Westminster (3)—Mayor A. W. Gray, Ald. Lynch, T. J. Thomas.
Victoria (4)—Ald. Sargent, Ald. Harvey.
Matsqui (2)—Angus Maclean, H. S. Phinney.
Vancouver (4)—Mayor Gale, Ald. Woodside, Ald. Marshall, G. Ireland.
Pitt Meadow (2)—Reeve Wm. Reid, Thomas B. Hall.
North Cowichan (2)—J. W. Dickinson.
Ferne (2)—A. J. Moffatt.
Burnaby (3)—Coun. J. Mulgrew, Coun. G. Webb, Reeve Fraser.
Port Alberni (2)—R. F. Blandy.
Penticton (2)—Reeve F. M. Smith, B. C. Bracewell.
North Vancouver (3)—Ald. Bruce Watson, Ald. G. McBain, R. F. Archibald.
Armstrong (2)—Mayor J. M. Wright, Ald. H. A. Fraser.
Langley (2)—David Harris, F. Macpherson.
Port Moody (2)—John B. Lye, A. G. Moore.
Revelstoke (2)—W. A. Gordon.
Oak Bay (3)—Coun. J. C. McNeill, J. J. Shallcross.
Duncan (2)—J. Greig.
Kelowna (2)—George Dunn.
Esquimalt (2)—S. A. Pomeroy, J. S. Floyd.
City of Chilliwack (2)—Mayor Ashwell.
Enderby (2)—Ald. James Nichol.

Prince George (2)—Mayor Perry.
Nanaimo (3)—S. Gough.
Merritt (2)—J. P. Boyd, George Irvine.
West Summerland (2)—E. R. Simpson, R. E. White.
Point Grey (4)—Reeve Fletcher, Henry Floyd, T. Pearson, Coun. Arnold.
City of Salmon Arm (2)—Mayor John Lacey, Ald. W. J. Ball.
Grand Forks (2)—Mayor Acers.
South Vancouver (3)—Clerk Riley, Assessor Thompson.
District Salmon Arm (2)—Reeve Kew, Coun. Slough.
Coquitlam (District) (3)—Reeve Marmont, Coun. Morrison, R. Newman.
Surrey (3)—Reeve T. J. Sullivan, Coun. McKenzie, Coun. Brown.
Peachland (2)—W. M. Dryden.
Chilliwack District (2)—Coun. W. H. Annis, Chas. Webb.
Delta (3)—J. Harris, Seymour Huff, Leon J. Ladner.
Kaslo (1)—W. V. Papworth.
Kelowna (1)—Mayor D. W. Sutherland.
A Resolutions Committee was appointed as follows:—
Reeve Fraser; Mayor Wright; Reeve Fletcher; Clerk Dickinson; Mayor Perry; Mayor Ashwell, and Mayor Acres.
The President appointed as Auditors: City Clerk Greig and Clerk Bracewell.

Communications were read from Hon. N. W. Rowell; Garfield A. King; and Mayor A. E. Todd, of Victoria.

A Constitution Committee was appointed as follows:—
Clerk Floyd, Point Grey; Alderman Archibald, North Vancouver City; City Clerk Moffatt, Fernie.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

"To the Delegates of the Convention of British Columbia Municipalities—

It is indeed a pleasure for me, as President of the Union, to welcome you to this, our fourteenth Annual Convention; and I herewith submit my report for the past year for your consideration. Before proceeding with our business, I feel we must record our deep regret at the loss, since we last met, of our late Premier, the Hon. H. C. Brewster. In him this Province has lost a valuable administrator, who met the many difficult problems of his office in a serious and thoughtful manner. He never spared himself, and no time or trouble was too great for him to take in consideration of affairs submitted to him. I know I voice the unanimous sentiment of this Convention in expressing deep regret at his loss, and in extending our most sincere sympathy to his relatives.

British Columbia, as part of the Dominion, is very proud of the part her men have taken in the struggle. There is hardly a home throughout the length and breadth of the grand old Empire that has not suffered loss, a loss ungrudgingly suffered for the fundamental principles of right, and to make this world a better place to live in. On our part, have we played the game with these men? I feel that this Convention should do its utmost to assist the Federal Government in making better provision for the dependents of the soldiers. We know that with the ever-increasing cost of living, that an adequate increase has not been made in the separation allowances. Further, there are unfortunate cases in connection with pensions, which will have to be adjusted, and I would suggest that the Government be most strongly supported by this organization in its dealings with the increase of separation allowances and pensions. Conditions at present are abnormal, and what would be an adequate allowance or pension in ordinary times cannot possibly be sufficient until normal times return once more. I believe that the Government have this matter in hand, and I know that they will deal with it in a fair and just manner, at the same time, representing as we do the civic interests of practically 90 per cent of the population of this Province, it is our duty and privilege to assist the Federal authorities by recording the support of our Union to any measure which they may take along these lines. No money can repay the men on the firing line for the sacrifices they are making, and the least we as a country can do, is to see that their dependents are given their full rights.

At our last convention your executive were instructed to urge upon the Government the necessity of the consolidation and revision of the Municipal Act. Upon attending at Victoria, we were met with every encouragement from the Municipal Committee and the executive of the Government, and the Attorney-General placed the drafting of the new Act in the hands of Municipal Inspector Baird, and Mr. F. A. McDiarmid, who has been our solicitor for some years. The manner in which we were received by the Government