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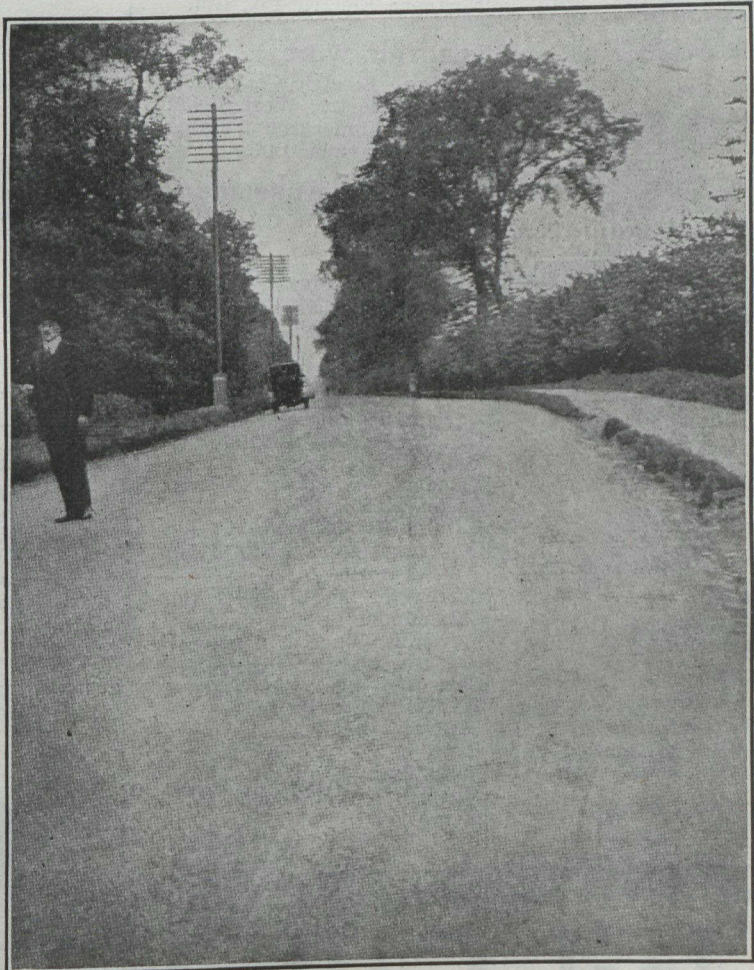
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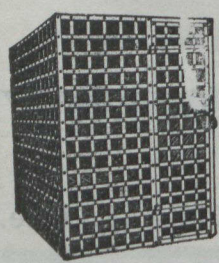
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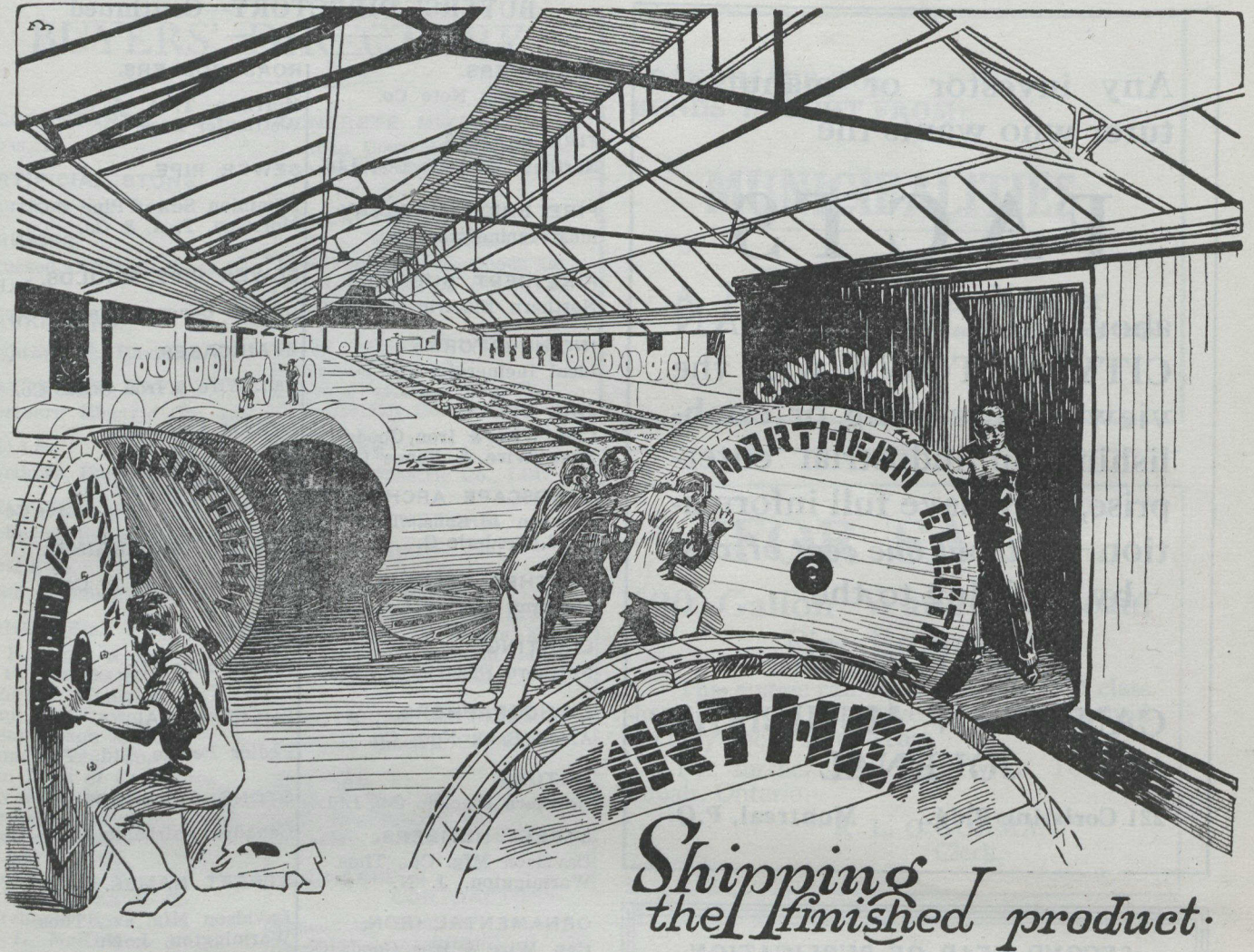
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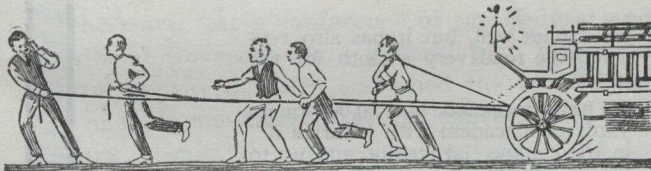
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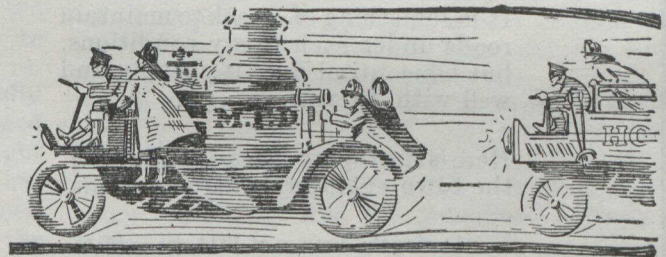
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Official Organ of the Union of Canadian Municipalities

"Municipal from cover to cover"

Circulates in every city, town and village

Vol. XI

NOVEMBER, 1915

No 11

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Our Duty to Returned Soldiers

It was with a great deal of pleasure that we saw the announcement that Canada was at last realizing her responsibility to her returned sons from the wars. At a conference of the Federal and Provincial Governments a general plan was submitted and approved which embodied the creation of provincial committees to act in concert with the military hospitals' commission, and to affect the co-operation of the municipal authorities. From the outset the civic authorities have endeavoured to do their best to make proper provision for the returned soldier, and they have been wonderfully successful in the cases of those already returned because of wounds. In every instance when brought to the notice of the municipal council action has taken place. This is satisfactory as far as it goes, but it seems to us not to go far enough. When the boys are sent away to "somewhere in France" they are rightly acclaimed as heroes. Those who have come back wounded, in most cases past all future use on the battlefield, have almost to sneak home. No inspiring music to meet them, and no silver-toned orator to sing their praise, unless for the purpose of recruiting. Ye Gods, to think of a man sacrificing himself in the service of his country and no one to say "thank you." The very best efforts of "we stay at homes" are very puny when compared with the noble work of the boys at the front fighting our battles, and the least we can do, when they have done their splendid bit, is to recognize them in a public and fitting manner. It is all very well for us to feel grateful—we do if we have any sense of national pride at all—but our silence is not at all likely to alleviate the suffering from those awful wounds we have seen with our own eyes; wounds on men who so far from receiving any re-

cognition have not even received all their back pay.

It is Canada's duty to recognize in no uncertain tones her sense of gratefulness and pride in the achievements of her soldier sons; and in something more than a mere pension. We must feel that it was not the earning power of the soldier's life that has already sent one hundred thousand Canadians, with more to follow, to the fields of Flanders. We cannot conceive such a thing. It was just patriotism (already a part of their being) protruding itself. And the same shining light of patriotism must be held before the boys on their return to home. They must be made to feel that the clarion call of "patriot" had not been used for a recruiting medium only, but that it is so inter-fused into the very life of the nation as to really mean something. **And the municipal councils must lead.**

Our suggestion is that a civic reception be given to every soldier on his return to his home town, and that wherever possible the freedom of the municipality be conferred. This was done by the City of London to its volunteers of the South African war, and the returned members of our overseas force are certainly equally entitled to some such signal appreciation. It has even been suggested that the honour should carry with it some privilege of a monetary nature—freedom from local taxation, and in the case of the incapacitated a supplementary pension to that of the government's. But the great idea is the public recognition by the elected local authorities of each of the men, who by their works have proven themselves citizens to be proud of. The municipal councils of Canada have done much to aid recruiting, and in donations to the Patriotic and other war funds, and we hope that this suggestion of ours will be taken up in the same spirit,

FIFTEEN CANADIAN MAYOR MARTINS

According to Mayor Martin, of Montreal, there are fifteen Mayors in Canada bearing the same name. The information came to light during a recent visit of Mayor Martin of Halifax to Montreal's City Hall. "Another Martin" said the chief magistrate of Canada's commercial metropolis, on the introduction of the visitor. "That makes fifteen mayors of Canadian cities with the name of Martin."

STREET IMPROVEMENT BY TREES.

We congratulate the City of Maisonneuve on the determination of its council to beautify the streets by the embellishment of the sidewalks with grass plots and trees. In its public buildings, roads and sidewalks, Maisonneuve has been fortunate, they being equal in beauty of architecture and solidity of structure, to anything in Canada, and the addition of a little greenery cannot help but give just the touch of completeness so restful to the eye. The Council proposes to do a little educational work in the form of campaigns amongst the school children and citizens generally, though why the necessity of educating anyone to appreciate nature is beyond one, but still the necessity is there—and must be considered in any scheme of street embellishment.

ANOTHER MUNICIPAL GOLF LINK.

The Edmonton Journal rightly calls us to task in our recent reference to Calgary's Municipal golf links. We are certainly pleased to know that Edmonton too, has a Municipal golf links, particularly when we are told that:—

"This is the third season that we have had a municipal golf course here, and as it is our best paying municipal utility, we are not disposed to let its existence be lost sight of. Not only is it a great boon to a large number, but it makes a very satisfactory financial return to the city."

Good luck to such a public utility in more senses than one, and now we frankly admit that we hope we are still further wrong, and that Edmonton and Calgary are not the only cities with municipal golf links, or for that matter, any other sporting utility, that is bringing grist to the municipal mill.

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.

The personnel of the Agricultural Commission has at last been named as follows:

Chairman, Senator Lougheed. Members, Messrs. J. B. Rowland, of Montreal; Wm. Smith, M.P. for South Ontario; Dr. J. G. Rutherford, J. C. Walters, William Farrell of Victoria, E. A. Hopkins of Moose Jaw, J. W. Flavelle of Toronto, and Senator W. B. Ross of Nova Scotia. Mr. W. J. Black has been appointed secretary to the commission.

We would have thought that considering the importance of the investigation, and particularly when it is considered that it is the direct consequence of the memorial of the delegation of mayors, under Mayor Waugh, of Winnipeg, to Ottawa, last May, that at least one municipal man would have been selected. Our experience of politicians has not been one to give us confidence in their special ability to handle problems which cover such extensive ground as laid down in the order creating the Commission, and outside of Dr. Rutherford, and Mr. Black, the

secretary, none of the members seem to have had any special qualifications for the work of investigation which, if carried out properly—and acted upon—will in reality revolutionize the economic and agricultural standards of Canada. We trust we are wrong in our surmise, but whether or no, we warn the Government that the municipalities want some real attempt made to solve the problem of agricultural unemployment which has been growing worse each year in our western cities.

EMPLOYMENT FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

"Not for a thousand years will we be able to pay the deep debt of gratitude which the people of Canada owe to our boys at the front, and the municipalities should do everything they can for the returned soldiers. Toronto is giving the preference to soldiers when filling vacancies, and we have placed many in positions already." So wrote Mayor Church, of Toronto, and President of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, in a letter to us recently, and these sentiments are those of every civic chief in the country, and what is more, from expressions received here and published in the local press, they are following the example of the Queen City, and acting in a very tangible manner. But when the war is over thousands of men will return—alas many of them wounded—looking for work, and then will come the test of our gratefulness. It was urged at the Niagara meeting of the U. C. M. that the returned soldiers should not be disbanded, unless they have positions to go to, but governments are not of that kind—being eager to get rid of the responsibility of paying and feeding large bodies of men—unless forced by circumstances, as in the case of the United States, after the Civil War—and it does seem to us that something of a similar procedure might have to take place in this country. A hundred thousand men suddenly thrown on an already impoverished labour market is no joke, and it is probable that the government had this in mind when it called the recent conference of provincial Premiers to discuss a programme evidently drawn up by Senator Lougheed.

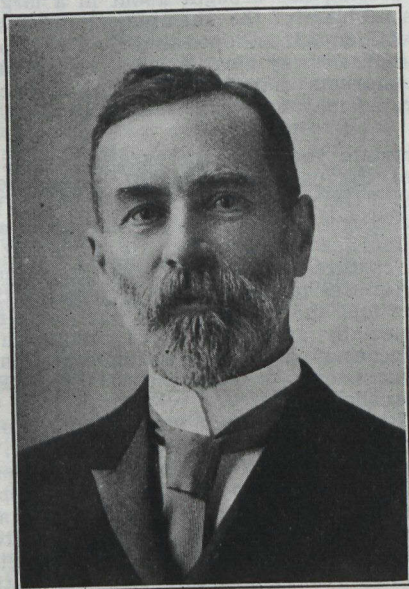
While wishing all success to the scheme, and this journal is prepared to give all the information at its disposal, we cannot help but wish that there had been better machinery to cope with the situation—such as national labour exchanges, as they have in England, and which have proved so successful. There is still time to organize a complete chain of exchanges if the Government is really in earnest.

