

attend labour in Canada. There is this also to be said, the interests of certain trades carried on in Canada are not identical with those of the same trade in the States, there is rivalry to some extent, and it is suicidal for those whose industrial interests are involved with Canadian enterprises to place themselves under the control of Americans who are their competitors. Mr. Clouston considers that a well equipped steamship line from Vancouver and Victoria running to a convenient port would attract more miners returning from the Yukon to Canada, than the assay offices recently established. The establishment of the Mint is still disapproved by Mr. Clouston, and the desire for it in British Columbia would evaporate when the mint was established at Ottawa. He considers that there will be small demand for gold for currency, as the note issues are so much more convenient and popular. Mr. Clouston estimates that 40,000,000 bushels of wheat will be exported from Manitoba and the Territories this year, the receipts from which will largely enhance the volume of Canadian trade.

UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES.

A convention of municipal officers has been held in Toronto which was attended by a large number of the Mayors, Reeves, and others representing cities and towns in Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba, with a sprinkling from this Province. The object of the conference was to organize a Canadian Municipal Council for the purpose of bringing the united power of the municipal authorities to bear upon the Federal and Provincial governments in regard to legislation affecting the rights and privileges of public corporations.

It has been found that Provincial Governments and Assemblies are especially open to influences adverse to those of municipalities. Public franchises of great value have been given to private companies which have entrenched upon the rights and properties of municipalities without their being granted any, or wholly inadequate compensation. Taxes have been imposed by Provincial governments that encroach upon the municipal domain, so that large revenues which are properly collectable by municipalities, have been cut away from them and diverted to Provincial governments. A resolution presented to the Conference by Mayor Lighthall of Westmount, a suburb of Montreal, reads:—

"That municipalities should have full and exclusive control of their streets, that no legislation should be passed infringing on such control unless the same be subject to consent of the municipality concerned, that the members of the union will resolutely resist each and every invasion of these rights, and that the Executive Committee be charged with the duty of

assisting to prevent such invasion of the rights of any municipality."

This resolution which has carried unanimously, states the object of the new organization. Another resolution approved the abolition of the exemption from taxation of government property and government officials. A very important and far-reaching resolution was moved by Mayor Howland, of Toronto, instructing the Committee on Resolutions to consider the best method of improving the credit of the municipalities and of reducing the burden of interest upon them. Speaking in support of his resolution the Mayor pointed out that many of the municipalities have to pay upon their debentures a high rate of interest, although they are perfectly sound financially, and offer good investments. Other municipalities better known have to pay only 3½ per cent. He thought that through the action of the union which had been formed it might be possible to institute some central body, through whose guarantee or endorsement smaller municipalities might improve their credit and obtain advantage of the low rate of interest which their more fortunate brethren now enjoy. He calculated that as a result of the operation of such a plan as he outlined a saving of \$1,000,000 per annum would be effected in the interest charges of the municipalities of the Dominion. The fees received by the supervising body would, he calculated, produce a revenue of \$100,000 per annum, out of which they would be able to meet the expense of fighting the private corporations, provide for the constitution of a central Advisory Board, to whom the municipalities might appeal for advice upon scientific, engineering, financial and practical matters connected with municipal government.

Mayors Sinclair of Tilsonburg, Campbell of Cornwall, and Morris of Ottawa heartily endorsed the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

After a desultory discussion of municipal coal yards and municipal stores the following officers were elected: Mayor Howland, Toronto, President:

Ontario—First Vice-President, Mayor Morris, Ottawa; Second Vice-President, Mayor Reid, Owen Sound.

Quebec—First Vice-President, Mayor Lighthall, Westmount; Second Vice-President, Councillor Knowles, Westmount.

Nova Scotia—First Vice-President, Mayor Hamilton, Halifax.

New Brunswick—First Vice-President, Acting Mayor MacRae, St. John.

Manitoba—First Vice-President, Mayor Arbuthnot, Winnipeg.

If judiciously managed and earnestly supported by municipalities generally the new organization will be a power for good in restraining Provincial As-