

THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL

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Our Meeting Place

Everybody knows of Saskatoon, but some do not know of it beyond real estate advertising of a lurid type.

It is to be expected that a city chosen as the meeting place of the Union of Canadian Municipalities feels justly proud of having this important delegation of Mayors, Aldermen and Officials from all over Canada. But there are those delegates who do not sufficiently appreciate the points of interest to take a long or short journey to discuss and study in a sociable manner the points of interest. The reason of this is that very few of the delegates chosen by the city councils are permanent officials. This is a serious mistake, for these conventions are not a joy ride; there are papers and discussions by the foremost experts in the country, and it is reasonable to suppose that the permanent official will be the one to carry on a continuity of interest in bettering conditions in his city. He is not usually affected by elections, he is there for good behaviour, and every opportunity should be given him to apply the latest ideas to his work.

The article on our meeting place, Saskatoon, by the Commissioner of the Board of Trade, Mr. F. Maclure Sclanders will conclusively prove the stability of this City of Mushroom growth whose population has grown in ten years from 106 to 30,000.

Fine buildings, some ten stories in height and finished as no two other buildings in Canada are, will be seen on the well paved thoroughfares.

The advanced idea of municipal ownership is strong in "The Wonder City" almost equalling Glasgow where an entire life time may be spent in municipal institutions and a burial guaranteed by the corporation. Water, light, street cars, hospital are all well organized municipal undertakings, and a student opposing ownership of utilities would find little of interest to him in this progressive centre. He would find further that his argument that the capital involved was an unbearable burden refuted. In six years the total liabilities have increased from \$107,803 to \$6,894,890, and likewise the increase in assessment has been phenomenal from \$2,517,145 to \$59,000,000.

Tales rich in color are told of Western millionaires,—paupers today and capitalists tomorrow, and in Saskatoon there are examples that cannot be beaten. A notable case in present municipal life was three years ago a \$12 weekly wage earner in a saddlery store and he is today an alderman, whose business is loans and insurance, and roughly he is worth about half a million dollars or more. Another instance is Mr. Frank Cahill, the President of the Industrial League, who came to Saskatoon but a very few years ago with \$50 and now owns five business blocks, considerable real estate in Saskatoon, Fort William, and Ottawa.

Mr. J. F. Cairns is another of remarkable rapid development. About four years ago he was baking his own bread, and today he is owner of a very large departmental store, considerable real estate and is looked upon as one of the fathers of the town, who is always ready to lend or give to help a good cause along. A tale from the Arabian Nights is that of Mr. O. M. Helgerson, who

made an average profit of \$449 per day for four hundred days, in central real estate,

The most popular amusement in Saskatoon is motor-ing, it being estimated that there is one motor car to 35 people and with the proposed paved system it will be a great pleasure to motor enthusiasts.

The many examples of City Engineer Clark's foresight in the Engineering problems will be of special interest. The filtration plant which has been so much written up will be visited by the delegates and the method of laying pavements, and conduits and lighting will be first hand importance.

Socially Saskatoon will be able to entertain the delegates royally. Mayor Harrison realizing his position has, by assiduously following what he believes is his duty, is popular with every body. His genial manner and whole heartedness is the means of his making many friends rapidly.

Alderman Anderson, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, and Mr. Andrew Leslie, the City Clerk, have in hand a programme of amusement which will occupy every spare moment very pleasantly.

Delegates are assured of a visit full of interest and one that offers many pleasures as well.

After the Convention in Saskatoon

The Convention this year offers the repetition of that pleasant side trip through to the Pacific Coast, for all the delegates but particularly for those from Central and Eastern Canada, who have been there before or have looked forward to such an opportunity for a long time.

After the Convention is over delegates will be entertained by the Cities of Edmonton and Calgary, whose hospitality is a guarantee for them to accept and see the wonderful transformation scenes that are taking place in these cities. The ideal itinerary would be to spend the Friday 18th in Edmonton, the 19th in Calgary and leaving there at night spend Sunday at Banff or Laggan, on the way through to the coast. The delegates who journeyed after the convention four years ago in Medicine Hat to the coast did not go through the wonderful cork screw tunnels near Field, and as this is of special interest, daylight is the time to pass through here. Two cork screw tunnels were constructed in the mountains along the Kickinghorse Pass, in order to reduce grade, and as there was no room to run the rails it was decided to make a track in the heart of the mountains. The engineering feat is the only one of its kind on the continent and is the means of reducing the grade from 4.5 to 2.5 per cent., which is the means of running a much heavier train with two engines instead of four at about three times the speed. The precision of the work of the engineers is remarkable, for the tunnels were commenced at either end and when the work met they were not a quarter of an inch out in their calculations.

Another change has been effected at Laggan where the delegates were driven up to the Chalet, this time they will be taken up in a motor railway car, that winds in and out of the valleys up 2,000 feet to the hotel, which commands an unequalled view of Lake Louise, the surrounding peaks and in the distance the shimmering Victoria Glacier.