There is no doubt that in the placing of returned soldiers there will be much heartburning amongst those displaced to make room for the boys, for Canada's market for labour, as already mentioned, is a very limited one. But this is the price the "stay at homes" must pay, and if dismissals are to take place, we have no compunction in saying they should be those young, able-bodied men who will have shirked their duty when called to serve their country in its hour of need. Every soldier boy at the front must be made to feel that on his return to civilian life a job is waiting for him.

Mayor Church's words should be placarded in every workshop and acted upon by every employer of labour.

FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE.

We congratulate both Dartmouth, N.S., and its town clerk and treasurer, Mr. Alfred Elliot, on the anniversary of the latter's fortieth year of good service. Such a length of public work in one capacity is unique, even in a province of long service—and the fact that Mr. Elliot has not confined his



usefulness to official duties, has rightly enhanced his reputation amongst his fellow citizens of Dartmouth.

We wish Mr. Elliot many more happy returns of his official birthday.

PROSPERITY WITHOUT A LICENSE.

The city of Lachine, P.Q., since last May has, owing to the action of the City Council, been without a liquor license. This has evidently peeved the liquor interests who, under a non-de-plume, have been writing to the press pointing out that the local business has suffered accordingly. This the Council has taken exception to, so much so as to pass a strong resolution which was later endorsed by the citizens in a plebesite.

The interesting point of the resolution outside its condemnation of those who, to suit their own selfish ends would sacrifice their own community, is the assurance of Lachine's progress without a license, and experience has taught us that the moral tendency of such an action on the part of the Council can only lead upwards.

VICE PRESIDENCY OF LEAGUE OF AMERICAN MUNICIPALITIES.

Alderman L. A. Lapointe, of Montreal, for a number of years one of the Executive of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, was recently re-elected to the first vice-presidency of the League of American Municipalities at its Convention in New Orleans. The genial Alderman is well deserving of the honour—he is not only the leader of the Council of Canada's commercial metropolis, and a member of Parliament, but has done much good work in raising the municipal tone of Canada by his many visits to civic centres and to conventions.

MR. BARNES AND MUNICIPAL CANADA

Mr. G. N. Barnes, the British Labour M.P. who visited Canada to secure munition workers for the old country recently gave his impressions in the London Daily News. He has a very poor opinion of our municipalities, as the following extract denotes, in reproducing which we hope to show to what an extent visitors are influenced by the local press which is too prone to carp at the civic fathers. To those who have studied the municipal affairs of this country such language as used by Mr. Barnes is exaggerated and so far as most of the municipalities are concerned absurd. Municipal conditions in England and Canada are as wide as the poles—those in England the auburne of centuries of growth and those of Canada the crude verity of a young development—and as no doubt the standard of comparison was the straight laced civic sanctity of the old country our wickedness was at once apparent to the English visitor.—Ed.

Extravagance is at once evident in a new Canadian city to the most casual observer. Municipal boundaries are spread over immense areas, and the services in some cases are on a scale of prodigality far in excess of any reasonable requirements. A town of 10,000 inhabitants, for instance, has a tramway system that is run at a dead loss, and which costs those inhabitants many thousands of dollars per year. Another has a costly asphalt paved road, extending out through unimproved city lots, and connected with a smaller place fourteen miles distant. Western cities have vied with one another in schemes of lighting which are on a scale of brilliance beyond that to be seen in old and wealthy cities of Europe.

Municipal Extravagance.

The inauguration of all this municipal magnificence has landed those places up to the ears in debt. They are now quite powerless to cope with the unemployed problem—or any other problem involving expenditure—because they are nearly bankrupt. In the days of boom they appear to have got money too easily; now they cannot get it at all except at ruinous rates of interest, and in some places the citizens will not sanction further loans on any terms. When I was in Vancouver a few weeks ago, the municipal authorities submitted a scheme to the voters which involved a further loan of \$800,000 to the already enormous indebtedness to the city, and it was negated by a five to one majority. Municipal bodies have now almost reached the end of their tether.

Private speculation seems to have kept pace with public extravagance. I have learnt of oil and other booms, and the doings of those who were victims of them, which have been simply amazing in their absurdity. People went to Calgary last year from places many hundreds of miles away and literally threw their money to the oil companies' agents.

"Land Sharks."

The general ambition seems to have been to dabble in land lots. Everybody owns land, down almost to the bootblacks, with the result that it is now impossible to get the land which has been subject to this speculation put to any use because of the inability or unwillingness of its owners. The inevitable slump came, the last buyer being left to bear the sins and iniquities of all; and, as the last buyer is generally a simple soul who had not sense enough to see what was coming, he is now left with land which he cannot use and which is a burden to him.

He is but typical of thousands. While they wait for the boom Vancouver is importing eggs from China, butter from New Zealand and beef from the States, all of which could be produced at its own doors by the men who are idly walking its streets.

There can, of course, be no boom until values come down to an economic basis. And, further, there can be no lasting prosperity until such time as provision is made whereby another round of speculation is made impossible.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT A SCIENCE.

Municipal management is a science, and must be recognized as such. To study analytically the functioning of our cities, a scientific body is indispensable. The wide-awake official must have an agency to co-operate with him. He has neither the time, the staff, nor funds to make extended studies of his own. Indeed, these can often be made best by well-trained persons entirely unconnected with government, hence having no axes to grind.—Bureau of Municipal Research.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

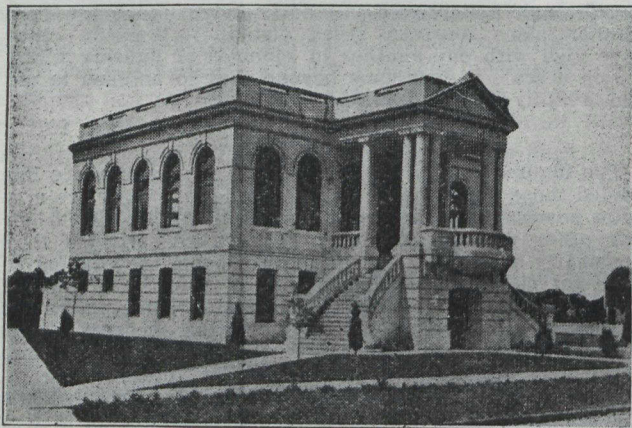
The Eleventh Annual Convention of British Columbia Municipalities was held in the City Hall, Chilliwack, the 23rd and 24th September, 1915.

The President, Mayor Grey, of New Westminster, occupied the chair.

Moved by Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Reeve Fraser, that the following telegram be forwarded to H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught:

"This Union of British Columbia Municipalities, in annual convention, beg leave to assure you of the undying devotion and unswerving allegiance of this province to our King and country. We affirm our earnest desire to assist in carrying on, together with our gallant Allies, this righteous war until a permanent peace is assured, so that the world will reap an everlasting benefit by insuring that freedom, protection and liberty that our Empire has ever fought for."

This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The President asked Mayor Taylor, of Vancouver,



City Hall, Chilliwack, B.C.
Where Convention was Held.

to take a seat on the platform, as representative of the Canadian Union. The following committees were appointed by the President:

Credential Committee:—Ald. Lynch, Ald. Enright, Reeve Loutet.

Resolution Committee:—Mayor Stewart, Mayor Smith, Reeve Sullivan, Reeve Fraser, Ald. Woodslee, Ald. Vance.

Constitution Committee:—Reeve Bridgman, Mayor Taylor, Clerk Moore, Clerk Dunn, Mayor Walters.

Then followed the Address of Welcome by Mayor Barber, of Chilliwack.

"Mr. President, Mayor Taylor and Delegates to the Eleventh Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities: I am glad to have the opportunity of welcoming you to our city. I have the unenviable distinction of presenting an address of welcome to you under conditions of a world upheaval unprecedented in history. Half the civilized world has for the past year been occupied in a death struggle, and our Empire is one of the dominating factors in this mighty conflict. The war has welded more strongly to the Empire the Dominions across the seas and, with all parts of the Empire, Canada is taking an honoured share in aiding the mother country in putting down military despotism.

"Our stand in this war is everything that a Britisher need be proud of. No excitement, but a grim determination to see it through, not for aggrandizement, as has so often been charged against us, but for the best christian teachings, the cause of humanity, and as a lesson to the world that Great Britain to-day, as she has always done, lives up to the spirit and to the letter of her obligations.

"You, who represent the municipalities and cities of this province, have set a splendid example in the recognition of the larger responsibilities of citizenship, in developing that local patriotism which has done so much to aid our men at the front, in the caring for the families of soldiers, and of finding ways and means to mitigate as far as possible the stressing circumstances of the unemployed.

"The bankers and financiers have preached to you cau-

tion, but caution, as has been said, will not fill the empty stomachs or carry on the necessary works of development in the cities and municipalities of this province. That very caution which the financial interests have been advocating and forcing has brought about in a large measure this serious problem of the unemployed and the condition associated with it. It is hoped that the financial interests will soon see their way clear to such an adjustment that the money markets may become more elastic, that the necessary relief may be given to the cities and the municipalities.

"I congratulate you upon the excellent work you have done toward the encouragement of development. The great lesson of the war to us Canadians, is that production is the surest source of wealth to the individual and nation. Great opportunities are Canada's. It is not that we should endeavor to capture great opportunities for Canada alone. Great opportunities for Canada lie in securing the present import trade and the utilization of our great natural resources, especially agricultural and mining in this province, the encouraging of home manufacture, and the educating of our people to purchase "Made in B. C." and "Made in Canada" goods.

"Financial interests, manufacturers, and organizations of labour and business men are getting together, that they may solve problems that face them, and it gives me pleasure to-day to welcome to Chilliwack representatives of one of the greatest business concerns in Canada. The civic governments of Canada deal with a greater number of classes and peoples, and have more difficult problems before them, I believe, than any other institution in our country to-day.

"In your visit with us, you come in contact with one of the oldest and richest municipalities in the province, and a young city with its many problems—problems which



Municipal Hall, District of Chilliwack, B.C.

many of you have perhaps already solved. I trust that your deliberations will be such that every delegate will return to his home better equipped to deal with his local problems. I also trust that you will enjoy your visit with us, and carry away a good impression of our city, our valley and our people."

Reeve J. A. MacLeod, of Chilliwack Municipality, extended to the visitors a very hearty welcome, in which he noted the wonderful developments of the valley.

Mayor Stewart, of Victoria, responded to the addresses of welcome to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

The President appointed as Auditors: Clerk Dickinson, Ald. Fau-Vel.

Moved by Ald. Bell, seconded by Ald. Foreman: That the Minutes of last Convention be taken as read.

Communications were read from Sir Richard McBride, Premier; Hon. W. J. Bowser, Attorney-General; Hon. Thomas Taylor, Minister Public Works; Hon. William H. Ross, Minister of Lands; Hon. H. Esson Young, Provincial Secretary; Capt. Foster, President of the Council; Mr. R. Baird, Inspector of Municipalities; Mr. W. H. Keary, Armstrong; Mr. J. T. Robinson, Kamloops.

Moved by Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve Bridgman: That the communications be received and filed.

The President's Report

To the Officers and Members of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities:

Gentlemen: Allow me to express my appreciation of the interest shown in the affairs of the Union as evinced by the number of delegates present. It is a matter for regret that some municipalities have not seen their way clear to retain their membership this year; but I trust they will rejoin the ranks and help us to present a united front in our efforts to standardize all matters relating to municipal administration.

During my term as President, the municipalities have experienced the most difficult year in carrying on their work, and Councils have had to consider ways and means in a careful and painstaking manner; but it is a matter of congratulation to all of us gathered here to-day to know that the strain of the past year has been borne in a steady, business-like way, with the result that British Columbia Municipalities compare favorably with Municipalities of any province in the Dominion. We have to proceed in the future with the same caution we have shown ourselves capable of, in the administration of the trust placed in our hands, as it may be some time before we can move forward freely in the furtherance of the many objects we wish to attain.

"The financial markets are practically closed, and municipalities have had to resort to issuing Treasury Certificates to tide over the present stringency. These certificates have, in most cases, been issued on very reasonable terms, and will enable us to finance until such time as our debentures can be sold at a fair price.

"In some districts the question of unemployment has caused much anxiety. This is not a local question, but one that affects the whole Dominion; and many meetings have been held to discuss plans for remedying the situation. The Governments have been approached with a view to assisting in alleviating the distress caused by lack of work, but no general plan has been evolved as yet.

"The closing down of railway construction work, logging camps, and suspension of other works, have been the means of flooding the cities with men, and the problem of coping with this influx has been dealt with in a manner creditable to those concerned. The municipalities have endeavored by every means in their power to carry on works of a nature that would give employment to the greatest number.

"Very little local improvement work has been carried out owing to inability to float loans to cover the cost.

"The Labour Bureaus, established in some of the cities, have been instrumental in placing men in positions which, otherwise, would have been difficult to obtain, and getting into touch with the needs of the employing classes in all parts of the province and supplying their requirements. This system of dealing with unemployment, from a civic point of view, is in its infancy; but gives promise of fulfilling a long felt want in the management and distribution of labour from where a surplus exists to where there is a shortage.

"Happily, the migration of men from this province to the prairie provinces for harvesting work has tended to relieve the situation.

"Many men were selected from this province to work in the Motherland in the production of ammunition, arms, etc., and while touching upon this I regret that the factories in British Columbia have not been utilized to their full capacity in this work. Plants well equipped for this work are practically idle, while mechanics are employed in unskilled labour. I trust that the efforts put forth for recognition of the claims of this province in this respect will be successful.

"In connection with the war, Canada has responded nobly to the call of the Empire for men, and in this province many battalions have been raised and others are in course of formation. Every municipality prides itself on the quota of men it has supplied to the army. Day by day, numbers of our bravest and best are answering the summons to arms for King and country. Our pride grows and glows as the news of battle comes home, telling of the gallant work done by the Dominion forces, which rank with the most heroic in the annals of our race.

"The aftermath of this conflict will call upon all our resources, as the men whom we cheer on the way to the front must be cheered upon their return, and cared and provided for in the best manner we can command.

