

### CONVENTION OF NEW BRUNSWICK MUNICIPALITIES (Continued)

and a hospital pathologist, the appointment throughout the Province of chief district health officers, the care of tuberculosis on a large scale, medical inspection of public schools.

The health programme advocated by Dr. Murray MacLaren was not new. Dr. M. B. Mullin and others had been insisting on medical inspection of the public schools for many years; the tuberculosis problem had also been taken up by the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities, but Dr. Murray MacLaren rearranged the whole subject of public health into one paper. He was endorsed by the Union and made an honorary member.

The problem of health is now under a departmental head, Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts being the responsible minister, and to him must be given the credit of carrying into operation what had been the hopes and subjects of resolutions and government interviews for many years previously.

While the present health act has a few objectionable features—such as patronage and powers of taxation without representation, on the whole the act is well worthy the support of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities. The asperities will no doubt be removed in time, and its promoter be venerated by our children as a man of vision and a benefactor.

At the Moncton convention of 1909, Albert E. Reilley, mayor of Moncton, took strong grounds against leasing the Intercolonial Railway. This was unanimously supported.

If 1909 looked bad for railway prospects of development in New Brunswick, what must we say about 1921 as we view the tragedy of the maritime provinces being erased from the economic map of Canada?

#### Municipal Accounting.

At the convention held in Campbellton, in February of 1910, a system of uniform municipal accounting was urged, as well as independent auditing of all municipal corporations' accounts, including sinking funds. Since then the government of New Brunswick has made provision for inspection of sinking funds, but has not put the act in practical operation.

Every city, town and county must see the benefit of an absolutely independent audit of its accounts made by men who have nothing to gain and nothing to lose by full and frank disclosures of the corporation's accounts.

The county of York has an independent audit by a chartered accountant, and the municipality of the City and County of St. John has just been audited by a chartered accountant. It is no reflection on the very best official that his work should be independently audited. It should always be a source of comfort that others should find his work correctly performed.

#### Cost of Extra Protection.

A matter was discussed in 1909 that may be of interest to at least one city in New Brunswick in the near future, and that was the extra protection given a city, town or county by the Dominion Government in the form of police or military protection in times of strikes.

The late J. W. McCready recited, with the approval of the U. N. B. M., the conclusions of the

Union of Canadian Municipalities on this point, as follows:—"That it was unjust and arbitrary to lay upon the municipalities the liability to maintain and pay the militia engaged in the suppression of disorder, and in lieu of such arbitrary methods, the liability should be fixed by a judge on the municipality, province or federal authorities, according to the nature and conditions of the circumstances."

#### Provincial Highways.

At the 1910 convention Hon. John Morrissey made the confession that "There was not a really good road from St. Croix to the Restigouche; in fact, they were not better than they were thirty years ago."

We are happy to say to-day that his successor, whom we have with us, will not be compelled to make such a confession. His confession will be far from that, thanks to the support the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities has given to forward the good roads movement.

It was at Campbellton, in 1910, that the U. N. B. M. declared the policy for public highways. Mayor Montgomery of Dalhousie had the union declare:

"That in the opinion of this Union of New Brunswick Municipalities the time is opportune for the Provincial Government to inaugurate a system of provincial roads between important centres in the province, and if necessary, to borrow money for the purpose of carrying into effect such a system."

The climax of the road question was thought to have been reached, when, in 1916, at Saint Stephen, a bonded expenditure of \$5,000,000 was urged upon the Government.

#### A Detective Bureau.

For several sessions commencing in 1909 the Government of New Brunswick was urged to establish a detective bureau, but for some reason the request of the municipalities has not been favored.

The facts are that serious crimes ranking among capital offences have been committed in this province and either the criminal has not been apprehended or the trial has not been satisfactory. New Brunswick cannot afford the stigma of unpunished crime to be written across the face of its record.

Since the Newcastle convention of 1911 the Union has consistently pressed for better legislation for protection of women and children. Some forward legislation has been enacted, resulting in much good work, and the establishment of children's shelters in Saint John and Moncton.

There should be, at least, juvenile courts in every city and incorporated town in New Brunswick, not for the punishment of the working man's boy, but for the protection of the working man's boy against the fierce and bitter punishment pressed against an erring boy or girl who needs not prison bars, but kindly and firm treatment. I say—it is not stripes, but caresses which the motherless boy should receive.

I know whereof I speak when I say that most of the juvenile delinquents are found among fatherless or motherless and friendless boys and girls, and the great wastage of human life is among children and mothers left destitute.

#### Mothers' Pensions.

Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have provided mother's pensions. Nova Scotia appointed a commission to examine into the possibility of offering mothers' pensions to that province, and the estimate reported is \$150,000 per