

## Union of British Columbia Municipalities

The 13th Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, held in Oddfellows' Hall, Duncan, B.C., on the 10th and 11th Days of October, 1917.

### VICE-PRESIDENT, REEVE BRIDGEMAN OF THE DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER, OCCUPIED THE CHAIR.

Reeve Bridgeman called the meeting to order and appointed a Credential Committee as follows: Mayor Vance, North Vancouver; Alderman Lynch, New Westminster; Alderman Marshall, Vancouver.

Moved by Reeve Fraser, Bunaby.

Seconded by Reeve Borden, Saanich, and carried.

That this Union of British Columbia Municipalities at their thirteenth Annual Convention telegraph His Excellency, the Governor-General, their sincere appreciation of his valuable services as Governor-General and tender to him our heartiest good wishes for his future welfare. And we ask him to tender His Majesty the King the unswerving devotion and allegiance of this Province and to assure His Majesty that this Province is determined in every possible way to assist in the prosecution of this great war to such a conclusion that liberty and the common right to live shall be established to the everlasting benefit of humanity.

Moved by Mayor Todd, Victoria.

Seconded by Reeve Fletcher, Point Grey, and carried.

That the members of this Convention, representative of every Municipality of British Columbia, have followed with continued pride the record of the boys of British Columbia who are fighting for the freedom of the Empire. We wish them God speed and a successful issue of the war. Be it resolved, that the president be instructed to forward a message to this effect to the contingents overseas.

Moved by Municipal Clerk Moore.

Seconded by Reeve Borden and carried.

That the deepest sympathy and condolence of this Convention be tendered to the family of the late Alderman Dillworth of Victoria in the bereavement which they have suffered by his death, and this Convention desires to record its appreciation of the many sterling qualities of the late Alderman and deplores the loss which is suffered in Municipal affairs by the decease of this gentleman who consistently evinced his great interest and sterling judgment therein.

Mayor Miller of Duncan, and Reeve Evans of the District of North Cowichan then gave addresses of Welcome to the members of the Convention.

Mayor Gray, of New Westminster, responded to the addresses of Welcome.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting be taken as read as the same in printed form were in the hands of the delegates present being printed in the *Canadian Municipal Journal*.

A Resolution Committee was appointed as follows: Reeve Fraser, Bunaby; Mayor Grey, New Westminster; Mayor Todd, Victoria; Mayor Miller, Duncan; Reeve McKenzie, Penticton; Reeve Fletcher, Point Grey; Reeve Borden, Saanich; Municipal Solicitor McDiarmid.

A Constitution Committee was appointed as follows: Councillor Loutet, North Vancouver; Mayor Ashwell, Chilliwack; Mayor Shatford, Vernon.

An Auditors Committee was appointed as follows: City Clerk Greig, Duncan; Municipal Auditor Floyd, Oak Bay.

The Secretary read communications from His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and General Byng as follows:

"Dear Sir:—

I am commanded by Field Marshal H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught to express to you his deep appreciation for the Resolution forwarded by the Meeting of the British Columbia Municipalities at their 12th Annual Convention.

His Royal Highness would be grateful if you would express to the Municipalities concerned his grateful thanks.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) E. A. STANTON, Lt.-Col."

(Telegram) via Montreal, January 3, 1917.

"Union of British Columbia Municipalities,

Surrey Centre, B.C.:

All British Columbians in the Canadian Corps thank you most heartily for your resolution.

GENERAL BYNG."

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Reeve Bridgeman, of North Vancouver, as Acting President, then presented an address as follows:

Gentlemen:—Owing to the absence of our President, ex-Mayor Smith of Vernon, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to this our thirteenth annual convention, and as our President through pressure of business has not been able to devote as much time as he would have liked to the affairs of the Union, I herewith submit a brief report on his behalf.

Before commencing with our business, I cannot refrain from speaking of the great loss this Province has sustained through the death of our late Premier, Sir Richard McBride. Many of us had the pleasure of knowing Sir Richard, both in a business and personal way, and whatever different views we may have held, we can always remember the kindly personality and broad optimism which endeared him to the people of this Province, and did so much to bring British Columbia to the fore, and while at present our financial burdens are heavy, I believe we all feel that our Province may look forward to the bright future predicted and worked for by our late Premier, and I feel sure that we all unite in expressing a deep regret at the loss of so able a man, and extend to Lady McBride our most sincere sympathy.

We had all hoped a year ago that before this convention was held we might meet without the great cloud which overshadows everything hanging over us. Unfortunately the struggle still continues, but with an ever-increasing superiority on the part of the Allies. The practical loss of help from Russia has been a serious blow, but the immense importance of the entry of the United States cannot be over-estimated. We know in our hearts there can only be one end to this great struggle and it behoves every one throughout the Empire to sink all feelings, religious, political and personal, and work together as one, so that when this conflict is over, the victory of humanity over despotism shall be absolutely complete. Let us all remember that our responsibilities do not end by criticizing others, and ever keep in mind the unanswerable fact, that there is nothing too great or hard for us who are sitting at home to do for those who have voluntarily taken up the supreme burden on our behalf.

Your executive met the Municipal Committee at the House at their last sitting, and I wish to record our appreciation of the business like and courteous manner in which we were received. You will remember we had many matters to bring before them, a number of which were dealt with favorably by the Committee and later endorsed by the House, the details of which are before you in the report of our solicitor. The sitting of the House was long and strenuous, and possibly some matters brought by the convention for the consideration of the Government would, except for this, have received more attention. The outstanding feature of all our negotiations was the absolute necessity of re-drafting the Municipal Act. There was not a dissenting voice either on the part of the Municipal Committee of the House or your Executive, the only stumbling block being the question of finance. I would strong recommend to this convention that we again urge upon the Government the great necessity of having the Act re-drafted. I believe that the expense will not be as great as anticipated in some quarters, as the Municipal Inspector has to my knowledge done a large amount of work already in his spare time in re-framing certain Sections of the Act.

Owing to our solicitor's intimate knowledge of Municipal affairs, I believe it would not be going too far to suggest his name again to the Attorney-General as one thoroughly capable of assisting the officials of the Government, should this most important work be undertaken.

There is one very important addition placed on the Statutes in connection with the Land Registry Act, which I am sorry to say some members of the Government believe they should repeal, i.e., the production of a certificate from the Municipalities that taxes have been paid before registration can be effected. While this Act in some instances may work a temporary hardship, I am thoroughly convinced that it is a very important step in the right direction.