"The municipalities of British Columbia have met the responsibilities entailed upon them as districts in the Empire, in a courageous and conscientious manner, and have

worked strenuously in the interests of the families of those who are fighting in this great conflict, vieing with each other in doing their utmost in the laudable work of providing them with the comforts they have been accustomed to. This work must be continued in the spirit shown at present. We want no slackers, as it is incumbent upon us to see that every need is met. Those who do not go to the front must join the "Home" Guards, whose duties consist of doing everything that will tend to ease the minds of those who have left dear ones at home.

"The various matters adopted at the last Convention have been dealt with as directed. Some of the recommendations were accepted and others rejected by the Government.

"In my opinion, many of those rejected should be reconsidered, and the most important ones submitted again to the Government for its favorable consideration, as the only reason given in such cases as: Covering investment of sinking funds in Provincial stock; grant per mile toward reconstruction and maintenance of trunk roads within the limits of municipalities, etc., was: that the time was inopportune for legislation of this nature.

"A full statement of the affairs of the Union will be placed before you by the Honorary Secretary-Treasurer, and our Solicitor will report on his work during the year. Valuable papers will be read, and subjects of importance will be discussed; all of which will take much time and thought.

"I sincerely thank the Honorary Secretary-Treasurer and Executive for their co-operation, aid and counsel on all matters which have been under consideration during the past year, and my term of office, due to their assistance, has been one which I can look back upon with the greatest pleasure.

"In conclusion, gentlemen, I trust the business we have to transact at this Convention will receive your most worthy attention; that it will result beneficially to the interests of the Municipalities, and that when our next Convention is held we will be able to meet under more favorable conditions, the war over, and peace, in accordance with our cherished hopes, reigning over the Universe."

Moved by Ald. Bell, of Victoria, seconded by Reeve Evans, of North Cowichan:

"That the report be received and spread on the minutes, and that the portions of it that refer to unemployment and other questions of this convention be referred to the Resolutions Committee. The trend of the address is sympathetic and comprehensive as to the times we are passing through, and the need we have for being up and doing."

REPORT OF HON. SECRETARY-TREASURER.

The Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Ex-Reeve Bose, of Surrey, presented the following report:

Balance from 1915	\$109.50
Receipts, fees, 1915	1,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,609.50
Expenditure, 1915	\$1,493.20
Balance on hand	116.30
	<hr/>
	\$1,609.50

Also an outstanding liability of \$365 to Mr. McDairmid, Solicitor, for services, 1915.

THE PRESIDENT: Before putting the Secretary-Treasurer's report before the Convention, I wish to say that there is another liability—his own honorarium for 1915, which is \$300, that has not been paid.

Moved by Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Mayor Smith: That the report be referred to the Auditors.

The Auditing Committee subsequently reported that they found the statement correct, which report was adopted.

At the request of the President, Mayor Taylor, of Vancouver, representing the Union of Canadian Municipalities, addressed the Convention.

Moved by Ald. Byrne, seconded by Ald. Enright:

That a vote of appreciation be tendered Mayor Taylor for his greeting from the Canadian Union.

Moved by Alderman Byrne, seconded by Alderman Enright:

"RESOLVED: That a Special Committee be appointed to consider and report upon all matters affecting the collection of current and delinquent municipal revenue."

Special Committee: Alderman Byrne, Alderman Enright, Reeve McGregor, Mayor Hanes were appointed a committee to act upon this resolution and report to the Resolution Committee.

B.C. CONVENTION.—Continued.**REPORT OF SOLICITOR.**

MR. F. R. McDAIRMID, Solicitor for the U. B. C. M., addressed the Convention in connection with matters referred to in a report printed and sent out early in the year to the various municipalities, many of the delegates asking questions and taking part in the discussion which followed.

Moved by Coun. McDonald, seconded by Coun. Grant: That the report be received and referred to the Resolution Committee for report.

MR. McDAIRMID: I understand the Executive last year had some sort of a meeting in connection with fees, and it appears that a number of municipalities of the province have dropped out of the Union, thinking the fees are too high, and thinking that the service is not commensurate with the amount that they have to pay, and this being war year, it is one of the economies the individual council can cut off—the subscription to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. Now, outside of myself, there is very little expense attached to the Convention. The Secretary of the Convention probably works for nothing. If he gets his postage back out of his salary he has pretty nearly spent it all. My own salary for looking after the work of the legislature, attending conventions, etc., was fixed at Revelstoke first at \$500 for the year. It was then fixed at the next Convention at \$1,000 in Vancouver. That session of 1914 was the session in which the whole Act came in new, and a very large amount of work was involved. Last session in Kamloops it was continued at \$1,000. In consequence of a number of the municipalities dropping off they are \$365 shy of paying that \$1,000 they agreed to pay, and it seems to me as if I continue as solicitor for the Union and continue to have the salary attached to it of \$1,000, the effect is going to be to break the Union up, which is a matter I wouldn't like to see under any circumstances.

I have two propositions I want to bring before you. The work is heavy, and yet it is work I like. The work of the session is an absolute necessity for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities in my judgment. At the same time the work of the fixing of the Municipal Act itself is really not the serious part of the work. It is the heading-off of private bill legislation which has a tendency to affect the municipalities through which the matter goes. It is the notifying of that municipality that some one has a joker in the bill; it is looking after the municipalities that are not already in existence to see that their rights are conserved.

That \$365 cannot be allowed to go over until next year and be a drag on the funds, and I propose to wipe it out as far as I am concerned. As for next year, I will go back to the Revelstoke salary and do all the work, or if you do not want that, I will drop that part of the work that refers to the municipalities, and accept the position of looking after the private legislation and nothing else.

I am not asking for an answer. I am simply making a proposition to the Convention that seems to me to be necessary now; otherwise you might feel that the office should be closed up altogether, which I think should not be allowed to happen.

REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE.

Surrey—"Re Temporary Loans... We have been advised by the bank that under Section 134 of the Municipal Act as amended, 1915, we will have to pass a by-law for each separate advance received from the bank in borrowing money in anticipation of current revenue.

"In the past we have passed a by-law at the beginning of the year, or when necessity required, authorizing the borrowing of an aggregate amount for the year, this amount to be borrowed from time to time as required by giving a note to the bank for any amount as it was required, and without the necessity of passing a by-law each time we wished to obtain an advance. In this way we could put through a by-law, say for \$45,000.00 as the total amount we wished to borrow for the year, have the bank accept it and put in a note for \$5,000 or \$10,000 whenever we required it until the \$45,000 was used up.

"Under present conditions if we wished to be sure of the amount we are to get for the year we would pass a by-law say for \$45,000 and would have to give a note for the whole amount, even though we only needed \$5,000 at the time the note was given. We could, of course, pass a by-law for \$5,000 only and give a note for it and then when we wished a further amount pass another by-law for what we required, and so on, but the bank would have

the right to cut off at the end of any one of these borrowings if it felt so inclined, and you can readily see by this that the municipality would never be sure of how much money it could borrow during the year without borrowing the total amount at the beginning. Aside from the uncertainty regarding the amount it imposes the extra trouble of passing several by-laws during the year, which it seems to our council is unnecessary, and I have been instructed to ask that you place the matter before the Union and ask that they urge that steps be taken at the next session of the House to have the Act so amended that we might proceed under the old method." Not adopted.

By Coun. Cunliffe, seconded by Coun. McDonald: We would recommend that this report be accepted. Carried.

CITY OF DUNCAN.

Municipal Elections Act. Section 59.—"As this section stands at present the presiding officer at a municipal election can only require a voter to take the Statutory Declaration when the said voter has been challenged by a third party, who must be a duly qualified elector.

"It is proposed that this be amended so as to give the presiding officer power to challenge any voter on his own initiative, exactly as when taking a poll on a money by-law. (See Sec. 169 of the Municipal Act.)" Recommended.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Mayor Smythe: That this report be accepted. Carried.

Municipal Elections Act. Section 85.—"It is proposed that this section be amended so as to include school trustees as well as members of municipal councils." Recommended.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve Fraser: That this report be accepted. Carried.

Municipal Act. Section 243.—"It is proposed that the present rule prohibiting any rebate on a debt rate or school rate be eliminated and that the rebate be made permissible on all taxes except those for works of local improvement.

"Alternative suggestion: Should the convention not look with favor on the foregoing proposal, it is suggested as an alternative that school rates be made liable to interest charge from the date the taxes are due, exactly as is now the rule in debt rates. (See Section 244 of the Municipal Act.)"

Not adopted.

Discussion at length. Carried.

Municipal Act. Section 290.—"It is proposed that a new sub-section be added to read as follows: 'That every person following within the municipality the business of a contractor, or who solicits for work by contract, or who enters into an agreement, or who endeavors to enter into an agreement, to perform any work or furnish any material, not exceeding \$5.00 every six months.'" Not adopted.

By Ald. Lynch, seconded by Ald. Coburn: That this report be accepted. Carried.

Victoria.

Suggested Amendments to Local Improvement Act.—"Amend Sec. 42, Subsection 1, by striking out the words 'clause (J)' in the sixth line, and substituting the following 'clauses A, B, G and J.'

"Amend section 42, subsection 1, by striking out the word 'forty' in the eighth line, and substituting therefor the word 'fifty.'

"The reason for the suggested amendment is that the works mentioned in clauses A, B, G and J, of Section 3, are permanent improvements with a lifetime extending over an indefinite period of years, and in such cases it is submitted that the municipality should be able to issue debentures extending for the same period of time as authorized by the Municipal Act, Section 97. The section as it now stands has been copied, practically word for word, from the Ontario Local Improvement Act, and in the Ontario Act the section was necessary by reason of the fact that the general borrowing limit in the province was thirty years, but in the case of parks it was considered advisable to have the period of forty years allowed, as this period was the same as the period fixed by the General Parks Act of the province. This section as amended would be reasonable as applied to municipal borrowing in British Columbia, where, under the Municipal Act, the debt can be extended over a period of fifty years, and there does not seem to be any reason why local improvement debentures, in the case of works of a permanent nature, should not run for the full period of fifty years." Left in the hands of Victoria City.

By Coun. Cunliffe, seconded by Reeve Bridgman: That this recommendation be adopted. Carried.

B.C. CONVENTION.—Continued.

Suggested Amendments to Municipal Act.—"Amend the second proviso to Section 96 by striking out the word 'three' in the seventh line from the end and substituting the word 'five.'

"In some cases it has been found that the period of three years within which treasury certificates must be redeemed is rather short, and if this time is extended to five years as suggested in the above amendment, it will be possible to obtain more satisfactory terms for handling such certificates." On later.

"Amend Section 97, Subsection 3, by substituting in lieu of such subsection the following:

"97.—The whole of the debt shall be made payable on or before fifty years from the date of the debentures or obligations to be issued therefor, and all debentures shall be issued at one time and within two years after the final passing of the bylaw, except as hereinafter provided, and all debentures shall bear the same date, except when they are issued in instalments, and in that case every debenture of the same instalment shall bear the same date."

"The amendment to Section 97 is suggested to allow elasticity in the issuing and dating of debentures. As the Act now stands it would appear to be necessary to date the debentures on or shortly after the day on which the by-law takes effect, and to make them payable within fifty years from the date the bylaw takes effect. The amendment submitted allows the issue of debentures within two years after the bylaw takes effect, and permits the debentures to be dated at any time within two years, and to mature within fifty years at the farthest from such date. This prevents the difficulties which arise, where owing to a change in financial conditions a municipality is unable to satisfactorily dispose of debentures within one year from the date the bylaw takes effect. In such cases if the sinking fund is not levied in this first year (and it is doubtful whether there is any right to levy a sinking fund until a debt is actually created by the issue of debentures), the by-law and debentures are open to serious objection. The section as drafted, gives the municipality an opportunity to withhold its debentures from the market for a reasonable time, in order to obtain the best prices available. This provision is contained in the Ontario Municipal Act (see Section 288, Subsection 7), and has been found to work to the best advantage of the municipalities. It also overcomes the legal difficulty sometimes met where debentures are dated after the bylaw takes effect, and mature in fifty years from their date. In this case the debentures are illegal, as they mature more than fifty years from the day the bylaw takes effect."—Carried. This was left in the hands of Victoria City.

"That a clause be enacted enabling the municipality to establish, maintain and operate public slaughter houses and abattoirs, and to prevent, regulate and inspect the location or continuation thereof, and prohibit the slaughter of animals intended for food in existing or other slaughter houses or abattoirs designated in the bylaw."—Carried.

Recommended: "The object of this amendment is to give other municipalities similar power to that now enjoyed by Vancouver under its special charter, Section 125, Subsection 191.

"Provide for the registration of bearer debentures. It is done at present, although no authority exists, and should be made compulsory on the request of the holder. The model form of debenture in the Local Improvement Act assumes that such power exists. There is a section in Ontario statutes to this effect." Committee recommended this be adopted. Carried.

"Section 245 (as amended in 1915). Reinstate words 'following that after the word 'year' in the second line.'"—Laid over till morning.

"Subsection 1, Section 247 (as amended in 1915). Adding 5 per cent on taxes on land due to be sold, make this optional."

Recommended: By Ald. Lynch, seconded by Ald. Enright: That recommendation be adopted.—Carried.

"Allow investments of sinking funds in municipalities own Local Improvement Debentures, provided the term is less than required for the sinking fund to mature, and provided that the amount so invested shall not exceed 30 per cent of the total amount of the sinking fund."

Not recommended, by Reeve McGregor, seconded by Ald. Enright: That recommendation be accepted.—Carried.

"Makep revision of payment of taxes by instalments." Not recommended.—Carried.

"To amend Section 228 by adding after the word 'Municipality' in the fourth line thereof, the following words, namely: 'Provided, however, that the appeal from the decision of the Court of Revision shall be limited to the question whether the assessment in respect of which the appeal is taken is or is not equal and rateable with the assessment of other similar property in the municipality, having equal advantage of situation, against the assessment of which no appeal has been taken.'"

"The object of this amendment is to bring back the enactment contained in the former Municipal Clauses Act, Section 135 (R. S. B. C. Ch. 114, Section 135). As the statute now stands an injustice may be done to a large number of ratepayers by reason of one ratepayer successfully appealing to the County or Supreme Court judge (who by present statute is made the sole judge of the facts); the result is that one ratepayer, who appeals, will thus escape equal proportionate liability for taxes with the other ratepayers in the surrounding properties who have not yet appealed. Furthermore, it is submitted, too great power is given to a single judge of the County or Supreme Court who is made sole judge of land values. The appeal from him to the Court of Appeals is only upon points of law."

Recommended, by Mayor Stewart, seconded by Mayor Smythe: That the recommendation be adopted.—Carried.

North Cowichan.

Better Definition of Wild Land.—"That the following definition of 'Wild Land' be inserted in the Municipal Act, Section 2, in lieu of the present definition: 'Wild Land shall mean and include any land which is unoccupied, uncultivated and not cleared or not used for growing hay or for pasture or for buildings.'"

Recommend be adopted, by Mayor Stewart; seconded by Reeve Fraser: That recommendation be accepted.—Carried.

Registry Office Fees in Connection with Tax Sales: "That Sections 7, 8 and 24 of Chapter 33, Land Registry Act, Amendment Act, 1915, be incorporated in the Municipal Act in the Sections dealing with tax sales; and that the fees therein ordered to be paid by the collector be added to the amount to be charged by way of costs and expenses at the time of sale; and to the amount to be paid for redemption, respectively."

Not recommended, By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Coun. Cunliffe: That this recommendation be adopted.—Carried.

Weights of Loads on Highways.—"That subsection (204) of Section 54, of the Municipal Act, as amended by section 13 of Chapter 46, 1915, be further amended by striking out the words 'Provided, however, that before such bylaw shall come into force, it shall receive the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.'"

Recommended, by Mayor Stewart, seconded by Alderman Vance: That report be adopted.—Carried.

NOXIOUS WEEDS ACT.

"That Subsection (2) of Section (3) of Chapter 66, the Noxious Weeds Act, be amended by striking out the same." Laid over.

Later by resolution of Reeve Macleod, seconded by Reeve Cruikshank: Recommended that it be presented to the Government. Carried.

Trustees Act:—"That the Provincial Government be respectfully urged to amend the Trustees' Act to authorize the investment of trust funds in the debentures or stock of British Columbia Municipalities." Recommended.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve Bridgman: That this recommendation be adopted. Carried.

Court of Revision:—"That the Municipal Act may be so amended as to provide for the election of the members of the Court of Revision of the Assessment Roll at the same time and in the same manner as the members of the Municipal Council. Each member of the Court to be eligible for election to the Municipal Council." Not recommended.

By Ald. Lynch, seconded by Reeve McGregor: That this report be adopted. Carried.

Saanich:—(1) Provincial aid to municipalities for the maintenance of main trunk roads." Recommended.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Councillor Fletcher: That recommendation be adopted. Carried.

(2) "Taxation of railways within municipalities on the same basis as is provided in Section 193 of the Taxation Act." Adopted.

(3) "Reduction in hours for selling intoxicating liquors during the continuance of the war." Adopted.

B.C. CONVENTION.—Continued.

"Whereas, the Municipal Act does not give the Council of a municipality any power to exempt any property from tax sale; and whereas the twelve months allowed for the redemption of the property may, owing to absence or other cause, be too short in the case of men who are serving their country in war:

"Be it Resolved: That the Legislature be asked to pass legislation to provide: (a) That the council may by resolution exempt from any tax sale the property of men who are on active war service; (b) That the time for redemption of properties sold for taxes shall be extended until six months after the end of the war in case of properties the assessed owner of which was at the time of the sale on active war service."

Committee recommend that the Executive take this up with Government.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve McGregor: That this report be adopted. Carried.

"Whereas, in the amendment to the Municipal Act of the present year the clause regarding the taxation of poles, cables and wires omitted the property of electric lighting and electric power companies;

"Be it Resolved: That the Legislature be asked to amend the new Subsection 2 of Section 199, by striking out the word 'or' between the words 'telephone' and 'telegraph,' and inserting the words 'electric lighting or electric power' between the words 'telegraph' and 'company.'" Recommended.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve McGregor: That this recommendation be adopted. Carried.

"Whereas under the Municipal Act the control of the police force and matters pertaining to licenses are in the hands of boards who are in no way responsible to the council, and whereas in some cases this works greatly to the detriment of a municipality."

Be it Resolved: "That the Act be so amended that the boards shall be responsible to the council, who will see that the will of the people is carried out." Recommended.

By Mayor Taylor, seconded by Reeve McGregor: That this recommendation be adopted. Carried.

"Be it Resolved: That necessary legislation be sought that a municipal council may by by-law provide for a limited annual amount to be expended for the purpose of acquiring the necessary field data and providing general outline plans for a comprehensive scheme for laying out the municipality to which scheme new subdivisions must conform."

N.B.—"The expenditure so incurred would obviate to a very large extent the enormous costs some municipalities will eventually have to incur in opening up or continuing roads through subdivisions which encounter deep ravines or rocky bluffs. These difficulties can be obviated in many cases if the information is available by swinging the roads so that the best grades can be obtained. Large sums will also be saved that would otherwise have to be expended in expropriation proceedings for the purpose of extending roads through subdivisions that have been badly planned, and roads with dead ends will be avoided." Recommended.

By Coun. MacDonald, seconded by Reeve McGregor: That this recommendation be accepted. Carried.

"By reference to Subsection 186 of Section 54 of the Act it would appear that before any repair work to a road or bridge can be undertaken, even on a very small scale, a by-law to authorize the work should be passed. This in practice is in a very large number of cases impossible.

"Be it Resolved: That the Legislature be asked to amend the clause by striking out the word 'repairing' from line two."

Recommend that the matter be taken by the Inspector of Municipalities.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve Fraser: That this recommendation be accepted. Carried.

Merritt:—"1. Revision of the financial sections of the Municipal Act as regards current revenue, to give increased borrowing power against tax arrears, and to remove the doubt at present existing as to whether Section 195 supplements Section 134 or not."

Committee recommended that this go to the Government.

By Reeve Fraser, seconded by Ald. Lynch: That this recommendation be adopted. Carried.

"2. Revision of the financial sections of the School Act, making clear the liability or otherwise of the city to provide funds when no school monies are immediately avail-

able, and if the liability exists, to give power to the city to borrow the amount necessary.

"What we desire, in short, is to put the city and school financial sections on a commonsense business basis.

"Section 134 and Section 195, Municipal Act repealed.

"Proposed new sections:

"Section 134. The council of every municipality may from time to time pass a by-law or by-laws for borrowing from any person or persons, corporation or corporations, such sum or sums of money as do not in the aggregate exceed the net total of the amount of taxes upon land or real property as shown by the collector's roll for the current year of the municipality and school district; and bearing such rate of interest as may be agreed upon; as may be requisite to meet the current lawful expenditure of the corporation and the school district which becomes payable out of the annual revenue before the thirty-first day of December, under the following conditions:

"That the proceeds of any such loan shall only be used for the purpose for which the rate was levied, and the loan shall be repayable and repaid out of the amounts first collected on account of such rate or rates.

"That any loan for school purposes shall only be made on the written request of the board of school trustees, and the proceeds shall be placed to the credit of the board of school trustees' account.

"That the money so borrowed shall be repayable and repaid on or before the 31st day of December in the calendar year in which it is so borrowed.

"That the obligation given to the lender shall be in writing signed by the mayor (or reeve), and the finance committee (if any) and the clerk of the corporation, and shall bear the corporate seal.

"That the council shall in the by-law have named the amount to be so borrowed, the maximum rate of interest, the date on or before which the principal and interest shall be payable, and the form of the obligation to be given as an acknowledgment of the liability.

"Where any sum of money has been borrowed by any municipality in any year to an amount not exceeding the amount of this section authorized under a by-law or by-laws passed in pursuance of the power hereby conferred, and it has been found impossible to pay the liability so created out of the revenue for the then current year owing to the non-payment of taxes for such year, it shall be lawful for the council of such municipality for any subsequent year, by resolution, to arrange with the lender for the postponement of the payment of such sum of money or any portion thereof as may be agreed upon, at a rate of interest not greater than that at which the same was borrowed, payable at such times as may be agreed upon, and every such liability notwithstanding the non-payment thereof within the then current year shall be together with the interest thereon at the said rate, or such lesser rate, if any, as may be agreed upon, a valid liability of the municipality payable in like manner as any other liability thereof; and the power conferred by this section may be exercised in any other year or years notwithstanding the non-payment of any such liability as aforesaid in any previous year or years.

"The corporation shall not be liable for any indebtedness contracted by the board of school trustees beyond the amount collected on account of the school rate under the power conferred by this section, together with other money received on behalf of the board of school trustees' account.

"It shall not be lawful for the council of any municipality to incur liabilities for general purposes beyond the amount of the general rate collected in any year or the amount borrowed against the general rate under the power conferred by this section."—Referred to Finance Committee.

Enderby.

"1.—That the necessity of making better provision for the financing of municipalities, with special reference to the maintenance of Western Canadian municipal credit among the investing public, be commended to the attention of the Union; also (2) that attention be drawn to the serious misuse of the convention which has arisen in recent years through the spending of so much of its time in the discussion of matters of a merely technical nature, proposed slight verbal changes in the Act, etc.—matters which could easily be dealt with by the municipalities concerned in conjunction with the Executive, the legal ad-

Local Self-Government in India

By the Honorable DR. T. M. NAIR.

Local self-government originated in India during the Viceroyalty of Lord Mayo. But it was not till 1882 when Lord Ripon was the Viceroy that any appreciable development of Local Self-Government took place. The Resolution of Lord Ripon's Government, dated 18th May, 1882, must be regarded as the real beginning of municipal institutions in this country. Lord Ripon saw that as education advanced there was rapidly growing up all over the country an intelligent class of public-spirited men whom it was not only bad policy, but sheer waste of power to fail to utilize. And His Lordship said in the Resolution of 18th May:—

"Under these circumstances it becomes imperatively necessary to look around for some measure of relief. and the Governor-General-in-Council has no hesitation in stating his conviction that the only reasonable plan open to the Government is to induce the people themselves to undertake as far as may be the management of their own affairs; and to develop or create, if need be, a capacity for self-help in respect of all matters that have not, for imperial reasons, to be retained in the hands of the representatives of Government."

Even at that time there were not wanting critics who said that the people of this country were entirely indifferent to the principle of self-government and that experiments already made in that direction had been failures. Lord Ripon's reply to those criticisms was quite characteristic. His Lordship said:—

"There is reason to fear that previous attempts of Local Self-Government have been too often over-riden and practically crushed by direct though well-meant official interference. In the few cases where real responsibility has been thrown on Local Bodies and real power entrusted to them, the results have been very gratifying."

In fact, according to Lord Ripon the real basis on which effective and efficient self-governing institutions were to be established was non-interference in matters of detail by the officers of the general administration. On this point the Resolution of 18th May, 1882, says:—

"Special attention will be required in settling the relations between the various Local Bodies and the officers of general administration and in providing for a certain measure of control and inspection on the part of the Government. It would be hopeless to expect any real development of Self-Government if the Local Bodies were subject to check and interference in matters of detail."

It was also laid down by Lord Ripon that Local Bodies should all contain not less than one-half, not more than two-thirds, of elected non-officials, that the Taluq should ordinarily be the minimum area to be placed under a Local Board, that members of the Board should be chosen by election wherever possible, that the Government should revise and check the acts of Local Bodies, but not dictate them, and so on and so forth. The main principles embodied in Lord Ripon's Local Self-Government Resolution are excellent, and if acted upon in a sympathetic and encouraging spirit would have resulted in a much greater development of municipal institutions than we see at present. And now after 33 years we have the Resolution of the Government of India reviewing its Local Self-Government policy. It will be interesting to analyse what the Government of India think about the amount of success achieved in the field of Local Self-Government; what it thinks are the obstacles in the way of progress, and what is still more important, as to what its future policy is. I am glad to think that the Government of India have come to the conclusion "that the results have on the whole justified the policy out of which Local Self-Government arose."

But this expression of opinion is a little half-hearted. The Government go on to say that there are considerable obstacles still in the way of realising completely the ideals which have prompted action in the past. According to the Government of India the main obstacles still standing in the way of municipal progress are:—

- (1) the smallness and inelasticity of local revenue,
- (2) the difficulty of devising further forms of taxation,
- (3) the indifference still prevailing in many places towards all forms of public life,
- (4) the continued unwillingness of many Indian gentlemen to submit to the troubles, expense and inconven-

ence of election.

(5) the unfitness of those whom these obstacles do not deter,

(6) the prevalence character of the municipal area, A careful study of the working of municipal institutions all over the world will disclose that these obstacles which stand in the way of municipal progress in India are by no means peculiar to this country. In describing the City Governments in the United States, Mr. Bryce observes:—

"We find able citizens absorbed in their private business, cultivated citizens unusually sensitive to the vulgarities of practical politics and both sets therefore equally unwilling to sacrifice their time and taste and comfort in the struggle with sordid wire pullers and noisy demagogues."

If that is the case in America, can it not be likely that the same cause exists here to a certain extent also? And then again how has the Government carried out the principle of not interfering with Local Bodies in matters of detail.

To carry out one of the main principles which Lord Ripon's Government regarded almost as a corner stone of Local Self-Government after 33 years of trial of municipal institutions, and after it has strongly been recommended upon by a Royal Commission, if there is so much hesitation and so much of caution, we may almost despair of the Government of India ever carrying out this principle in the spirit in which it ought to be carried out.

Local Governments in India do not care to move. And to leave all progress in Local Self-Government to such conservative bodies is to condemn them to stagnation and re-action. The question of the relation between Imperial and Local taxation has not been exhaustively gone into even by the Decentralization Commission. The Government of India now say that the smallness and inelasticity of local revenues and the difficulty of devising further forms of taxation are among the main obstacles in the way of municipal progress. In Lord Ripon's Local Self-Government Resolution it was contemplated to transfer the control of expenditure of specially locally character to local bodies. Evidently Lord Ripon's idea of financing local bodies was by a system of "assigned revenues." Local bodies can only be financed by a combination of systems of direct grants, assigned revenues, local taxation, municipal trading and so on. When the Imperial Government comes down in a greedy manner and takes for itself all possible sources of revenue, it is no wonder that difficulties are experienced in devising new forms of local taxation. Before local bodies are established in a satisfactory financial condition the incidence of Imperial and local taxation ought to be definitely fixed.

A good deal has been said about the tendency to corruption that is generally observed during municipal elections in India. This again is not peculiar to India. All democracies have a tendency to corruption. It is one of the functions of the Imperial Government to correct the vicious tendencies of democracy and to guide its activities into healthy channels. It was a serious omission on the part of the Imperial Government not to have safeguarded municipal and local elections with an adequately strong Corrupt Practices Act. Nor is the machinery for supervising and controlling municipal bodies in India an efficient one. A district official is a bureaucrat pure and simple. He is incapable of understanding, much less of sympathizing with, the aims and methods of popular self-government. The older a municipality gets in India, the younger becomes its civilian master. Municipal progress is slow, being mainly hampered by red-tape. At present the outlook is not very cheerful. But things may improve. At least let us hope so.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

By WILLIAM B. MUNRO, Ph.D., LLB.,

Professor of Municipal Government, Harvard University.

This work contains about five thousand titles, which are carefully classified into chapters, sections, and sub-sections. The field of municipal government has been viewed in a broad way, as including all the activities of the city, whether political, administrative, social, or economic. Nothing has been included, however, which does not, with the widening social horizon of to-day, concern the student of municipal affairs as such.—Harvard University Press.

Municipal Affairs in British Columbia

(By JACK LOUTET.)

The Eleventh Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities held in the City of Chilliwack on September 23 and 24 was one of the most successful on record.

Several of the more distant municipalities were unable to send delegates, but the meeting was fully representative of the different sections of the Province.

In decided contrast to previous years there was a noticeable absence of "silent" delegates, the various debates being taken part in by all.

Many of those present had taken part in several previous conventions, and this seemed to enable the meeting to get down to business in friendly fashion without delay.

In the list of matters laid before the convention by the various municipalities were many dealing with finance and its co-related subject—Tax Sales, and in order to save time all were referred to a special committee to bring in a report. It was not expected that in the short time available it would be possible to frame a policy which would be acceptable to the convention, but the recommendation, when brought in and debated was favourably received, and would undoubtedly have been approved by the great majority of the delegates had it been placed before them for a decision.

It was thought advisable, however, to have the details complete before final action and the recommendation was finally referred favourably to the executive for action to be taken before the next meeting of the Provincial Legislature.

The recommendation, which appears in full in the report of the Convention in this issue, as finally drafted by the special committee, differed in some degree from all suggestions received from the various municipalities, and was frankly admitted to be almost identical with a system successfully operated in the United States. What was considered an improvement on that system was the decision to have the municipality responsible for the redemption of the tax-sale certificate and the holding of a sale instead of leaving the individual holders of certificates to sell the land through the agency of the sheriff.

A feature of the convention was a strong plea on behalf of the delinquent tax-payer, made by a Reeve of one of the rural municipalities. In forceful oratory it was urged that greater leniency was necessary, as many councils had forced improvements on the people, and the poor property-owners were in grave danger of losing their homes. He admitted that he had not personal knowledge of these matters, but gathered it from trips made through nearby municipalities.

At the close of his remarks the chairman asked if any delegates knew of conditions such as had been pictured, but no delegate had heard of anyone who had lost his home, and the representatives from the city and suburban districts were very decided in contending that far from forcing improvements on anyone they had experienced great difficulty in keeping the demands made upon them within reasonable bounds.

The unanimous opinion in regard to tax-sales was that these should be annual and compulsory. The present optional position resulted in pressure being brought to bear at elections, and the element that did not pay was the

most active at that time. The citizen who paid his taxes regularly apparently took little interest in municipal government, and too often left it to be run by speculators, who exploited the municipality for their own immediate gain without regard to the future.

The convention went strongly against the proposal to extend the redemption period in tax sales to two years, and preferred that the power to sell for taxes the year immediately following delinquency be taken away, the one year redemption period to remain undisturbed. It was pointed out that a two year period made financing more difficult, fewer people being able to invest at tax sales with no return for two years. In addition, an actual hardship would result to a property owner only a few months in arrears as in the event of his paying up, the costs of sale would be added one year earlier than under the present system.

An excellent suggestion in regard to the relations of the school board and the council was made by the chairman, Mayor Gray, of New Westminster. He proposed that the council have full control of the purchase of school sites (subject of course to consultation with the board as to location, etc.), the construction and maintenance of schools and grading of grounds. The council, in fact, to provide for the material end of the business, it having a qualified staff, which it is undesirable to duplicate, the board to confine itself to the educational end, engaging of teachers, purchase of supplies, etc. So far this seems to be the best suggestion yet brought forward to end the continual troubles arising from the unsatisfactory status of the two bodies at present existing.

Informal discussion among the delegates after the first session developed the curious fact that no municipality had found it practicable to carry business without breaking the laws at present in force.

The "Municipal Act" provides no authority for repairing a road even to the extent of a few dollars, or building a new road or trail, however inexpensive, without first passing a bye-law. The municipal inspector, Mr. Baird, who was present, promised that this would be remedied as soon as possible. He also stated that the redrafting of the Local Improvement Act was under consideration, the present act being defective in many respects.

An entire absence of friction was noticeable throughout the sessions. Probably as a result of the hard times the management of the municipalities seems to have fallen into the hands of men who, being permanent residents of the places they represent, take a deep interest in municipal government for the common good. That this state of affairs is likely to bring British Columbia safely and with unimpaired credit through the quiet times is a matter for congratulation.

The presence of the municipal inspector was favourably commented on by the delegates, ensuring, as it does, a more systematic understanding of the difficulties which the municipalities have to contend with, and is likely to result in more satisfactory and enduring legislation than in the past, where the laws have been compiled by members of the Provincial House, unacquainted with the inner details of municipal management.

North Lonsdale, B.C., Oct. 8, 1915.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE IN ONTARIO, CANADA.

At the last Ontario municipal elections the question of the extension of the municipal franchise to married women with proper qualifications was submitted. The suffrage organizations, following the success attending the submission of a similar plebiscite in Toronto, determined to strengthen their campaign by obtaining a show of opinion wherever Councils could be induced to take up the matter. In every city where the people voted upon the question, the plebiscite was carried. The following results were recorded:

	Majority.
Strathroy	259
Guelph	302
Thamesville	Large
Orangeville	Large
Clinton	115
Bracebridge	Large
North Bay	Large

A GREAT BUSINESS ENTERPRISE.

The city of Toronto is a great business enterprise. A half million people depend for much of their comfort and well-being on its activities. It owns lands and buildings devoted to Municipal purposes, valued at \$41,000,000, and administers other assets worth a further \$60,000,000. In addition there are its valuable franchises. From the point of view of dollars and cents, its operations are about one-fourth larger than those of the Province of Ontario itself, for its budget shows over \$16,000,000 of current revenue. The city, in fact, makes as great a showing as many a small kingdom of a couple of generations ago.—S. Morley Wickett.

KINGSTON, ONT.

This year the city is spending over \$4,000 on Tarvia surfacing of roads in the city.

Immigration After the War

MRS. SEYMOUR D. CARPENTER.

The prospects for immigration after the war are being treated by many writers. Henry Dalby is quoted as saying that emigration will be very heavy from Germany and Austria.

I fail to see on what grounds he bases this assumption. When it is all over, we may be perfectly sure of one thing: a terrible shortage in Europe of able-bodied men; Germany and Austria-Hungary might be willing to let their old men, women and cripples go, but they will impose the heaviest restrictions possible on all other emigrants. They will need all the men they can get for their armies which have been decimated, the factories which are minus their workers, and many of which will have to be started afresh, and the farms which must be set going again prosperously after being for two years or more in the hands of women.

Both Teutonic Empires will need to develop their natural resources in order to make good the ruinous losses to their trade caused by the successful tactics of the British Navy.

It is therefore inconceivable that there should be any emigration at all from the two empires to the New World. Nay, more than that, they will do their utmost to encourage emigrants to return home in order to replace the serious losses in men caused by the war.

There is a faint foreshadowing of this already in the secret registration of Austrians and Hungarians fitted for military service, which has been going on lately in the United States, under the direction of Dr. Dumba, and the Austrian Consul-General Nuber. Many of these men were threatened with twenty years' penal servitude if they ever returned home, because they had helped make munitions of war for the enemies of the Fatherland. Only ignorant men could have been frightened in this way—poor souls, if they knew how gladly Austria-Hungary would welcome back some two or three thousand able-bodied men, well-fed, well-clothed, with their nerves unshattered by any ordeal of battle, and last, but not least, a tidy little sum of money in their pockets, earned in the land of the Almighty Dollar. If they only knew how they could snap their fingers at their government, and say: Don't you wish you may get us! Penal servitude indeed! Every possible pressure will be put upon them to induce them to return; if they have left their families behind, these will be made to suffer unless the emigrant return, if they have any right to any little bit of property or land or inheritance of any kind, it will be confiscated, failing their return. If they are wise, they will stay in the New World. It remains to be seen then, what protection the American Government will be able or willing to give its so-called citizens, even if they are only hyphens, when they are penalized and threatened by their former home-land. As for Canada, she will be so imbued with the martial spirit, after her exploits abroad, that she will feel equal to challenging any nation who does not behave itself.

It remains to be seen what bitter feelings and animosities will survive after the fearful struggle, and whether Teutonic aliens will find themselves too much disliked to be able to stay here.

A very praiseworthy effort was made last winter to cope with this problem; experiments were started in the Dominion to form model villages with help of interned aliens, some of these on the same lines in which these foreigners live in their own country; at Spirit Lake, for instance, the idea was to make the men both useful and contented, so that after the war, they would settle down in a community regulated according to their own usages and customs; it was surmised that many of them who had left their families behind in Austria would bring out their wives and children because there were congenial surroundings for them. I believe no Germans were sent up to Spirit Lake.

As for Italy, the case is a little different; she may not lose so many men in the fighting, and she cannot, as a rule, find enough work for her sons all the year round, so she is willing enough for them to go out into the wide world to earn their livelihood, for they are so patriotic and thrifty, that when they save money, they send home to Italy at the rate of thousands of dollars yearly, so Italy gains in wealth through the labour of her sons abroad.

Much of this money goes to swell the capital of those excellent co-operative country banks which are doing so much to help agriculture in Italy.

The Italian government has been calling home her reserves very rapidly during the last six months; according to a statement given out by the Italian Consulate in Montreal, the men are being paid their transportation home and back again to Canada after the war, so that Italy evidently does not anticipate a great shortage of labour, rather, perhaps, hard times, with heavy taxation and much unemployment. On the other hand, Italians may be able to get good wages in Europe, without coming to Canada. Germany has been offering big money in order to get them to help in her munition factories—hundreds of them were attracted by these offers and crowded into Germany, notwithstanding the warnings of their own government that there might be war between the two countries. As a matter of fact, at present, Italy is only at war with Austria.

In looking over English history, we find an instance of a similar shortage of labour; it is described in Green's History under the heading of the Peasants' Revolt. The Black Death swept all Europe from Syria to Britain in 1348-49. The population of England consisted of about four million people; more than one-half died of this plague, probably some kind of black typhus. It was as deadly in the villages as in the towns. For a time it was impossible to proceed with the cultivation of the farms, and for the first time in European history, capital and labour found themselves in bitter strife. Green says: "The sudden rise of wages consequent on the enormous diminution in the supply of free labour, rudely disturbed the course of industrial employments." By a royal ordinance, the Crown tried to enforce a system of forced labour, at the same rate of wage as had prevailed before the plague. Then came the Peasants' Revolt, and the preaching of John Ball. In about a hundred years wages were more than double, and the market was in the labourers' hands. After a time, things righted themselves; it is my belief that history will repeat itself with regard to this question.

The war teaches another lesson, and that is, that it is hard to serve two masters. Can a man be at once a German and a Canadian or American? That must be wrestled with at all costs. A foreigner who becomes naturalized must realize, and be made to realize, that he must be loyal in every sense of the word to his adopted country. The alien who comes under our flag and our laws and who appeals to those same laws for protection and security must be made to understand that they are not there to be flouted when an emergency arises. The very adequate and severe way in which the question of the interned aliens has been dealt with in Canada may perhaps have made those men realize that the Canadian Government is a good deal stronger than they thought it was.

And if we lose many of these foreigners, I, for one, shall not be sorry. We may then be able to carry out the national destiny of Canada more on Anglo-Saxon lines. Ethnographically speaking, too, much of a mixture is never a good thing. Austria-Hungary herself is an example of this. When a woman makes a cake, she may take her ingredients from many things she finds in her kitchen, but it will be but a sorry sort of a cake if she mixes in with the right things, some soda, washing-powder, vinegar, starch or coal oil. In some ways, Canada still has her soul in the melting-pot, let us hope it may be a homogeneous and harmonic whole when it is completed.

CANADA'S OPPORTUNITY.

Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, discussing the Allies' loan, said: "New York is Canada's international exchange centre, and any improvement in sterling exchange rates will be for our benefit as well as for that of the United States. The export movement of our crop, food products, and manufactures, is financed by the sale of sterling bills in New York, and the price obtained for them has an important bearing upon the price obtained by our producers and manufacturers."

Municipal Finance

Address By J. H. Bowes, Esq., City Solicitor, Chilliwack.

"The question of municipal finance, always of grave interest, has become even more important at the present time, owing in part to the war, and in part to over-speculation. It is hard to get money for any purpose, as not only the requests for loans of private parties but those of municipalities are looked on with a jealous eye. Not many years ago municipalities could borrow as much as the law allowed. To-day, they obtain money, even for necessary purposes, as a matter of grace. I have mentioned two causes for this: one the war, which indeed is a convenient scapegoat on which to unload the sins of the community, and the other, over-speculation. But these are general causes affecting everybody. So far as municipalities are concerned, there is always a third reason, to wit: that they have not always borrowed wisely and well; and, as a consequence, some have had difficulty in meeting payments of principal and interest when they came due. That all these causes will ever cease to operate may be questioned. Probably so long as the world exists there will be speculation, even if we eliminate war, and that municipalities made up of human beings will always be prudent seems improbable. But these destructive factors, if not entirely eliminated, can be minimized, and it is not undue optimism to look forward to a time when wars will be rare, when speculation will be the exception, and when municipalities shall be animated by a desire for economy as well as efficiency, even more than they are at present.

"With this introduction, I proceed to the question before us: Municipal Finance. And it is hardly necessary to say that the larger portion of the question concerns borrowing. Shadepere makes Polonius say:

"Neither a borrower nor a lender be,

For borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry."

"Excellent advice, but hardly applicable in the present day when every one is borrowing, from the Allies, with their five hundred million loan to the men and women who have to pawn their belongings to get money for a meal, and as to a municipality, borrowing is essential to progress.

"A Municipality differs from an individual in its financial operations in one very important respect. An individual is governed in his borrowings only by his power of getting. A municipality, in the most favourable times, can only borrow within the limits of the Municipal Act. The total amount that can be borrowed must not exceed 20 per cent of the assessed value of the land and improvements according to the last revised assessment roll, except what is being borrowed for works of local improvement and school purposes. Local improvements, of course, are on a different basis as the city is not responsible for the payments unless it chooses to guarantee them, and as to school purposes I shall take up later.

"There, then, is one restriction. You can only borrow twenty per cent, and then we find another in Section 201 and 202 of the Municipal Act: A Council can only levy 1½ per cent on the dollar by way of tax in addition to what is required for Board of Health and Hospital purposes, School purposes and for payment of interest and sinking fund on any debt of the Municipality, but Board of Health and Hospital purposes are restricted as only 1 mill on the dollar for each of them can be levied.

"While there is no restriction on the amount that can be borrowed for school purposes, formerly 7 mills per dollar was the limit of taxation for those purposes. The position of a council with reference to school funds is not altogether pleasant. The city have to raise the money and the School Trustees do the spending. This is a sort of taxation without representation. It has been suggested that either the School Trustees raise the money themselves, and thus relieve the Council of the burden, or that a representative of the Trustees sit on the Council. As the matter stands now, the Municipality must obey the behests of the Trustees and raise the amount asked for. Meanwhile the taxpayer blames the Council for the increase in taxation of which much is perhaps charged for school purposes. Another point that arises is with reference to the temporary loan—a very important one, as every municipality, however economical, must avail itself of such a loan. The former practice was to go to the bank, give the prescribed security and then draw as needed, paying interest only on the amount so drawn, and not on the total amount borrowed. Some of the banks, however,

now claim interest on the total amount arranged for. As a matter of law, probably they can do so, and it would seem that unless a definite arrangement is made with the bank, separate by-laws must be passed for each amount as required, unless the Act is amended. The amendment would be to the effect that notwithstanding the amount mentioned in the by-law, interest should only be charged by the bank on actual portions thereof as drawn out. The bank, however, might claim that this was unfair to it; that it had the money lying ready for the use of the municipality, and might say if it did not take it out it was not the bank's fault. Legislation may be necessary to save the Municipality from the interest. It might be pointed out, however, that in stringent times, such as these, if a municipality borrowed, say \$50,000, on temporary loan, and the bank had the money ready, which amount the municipality did not draw out, it might be inconvenient for the bank to have it, say three months later. In other words, the bank might insist upon the municipality taking out the amount borrowed and putting it into a separate account. If at the end of the year some of the amount named remains, a rebate of interest might be arranged. Or another way would be this: to charge the municipality interest on the total sum named but rebate interest at the end of the year on so much as has not been drawn. Legislation on the question so far as banks are concerned, would have to be very carefully considered, as banking legislation is regulated by Dominion law. Very probably, however, the banks and the council will unite in an understanding without any legislation.

"I am inclined to think the question of taxes a most important one. We all know what the practice has been in municipalities—to let the taxes run on unpaid from year to year and then every four or five years have a great cleaning up sale. Now, consider the case of a person who is owner of property in 1915. The taxes of 1915 do not bear interest until January 1, 1916, and do not become delinquent until January 1, 1917, and can be sold for taxes about the middle of 1917, and if bought in by the city become the city's property in 1918. The owner, therefore, may remain in debt to the city, paying only 8 per cent interest for all this time, and even then has a pretty good chance of coming in and upsetting sale deeds and registration. There is something wrong with the system, and one remedy that I would suggest is this—that the rate of interest on overdue taxes be raised to 10 per cent or 12 per cent. Why do not the vast majority of people pay their taxes? Because it is less trouble to let the city wait than to borrow it from outside.

"The question also arises as to unpaid taxes as an asset. (At present the Council is not authorized to make any use of them and we may well consider whether that is right). Is there any better security up to, say 50 per cent than unpaid taxes? They are a charge on the land and they are the subject of a personal judgment against the person assessed. One difficulty in realizing or utilizing them as an asset is this: that a purchaser under a tax sale has not hitherto felt altogether safe, and it is doubtful whether even after legislation on the subject he can acquire a certificate of Indefeasible Title. Some of you will remember the case of Anderson vs. South Vancouver, where, after years and years, an owner whose land had been sold at a tax sale brought an action, and successfully, to set aside the sale on the ground that the Council, when passing its by-laws, had held its meetings outside the municipality.

"As the Privy Council refused to appeal it would seem that the decision was sound, but supposing the law was remedied and tax deeds made unassailable, then these taxes might be a most important asset, and one of which more use might be made than has been possible hitherto. I would suggest that the law be remedied so that all tax titles be made indefeasible.

"Perhaps, too, it would be easier to deal with unpaid taxes as an asset if sales were held yearly, but held yearly they will not be unless the Statute so directs, and so far from directing it, the amendments of 1915 have left it most indefinite.

"There is another point in regard to financing taxes, or rather to realizing on them, which I throw out only as a suggestion—not advocating it, and it is this—should there be a right to distrain for unpaid taxes? There used to be in my province of origin, Ontario, and I believe taxes or

MUNICIPAL FINANCE.—Continued.

rates can be collected by distress in the Old Country. So, also, certain taxes can be collected by distress in British Columbia—Road Tax, Water Rates, etc. Provincial taxes, etc. I am not recommending this, as I said before. It is quite possible that a person so poor that a distraint was necessary would be so poor that even a distress would realize nothing.

Debenture and Sinking Fund.

“There is also a point in reference to the issue of debentures which is of importance. As some of you know, the only form hitherto permissible under the Municipal Act was the debenture with a sinking fund. The Municipal Act does not expressly prohibit the payment of yearly instalments of principal and interest, but it does not expressly say that payments can be made in this way, and I remember that a money by-law drawn by myself for the city of Chilliwack was disapproved by Eastern lawyers on that ground. In Ontario it is otherwise and of course an amendment would be easy. Simply insert the words ‘or by instalments’ in the Section of the Municipal Act, and the authority to issue debentures on the instalment plan would be clear. On the other hand the Local Improvement Act, passed in 1913, seems to contemplate nothing but the instalment plan (See Section 42 thereof), although the form of by-laws given in the schedule contemplates both. Now, the fact is, the municipality should have an opportunity of borrowing in one way or the other as it sees fit, subject, of course, as always, to the wishes of the lender.

“Now, comes a question as to the investment of the sinking fund. What is it to be invested in? The investments are so strictly limited by Section 189 that there might be great trouble in placing money suitably. One source of investment is cut off and out, namely, that of mortgages. Formerly township municipalities might invest in mortgages, while cities apparently never had the power. As the law stands at present neither one nor the other can. Is this a wise provision of the law? If the Government fears that a municipality might lock up too much of its funds in real estate it might be made a condition of such loan that a Government valuator pass the loan, or some such safeguard might be introduced. The township of which I know most, that of Chilliwack, has invested its surplus funds in mortgages many a time, and so far as I know has never lost a cent.

“Questions that arise at least indirectly connected with the question of Municipal Finance are in reference to the system of assessment. What is to determine the value of the property assessed? And a most important question that is bound to come to the front some day arises in connection with the exemption of improvements. Is the single tax theory sound? Should improvements be exempted or should they be taxed, and if so, to what extent? How should accounts be kept? Can they be simplified? That, too, is a question that arises constantly, but I do not venture to touch upon it because nearly everyone present must have had greater experience in these practical matters than myself.

Municipal Ownership.

“The question of Municipal Ownership, too, is associated with Municipal Finance. Is Municipal Ownership ever advisable? If so, in respect of what utilities? Here one finds a conflict of opinion. Nearly all writers on the subject advocate Municipal Ownership of certain utilities, but they are not agreed as to what utilities they should be, with one exception, and that is water. They are all agreed that a municipality should supply the inhabitants with water, and one reason for that is that there is nearly always a considerable profit to the Municipality. But out of all the conflict of ideas on the subject of Municipal Ownership I find there is a consensus of opinion to this extent: That Municipal Ownership seldom gives as good a service as properly managed private ownership, but that it does give the service cheaper. Then there is the question of local assessment, a subject in which we find little assistance from English examples, for in England and on the Continent generally the system is almost unknown. It is, however, curious to note that it was in England it took its rise. Shortly after the great fire of London a law was passed taxing every owner of property for costs of repairs, etc., but since then the system has fallen into abeyance. Private owners, as a rule, do there what is done in our country by the authorities. Private owners, let us remember, have had centuries there to do these things. We are in a hurry and can't wait for private owners, and so the municipal authorities do them. And here,

too, is a difference of opinion as to how far the system should extend. Some communities, for instance, consider sewerage a local improvement, and impose a sewer rate on properties served by the sewer. In other communities the city pays for this service out of its general revenues.

“And in connection with all these undertakings—water supply, sewerage, dock facilities or transportation, a question arises as to the debt limit. When money is required for revenue, pending the completion of an undertaking, should there be a limit? If a city requires money to purchase some public utility should it be restrained to a debt limit? No doubt the limit is necessary as a safeguard in many and in most instances, but is it necessary or expedient in all cases? I am, of course, referring only to utilities that are not to be revenue bearing, such as water-works, and so on. To purchasers of undertakings that are merely ornamental or philanthropic, such remarks do not apply—in any case they can only apply to large cities. Rural communities or small cities are not likely to be troubled with questions of public ownership to any embarrassing extent. So far as I can see in a country like ours the question of good roads is of the highest importance in rural communities.

“Another source of revenue, in British Columbia at any rate, as to which there is a difference of opinion, is the taxes in the form of licenses. I remember when staying in San Francisco some years ago, finding that everybody who did anything, who carried on any occupation or profession, belonged to a union of some kind—the bell-boy who carried your luggage upstairs, the porter who hustled your trunk around, the elevator boy, the very shoe-shiner who gave your shoes a polish—all belonged to a union and would not be allowed to carry on their callings without producing a card. We in British Columbia do not go in so much for unions but we are strong in our belief in licenses as a means of revenue. In Chilliwack I think anyone who does anything worth doing pays a license—clergymen only are exempt. I hope no one will think that it is because I pay a license that I am raising a voice in protest. It is only a small license after all. But is it a good way of raising money? Isn't it more or less a tax on industry; doesn't it tend, in some cases at any rate, to discourage competition? I think it is Mark Twain who tells the story of his arrival at a certain place in British Columbia when on a lecturing tour (I won't tell the name of the place) and leaving his valise on the wharf for a moment on his way to the hotel, whereupon the authorities taxed him fifty cents for wharfage or storage or some such thing. He says he paid the fifty cents but went away without lecturing, so wrathly was he. This may be one of the humorist's jokes, but I submit it as a matter for consideration—is this taxing or licensing all forms of industry a good or advisable method of raising money? In the large cities the tendency is to dispense with it. Of course it will be argued that a revenue must be raised and if it is not raised in that way how is it to be obtained? Well, that is a question for discussion.

“All the subjects I have mentioned are pertinent to the question of Municipal Finance, some no doubt of more interest to large communities, others to small ones, and perhaps this meeting may immortalize itself by settling some of the problems that have puzzled municipal students for generations. They are all worth thinking over, that is certain, and in this connection I recall the words, or, rather, the thought, of the late Professor Ely, of Johns Hopkins University, whose work on Political Economy was a classic. He said:

“If people would pay more attention to their civic affairs, to the government of their own particular city or district than to the government of their state or federal government, the government of the whole country would be better.”

He was speaking of the United States but who will say that the same principle does not apply to our own Dominion.

PATRIOTIC WESTMOUNT.

Special taxation for patriotic purposes is proposed by the Council of the City of Westmount, P. Q. A by-law which calls for one-half mill on the dollar to be levied on all taxable property for the Canadian Patriotic Fund and for all other funds created for providing hospital beds or assistance for those who have suffered through the present war has been passed. Westmount's rate of taxation for civic purposes will be the same as last year—9 mills on the dollar.

Good Roads

By Thomas Furness, Esq., Superintendent of Streets, New Westminster, B.C.

"In any discussion of roads, good or bad, too much stress cannot be laid upon the singular problem confronting those in charge of public highways.

"Although they have succeeded in constructing roads which are sufficiently lasting under automobile traffic alone (as sufficient indeed as is the old style macadamized road under horse drawn vehicles) they have as yet been unable to evolve a road which meets the requirements of both types of conveyances. All we have for the past few years of experiment is a suggestion of what the ideal mixed traffic road must be.

"In the first place, broken stone of various sizes must be used in any road that is built to withstand heavy traffic, and there is little doubt that the use of broken stone for road building antedates history.

"We are at the beginning of what, during the next two or three decades will be the outstanding feature of our municipal construction work, which is gradually being brought about by the development of the motor as a vehicle for general use. Strange as it may seem, when the motor car first came into use, those in charge of roads were inclined to welcome the new type of vehicle, believing that the soft pneumatic tyres would have a beneficial effect on road surfaces. They based this belief on the old time theory of road building, that the effect of all traffic was simply to create a sufficient amount of fine dust to take the place of whatever (quantity) was blown away by the wind or washed off by the rain, and that this coating of dust would be kept in place by the pounding force of the wheels, and that the only permanent harm done to road surfaces would be caused by the constant hammer of horses' hoofs, which was held to be responsible for at least 60 per cent of the wear on roads.

"In the macadamized type of roads in use this rock dust became the binder that held the fabric together; it was pounded down between the cracks and interstices, while the top layer formed the road cushion.

"It seemed to many that the soft pneumatic tyres would not be as destructive as the iron tyred, horse-drawn wagons or the hoofs of the horses.

"These calculations were not entirely wrong. The automobile, in my opinion, is less wearing upon the road surface than the horse-drawn vehicle, but, taken in conjunction with the iron tyred wheels of the latter, combined with the unreasonable rate of speed, it is undoubtedly most destructive.

"The amount of binder swept off a road by automobiles varies with the speed at which they are driven, and for this reason some have advocated regulation of speed at not more than 20 miles per hour, at which point the tyres begin to exert a really destructive force upon the road surface.

"At the International Road Congress held in Paris in 1903, it was decided that at low rates of speed motor vehicles were no more injurious to the road than ordinary traffic; but at high speeds the motor car causes the disintegration and destruction of the road.

"Experiments conducted also by the United States Government have borne out this statement, but individuals contend that at any speed the automobile is a destructive agent.

"There are speed laws in almost every locality, but in no case do I know where these laws are rigidly enforced, nor do I believe it practicable to enforce them.

"It is, therefore, essential that we construct our highways to meet the requirements of this type or traffic. Undoubtedly the days of water-bound macadam are past, and some other medium must be applied as a binder for our macadamized road surfaces to withstand the ravages of this modern and fast moving traffic.

"Bituminous macadam, tarivated macadam, and various other forms of standard pavements have been invented, and to more or less extent proved satisfactory; but on account of their first cost they have been found up to the present prohibitive in rural or sparsely settled districts.

"In New Westminster we have various classes of standard pavements, including 'Hassam,' 'Bitulithic,' 'Granite Setts,' 'Wood Block' and 'Vitrified Brick'; all of which are giving splendid satisfaction in the various localities to which they are peculiarly adapted. We also have some

20 miles of macadamized roads, and until the advent of the jitney traffic between New Westminster and Vancouver these roads were in fine condition.

"In the early part of the year 1914, the main artery leading into the city known as 'Kingsway,' was at considerable outlay re-surfaced with water-bound macadam, great care being taken to ensure a good job, realizing the traffic it would be subjected to. For a time it stood the ravages of the automobiles; but during the fall and winter months it weakened under the strain and rapidly disintegrated. By early spring in this year it was in such a bad condition that the traffic was almost entirely avoiding it, to the detriment of various other avenues leading in and out of the city.

"We readily realized that something must be done, and that quickly, to save a number of our other streets from similar destruction.

"This was brought about by the laying of a bitulithic carpet 18 feet in width on the existing road surface. This surface was first flushed with our automatic street flusher to remove all dust and detritus; it was then scarified 2 inches deep so as to ensure a bond between the old and new material, which consisted of 3 inches of macadam evenly spread and screeded to within 2 inches of the top of the kerbs and consolidated with a 12-ton roller. Upon this was laid 2 inches of standard bitulithic pavement at a cost of \$13,800.00, or about \$1.75 per sq. yd. This cost includes a 5-year guarantee, and with slight repairs from time to time, the street should be good for at least fifteen years.

"The cost of water-bound macadam in New Westminster is about 70c per sq. yd. Annual cost of oiling 1¼c, average annual cost of maintenance during the first 4 years of its life 9c, cost applied over 4 years \$1.11 per sq. yd.; cost of scarifying and re-surfacing, usually necessary at the end of 4 years (except on strictly residential streets) 28c per sq. yd. This means that in the fifth year of its existence an ordinary macadam road under ordinary conditions has cost the community \$1.39 per sq. yd. and even then it is far from being a permanent structure.

"It will readily be seen that whenever it is possible financially, and the grades will permit of a bituminous pavement being laid, that it is money well spent.

"Oil of various grades and methods of application have been found under certain favorable conditions to have qualifications beyond being simply a dust-laying medium. In my experience in the application of oil to road surfaces I am year by year becoming more favorably impressed with its life-saving qualities on our macadamized road surfaces. Previous to the present year we used a medium road oil and applied it cold by gravity through a Baldwin distributor, oiling 23 miles, average width 12 feet, and at an average cost per sq. yd. of 1½c. As a dust layer this gave fairly good satisfaction.

"With the desire to use a much heavier oil this year, and to apply it hot, I had the distribution tank transferred from the horse-drawn vehicle to one of our steam Foden waggon, so that the oil could be heated by steam from the truck through the coils of the tank. I also discarded the hand pump and installed a 6-inch rotary oil pump on the inside of the tank and over the heating coils, extending the pump shaft through a stuffing box to the outside, which is driven from the fly-wheel of the truck. By reversing the engine the tank can be either loaded or unloaded as desired. Before applying the oil we swept our streets with a rotary street broom, thereby removing all detritus and foreign material so as to expose the large stones in the surface of the road.

"The oil was then applied under pressure in just sufficient quantity to form a thin mat over the surface of the road and to seal the voids between the exposed stones.

"From actual tests made I found that the penetration was 1½ inches into a hard and much travelled thoroughfare, which was all that could be desired. Our oiled streets have the appearance of a bitulithic pavement and are in much better condition than they have been in the past, and will, I feel sure, stand the ravages of the winter better than heretofore, due, undoubtedly, to the improved method of applying the oil.

The liberty of the individual is a necessary postulate of human progress.—Rochefoucauld.

Municipal Markets

By D. E. MacKenzie, Esq., Municipal Market Clerk, New Westminster, B.C.

"I feel sure you are all of one mind in the fact that the greatest and most permanent prosperity a community can possess is that brought about as the result of the development and production of the soil. Where you find a successful farming district, there you will also find peace and plenty; which, after all, is the final analysis of civilization and christianity. Therefore, it has always appealed to me that the first duty of the governing bodies of our Municipalities, our Province and our Dominion, each in so far as their individual and respective responsibilities rest, is to look well after those who are honestly and legitimately endeavouring to produce the initial means of existence.

"If it were not for the fact that fortunately Nature has endowed us with distinctive and contrary, as well as in some of us at least, contrite minds, I am sure it would require but slight discussion and persuasion to bring about bountiful results, but in these days of such keen and active competition in commercial and political life, where the brightest minds and the most fertile brains have difficulty in sometimes distinguishing the seed from the tares, it is also fortunate that people are expected to clearly demonstrate as well, at present, some tangible and lasting proof that "the end justifies the means" in their applications to public or governing bodies for relief and assistance along these lines.

"The Municipal Public Market should be a place where the producer and consumer actually get together for the express purpose of purchase and sale, and where no middle-man or non-producing profit-taker should be allowed to operate at the expense of either one. Investigation has proven too, that for many years past Municipal Markets made up chiefly of rows of stalls occupied day in and day out by small dealers have failed to provide the domestic economy or the local productive development intended, or to extend the educational relationship between the producer and the consumer whereby an adequate reduction in the cost of living is obtained sufficient to justify Municipal administration.

"It is estimated the outlay for food is from 40 per cent to 60 per cent of the bread winner's earnings in the ordinary family among the masses, therefore, the most widespread reduction in the cost of living can be obtained from cheaper prices for food. A properly conducted and successful city market could establish a solid primary basis for the conditions of the foodstuffs trade, with consequent staple and unmanipulated retail prices. Therefore, it should be the first and greatest consideration over all other projects for reducing the cost of living. In attempting to do so, however, it is not intended that through the conduct of its market the city should become either a purveyor of foodstuffs or a landlord for commercial undertakings, both of which should be entirely without the bounds of civic administration, and are legitimately intended for private enterprise under Municipal license and regulation, as neither of which bring about the conditions intended, because the primary aim of a City Market is entirely lost if it fails to bring the actual producer and consumer together. There are many features of a Municipal Market which appeal both to the producer and consumer, and which tend to promote happiness and contentment. One of these features is to entirely eliminate the question of Commercial Credit, a system which no doubt most of you have heard of and with which you have had considerable acquaintance, without possibly a personal understanding and a knowledge of the fact that it is only a belief held of your ability to pay for something a long time after you have ceased to derive any benefit from it, and a gauge of your willingness to deceive yourself into the belief that you can afford to buy something because you cannot pay cash for it. If it were not for the extent to which this Commercial Credit has grown and encompassed the entire world, we would not have such depraved and frenzied conditions, both commercial and financial, even in the face of the present war, and it is even questionable whether we would have had war when we did or not. If everybody paid cash there would be nothing but plain everyday living, and a closer and more faithful friendship both socially and commercially, and a successful Municipal Market helps wonderfully to educate both the producer and the consumer of a community in this direction.

"There is also the economical advantage, both to the producer and the consumer, the former being better acquainted with what is most required from a marketable point of view, and in a practical way with little or no expense, while the latter, by frequent attendance, readily discovers the most economical methods of purchase, as well as to acquire the ability of selection to suit the individual tastes and requirements with a minimum amount of waste, and with the satisfaction of personal dealings with the actual producer, minus the cost of the middle-man.

"A properly regulated City Market where only local or B. C. production is offered for sale by the producer has the effect of unconsciously educating the thoughtless and indifferent consumer to "Buy Home Products," whereas if the same person patronized a dealer in both domestic and foreign produce, without giving the question of "home consumption" a moment's thought, the purchaser would in many cases innocently and unintentionally choose against the local product. This, in itself, is of incalculable value to the cause of increased production and consumption, and one which richly merits Municipal encouragement through market facilities. A well equipped and successfully patronized market engenders an acquaintance and friendship between town and country, which leads to a more healthy and staple relationship than could be otherwise realized.

"Market days bring a change in the ordinary routine of both country and city life as well as commercial and agricultural livelihood. It provides a clearing house and bartering place for hundreds of producers where thousands of dollars worth of foodstuffs change hands by agreement and for future direct delivery, besides the ordinary household purchases, and for which the market may get no direct returns; but by it the city reaps the commercial benefit to which it is justly entitled for the administration and maintenance of a public utility of this nature within its borders.

"There are many factors to be considered in the make-up of a market, and it must not be decided for a moment that the responsibility for the successful outcome of it rests with the city alone. Would time only permit me to enlarge upon these features as a part of this paper I feel sure you would all be interested; however, I will simply mention some of the most important, such as:

- Standardization of each and every individual product.
- Carefulness in measure and weight.
- Attractiveness in package and display.
- Neatness and cleanliness in appearance.
- Capacity of container, according to variety of product.
- Proper grading of all production.
- Most marketable varieties of production.
- Careful study of the condition of supply and demand.
- As well as prompt and regular attendance on the part of the producer or vendor.

While the location, size, variety, quality and arrangement of buildings

- Cold storage and warehouse facilities
- Accommodation and convenience
- Conditions and regulations.
- Methods and extent

on the part of the Civic Authorities are matters of individual and specific consequences, all of which are closely interwoven with each other, and of vital importance to the success of the market as a whole. Each one of these individual items merits the co-operation of the Provincial and Federal Governments in their respective spheres, and which should be augmented and assisted by them in many ways and through various channels, outside of the ability, scope and authority of either the Farmer or the Municipality, but which include and go to make up the "Market's Facilities" required, and which is the most direct and permanent road to increased production and consumption; in other words create the conditions whereby the production of the country can be successfully and profitably marketed, and the "Back-to-the-Land" problem will look after itself, and the secret of increased production will be solved.

A very interesting pamphlet, under the title of "How to Finish British Columbia Wood," which shows the possibilities of the various native woods when used as interior finish, can be obtained free from the forest branch, Victoria, B.C.

REVIEW OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

Conducted by

W. H. ATHERTON, Ph. D. (Sec. City Improvement League of Montreal)

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT ORGANIZATION FOR CANADA.

"A proposal for a national movement to secure a general and effective interest in municipal affairs, and the study and advancement of the best principles of civic improvement and growth."

A great movement for the future utility of volunteer and unofficial Civic Improvement Leagues in Canada is about to be launched. Its advent is to be hailed with satisfaction. Those who have watched these columns for the past two years will not be surprised for the steps leading up to the new venture, have been there recorded especially (Vol. X., Jan., 1914, Sept., 1914). The City Improvement League of Montreal was one of the pioneers of the movement which started at the special meeting of the Canadian delegates at the Convention of the National Municipal League of America held in the City Hall of Toronto in November, 1914. To advocate some form of a Canadian National Municipal League to confederate Canadian Municipal thinkers of an unofficial character at present unlinked by any central organization for individuals or civic organizations engaged in civic improvement, city planning, housing and other movements throughout the Dominion. The League then had the satisfaction of seeing the first steps of the movement hailed by representatives of other organizations. A committee of study for furthering the movement was started, and its efforts culminated in success at the special meeting of the Canadian members at the International Congress of City Planning held in Toronto University in May, 1914, which presented certain resolutions to the President of the Commission of Conservation which led to the invitation of Mr. Thomas Adams, the Executive Officer and Adviser of the English Town Planning Act to come to Canada to put his experience to the use of the Dominion.

The resolution ran: "That this representative gathering of Canadian delegates at the International City Planning Congress held in the Convocation Hall of Toronto University on Wednesday, May 27th, 1914, desires strongly to pray the Commission of Conservation, in view of the very practical co-operation and interest in the aims and objects of the present International City Planning Conference happily promoted by it, to further continue its good work by the creation of a special Bureau of City Planning and Housing in connection with the activities of the Commission of Conservation, to act as a Central Body to encourage and co-operate with provincial or other housing and planning bodies."

The Bureau under Mr. Adams has now been established and has been over a year busily engaged in framing draft town planning and housing legislation, in advising cities, towns and villages regarding the planning and improvement of their areas, and in educating public opinion.

The Next Move.

Now the necessary and complementary movement for its successful operation is to be put on foot by the organization of unofficial Civic Improvement Leagues throughout the villages, municipalities, towns, cities and provinces to be in touch with the Dominion Commission of Conservation through its new Bureau, for it has been felt that the work of the Commission will not meet with an adequate measure of success unless there is a more widespread interest in municipal matters on the part of the general body of citizens. An organization is required to stimulate public interest in municipal affairs, with special regard to public health, town planning and housing, and to encourage the study and advancement of the best principles of civic improvement and growth."

The rest of the scheme may be told from "Conservation of Life," the Official Journal of the Commission of Conservation for October, 1915.

It should be read and inwardly digested by all civic workers and members of City Improvement Organizations.

Formation of "C. I. L.'s."

A proposal has, says the Official, been made that Civic Improvement Leagues should be formed in each city, town and municipality in Canada, that these leagues should together form federations in each province, and that these federations should unite in a Dominion Conference on Civic Affairs at suitable intervals. Where Boards of Trade have Civic Improvement Committees, or other bodies are

in existence, which deal with certain aspects of city or village improvement, it might not be necessary, or even desirable, to form a new league, but merely to attach an existing body to the provincial federation. Civic Improvement and Housing Committees of Local Councils of Women would also be welcomed as local units in the organization.

WHY THE EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD CO-OPERATE AND OTHERS SHOULD BE FORMED.

"Many of the existing bodies," says the official journal, "are working without knowledge of each other's operations, and are unable to get the benefit to be derived from co-operation with each other. A frequent exchange of views would be of great value. In regard to all civic questions there is much need for education in Canada. There have been many interesting developments in recent years that require to be carefully studied. Experience in regard to town planning, particularly, is so new that it is of the utmost importance that the lessons to be derived from it should be fully discussed and erroneous ideas removed."

The leagues to be formed need not be limited to those dealing strictly with civic improvement, town planning and housing. Associations or committees in any city, town or district dealing with any question of civic improvement, town planning, housing, sanitation, public health, playgrounds, fire prevention, form of municipal government, etc., might join in the provincial organization.

A Proposed Statement of Objects.

The objects of each League might be defined as follows:—

To assist in promoting the highest interests of the city (town, municipality or village) and the welfare of its citizens by the study and advancement of the best principles and methods of civic improvement and development, and by securing a general regard to such questions as the following:

(1) The form and character of local government and the application of sound economic principles in regard to the administration of municipal business.

(2) The preparation of town planning schemes for the purpose of securing proper sanitary conditions, convenience and amenity in connection with the development of land within and surrounding the area of the city.

(3) The replanning of old districts, the removal of slum areas, the widening of public thoroughfares, and other reconstruction schemes.

(4) The conservation of the industrial and physical resources of the city, with special regard to the housing conditions and health of its citizens, and the adequacy and efficiency of its public services.

(5) The preservation and increase of natural and structural beauty, the character and position of public monuments, the laying out of parks and open spaces, the planting and preservation of trees, the regulation of public advertising, and the abatement of smoke and other nuisances.

(6) The preparation of civic surveys, and maps, and the carrying out of investigations into housing, transportation and industrial conditions, methods of land valuation and assessment, etc.

(7) The promotion of school and college courses in civics and civic design, of exhibitions of works of art and of architectural, engineering and other designs relating to civic improvements, and of public performances of music; and the provision of facilities for the recreation and physical development of the young.

(8) The means of securing increased production from the soil within and in the neighbourhood of the city by encouraging the cultivation of idle suburban land and a more widespread interest in gardening.

The provincial federations, consisting of delegates from the city, town and municipal leagues, would exist for the purpose of centralizing the work in each province. Their work would chiefly consist of organizing and convening the periodical conference of delegates, transmitting resolutions of each local body to the government, and perhaps confirming such resolutions by joint action, submitting and conferring with the government regarding legislation, etc.

Existing Leagues, Commissions and Committees.

The following may be given as a preliminary list of some existing organizations which by their nature are:

- Halifax—Civic Improvement League.
 St. John—Board of Trade Town Planning Committee.
 Town Planning Commission.
 Montreal—City Improvement League.
 Toronto—Civic Guild. Bureau of Municipal Research.
 Hamilton—Town Planning Commission. Civic Improvement Committee of Board of Trade.
 Berlin—Civic Improvement Association.
 Winnipeg—City Planning Commission. Housing and Town Planning Association. Town Planning and Civic Betterment Committee.
 Regina—City Planning Association.
 Swift Current—City Planning Commission.
 Edmonton—City Planning Commission.
 Lethbridge—City Planning Commission.
 Calgary—Civic Planning Commission.
 Vancouver—Civic Centre Association.
 Alberta—Town Planning and Housing Association.

To get the representatives of these and other organizations, together, will be the nucleus of a Canadian School of Municipal Research and Experience wholly desirable to form up immediately. It is first desired that local associations should federate, and form into provincial federations.

Time is Opportune.

"The time is considered opportune," says the report, "for a Dominion-wide movement in connection with these matters. The fact that the Empire is engaged in war is an added reason for considering how we can build up and conserve our national resources by reducing wasteful municipal expenditures, improving housing conditions, raising the standard of public health, obtaining better means of transportation, reducing unemployment and generally planning our towns, cities and municipalities so as to secure health, economy and convenience."

Organization Should be Representative of Dominion, Provinces and Municipalities, Respectively.

It is not essential to have a new Dominion organization, but that may be a later development.

The commission of Conservation, with its Town Planning Branch, may be regarded as meeting the Dominion requirements for the present. The Commission has its expert advice, and carries on a large amount of educational work in connection with town planning, housing and public health. In the provinces it co-operates with the Provincial Governments, but its work could be greatly assisted on the educational side by federations representative of the Civic Improvement Leagues throughout each province.

Conferences to Consider Proposals.

The scope and form of constitution of the proposed organization have not yet been agreed, but a draft scheme has been prepared and will be submitted to a representative conference to be held in January, 1916, during the annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation. Existing Civic Improvement Leagues and other bodies which have been formed for the purpose of promoting public health, town planning, housing and associated movements are being invited to take part in a preliminary conference to be held in November next.

A draft scheme will be submitted to the above conferences.

A hearty welcome will no doubt meet the efforts of Mr. Thomas Adams, who is acting for the Bureau of Town Planning and Housing, under the Commission of Conservation in this important venture now being unfolded. Rightly conceived, it is statesmanlike and entirely feasible.

W. H. ATHERTON,

Secretary City Improvement League of Montreal.

CONSERVATIVE MUNICIPAL THINKING.

"Unless a municipality does some municipal thinking it will never attain full development as a municipality. The leading citizens must be able to see beyond their own interests. Every one who is able and willing to work must have an opportunity. It is idleness that kills. A municipality will not enjoy a healthy growth unless all parts of it are developed symmetrically. The leaders in a municipality should make a study of municipal conscience and consciousness—and there should be no selfishness mixed with it."—A. A. C.

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Almost without exception the municipalities of Canada are passing through a period of financial strait, when local improvement work has been curtailed and the strictest economy must be exercised.

The capital invested in so-called permanent improvements, totals a very large sum, and represents a great proportion of the taxes collected from the people. With this large expenditure in mind the question naturally arises "Is the money invested in local improvements being expended to the best advantage?"

In the matter of roadways, pavements and sidewalks, this question is causing a great deal of thought on the part of students of municipal problems. In many cities the streets are becoming sample sheets of the various kinds of paving materials. The influence or persuasive ability of salesmen may introduce new systems of roadway construction without number. These compositions are adopted and used, regardless of climatic conditions or suitability for the traffic requirements. Each municipality depends upon its own engineering advice. In rare instances only is any testing equipment available. The result is that no uniformity of value in paving or sidewalk material is secured.

Canada has reached the stage when municipalities should have available a Bureau of Municipal Research, as part of a Department of Local Government in each Province. The need of such a source of information is urgent. Municipal government and municipal engineering are being conducted in too haphazard a manner for the general and permanent public good. This Bureau should deal with such questions as the testing of materials and the adoption of standards. These standards should be based upon the practical requirements. For instance, while a business thoroughfare with heavy traffic requires a certain surface material and depth of foundation, a residential street with a minimum of traffic does not demand the same wear-resisting surface nor sustaining foundation. In like manner, also, sidewalk standards should be adopted suitable to traffic requirements.

The question is a large one. Millions of dollars of the people's money are being spent annually and the credit of municipalities is being pledged to carry out work of a supposedly permanent character, in the hope that it will prove satisfactory. In the absence of any definite information to the contrary, advice or prejudice in favour of certain materials cannot be offset. No doubt if more accurate data were available, the money now spent on many of these improvements could be made go much farther by more judicious selection of methods and materials.

The Twelfth Annual Convention of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities will be held in the town of Stonewall, Man., Nov. 23, 24, 25.

HELD OVER UNTIL NEXT ISSUE.

We regret that we have been compelled to hold over until the December issue two valuable articles dealing with the "Cultivation of Vacant City Lots" (City of Hamilton's experiment), and "City Government." They will be worth reading.

QUEBEC AND ITS SOLDIERS.

The City Council of Quebec has decided to renew the insurance on the soldiers from the old city. The number of men on the list totals 264. Nineteen claims, amounting to \$13,500, on which the city paid \$604 premiums, have been settled.

WHY, INDEED!

"By the way, when University professors see men who are looking for work, and at the same time see vacant lots that might be worked, why do they stop to gather statistics?" asks a writer in the Philadelphia Record.

This is a good question to fire at "political economists" everywhere. Perhaps an occasional one may be induced to answer.

SOME BIG MUNICIPAL WOMEN

(By AJAX.)

CITY CLERK MARTHA A. DICKINSON.

Windsor, Ont.



It has been said that the reason of women not being on an equality with men is not lack of opportunity but want of capacity. This is a hard statement to make about the ladies, but its truth is supposed to be proved by the exceptions—that is, there are very few women capable of holding down a man's job, and those who can and do, are so masculine in charac-

ter as to have lost their charm as true descendants of Mother Eve. It is not the province of this sketch to test the truth, or otherwise, of such assertions beyond this, that if we take Miss Dickinson, acting City Clerk of Windsor, as one of the exceptions to the masculinity of women workers or as an example of the mental capacity of women, the womanliness of her charms are not to be denied, and her efficiency is an accepted fact. Both the charm and efficiency being guaranteed by those who know her, socially or on official business.

The writer was introduced to Miss Wilkinson as the only female city clerk in Canada. The introducer could have gone further and truthfully have said that, with one possible exception (in Poland), she was the only lady occupying such an exalted position in the municipal world, though it is questionable if Miss Dickinson is enamoured with her isolation. She would have more of her sex in the municipal life of the country. And why not? If women are to enter the professions now in the hands of "mere man," the field of civics offers good openings. But I must not go any further for fear of those who work zealously, and jealously, for the exclusiveness of certain offices. But to get back to Miss Dickinson and her fitness for her responsible position. Recently the Mayor of Windsor wrote of her as follows "During her term of service Miss Dickinson has secured a thorough grasp of municipal affairs, and has developed remarkable ability in handling the work of the office. For a number of years she has been assuming more and more of the work, and last spring, when she was compelled to assume the full management on account of the long illness of the City Clerk, she did it in such a manner that there was not a hitch." Surely no man could do better than that.

Miss Martha Dickinson is but young—her photo shows that—but wise for her age. This wisdom was gathered in the newspaper office. This is not singular, as some of the greatest ideas and most of

the best thought have emanated from the editorial rooms of the smaller papers. So that Miss Dickinson was well equipped, at least with ideas, for the work of assisting the City Clerk which she took up in 1902.

For twelve years she attended to the details of the office and gained the confidence of City Clerk Lusted so well that in 1914, owing to increasing deafness, he asked that she be promoted to the responsibility of Acting City Clerk, and she was unanimously chosen by the Council for the office. That Miss Dickinson takes her work seriously—that is, she recognizes that her position is something more than keeping books—is evidenced in the fact that she was elected by her Council to represent Windsor at the recent meeting of the Ontario Municipal Association. It is strange, but true how some clerks have an influence over their councils, but in every instance it is because of special knowledge begotten of a larger interest in municipal affairs than just their own particular community. Such a perspective belongs to Miss Dickinson, and there is no doubt but what she will be a large factor in the civic life of Windsor, and even beyond. At least that is our wish, but whatever progress she might make in her profession she will never lose that quiet charm of manner, which denotes strength of character, and that captivating smile which really got "Ajax."

ERRATUM.

In last month's issue we inadvertently referred to Mr. Thomas Bradshaw, F.I.A., who wrote the splendid article on "Municipal Finance," the concluding instalment of which appears in this issue, as Mr. Thomas Bradbury. We regret the mistake, as Mr. Bradshaw is one of the best known experts on Municipal Finance, and we feel grateful for the opportunity of publishing such a masterly analysis of the municipal loans of this country. The article is being reprinted in pamphlet form, and a copy of which will be mailed to any of our readers who would care for it.

LATE CITY TREASURER WILLIAM ROBB.

We regret to announce the death last month, through heart disease, of Mr. William Robb, for many years Treasurer of the City of Montreal. On his retirement in 1911, after forty-seven years' service he received many marks of esteem from his colleagues, and it was on this occasion when Senator David, who has been City Clerk of Montreal for many years, made that felicitous remark of his old municipal comrade: "He was something more than an official. He was a gentleman." When a man has served his city for almost half a century, without a blemish to his name, in a capacity through which he handled millions of dollars each year, that man has deserved well of his colleagues, and this Mr. Robb received in full measure. He died as he would wish—in his church, which he had attended for sixty years. Mr. Robb was in his 86th year.

GRADUATES SOCIETY OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

What might be termed a unique and certainly a useful society for the propagating of good Canadian citizenship is made up of graduates from one of the elementary schools of Montreal. In the words of its founder "it was called into existence because of the new aspect and function of public education—and also by the new conception of vocational guidance of our youth. With the inception of this society the Royal Commission on Industrial Education and Technical Education has one of its pioneer disciples; for though it believes in the cultural side of education, as witness its various programmes, still it insists upon greater opportunities for the vocational development of 90 per cent of boys and girls who never enter the high schools, and who for the lack of preparation are like so much drift wood on the sea of industrial employment."

Among the objects of this organization are:

"The maintenance of bureaux (1) of employment, (2) of statistics, (3) vocational guidance, (4) of social service, and (5) of educational investigations concerning all matters relevant and of interest to the members of the society.

"The desire to modify and add to the school curriculum with an aim towards the better adaptation of it to civic and state duty."

Assuredly this is comprehensive enough and breathes the spirit of an age of educational unrest. The latter of these objects contains the idea uppermost in the minds of educators in Canada as well as in the United States. It is on this matter that the society is striving to be of most assistance in trying to ascertain if the school can't be made so attractive as to keep its pupils till the 7th and 8th grades instead of leaving it in the 5th or 6th grade. Within the last two years the society has made sufficient progress to warrant it to more definitely amplify its programme by incorporating what is termed the Newark (N. J.) Platform. This was formulated by the Board of Trade's special committee on vocational training and industries of Newark. The Newark platform is as follows:

1. To enlist the interest and service of the men conducting our industries to assist the Newark Board of Education in bringing about a broader scheme of vocational training, toward which they are bending their efforts.

2. To enable the industries of our city, as a result of this co-operation, to receive from our schools boys and girls better equipped for industrial pursuits.

3. To create a better public understanding in regard to the objects and purposes of vocational and industrial activities in our public schools.

4. To demonstrate the value of a closer contact between the manufacturers of our city with the public schools, to the end that better equipped boys and girls may be available for employment in our various industries.

The Dufferin School Graduates Society, the name of the society, is prepared to co-operate with educational institutions, lay or clerical, and would be pleased to give any information that those interested in its platform may seek of it. The secretary is Miss Alice Pinsler.

CLEANING FILTER BEDS.

An unique example of efficiency methods as applied to cleaning filter beds is afforded by Philadelphia, where the principles of scientific management have been applied by the bureau of water. This bureau lays out the work of each gang of men in such a way as to provide a definite task to be accomplished by each individual, and by all, in a day. The method employed is: Rotation of cleaning the filters is planned in advance by well-defined rule; a definite area of sand to clean is assigned to each gang, this area depending upon the depth of cleaning necessary. This setting of tasks has increased the output of each gang 15 per cent, and it is expected to increase it at least 25 per cent. Accurate records are kept, showing the time consumed by each gang. Cost accounts, as well as pay-roll, are made up from the time tickets furnished to the men; improved apparatus and machinery are under consideration; methods of determining depths of sand to clean are being standardized.

"We are gradually realizing that there is ample scope for our citizenship in the little civic group, and that as the family is the nucleus of the city, the city is the nucleus of the commonwealth, and that the health of the larger group is bound up with the prosperity of the smaller."—Charles Sarolea.

STREET TRAFFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Safety First Federation of America has decided to recommend that the following suggestions be adopted for general use:

1. To have education and special instruction of policemen before assigning them for traffic duty.

2. Standard code of hand signals to be used by traffic officers.

3. Fixed locations for traffic officers at intersections to be distinctly marked.

4. Elimination of glare of head and side lights.

5. Use of muffler cut-outs to be prohibited.

6. Standardization of left-hand turns at intersections.

7. Near-side stop for street cars.

8. Rear lights on all horse-drawn vehicles.

9. Elimination of steps on all horse-drawn and motor trucks.

10. Standard size, color, design, and means of attachment for all street traffic signs, including school, hospital, church, safety zones, fire hydrant, railroad and street railway crossings, alley, mail box, playground, crosswalk, parking, etc.

11. Designation of safety zones and crosswalks as embodied in the Detroit plan of painting.

12. Education of the public to use crosswalks at intersections and authorizing police departments to control pedestrian travel as provided in Section 2 of the Detroit traffic ordinance.

13. Standard traffic ordinance and code of regulation for adoption by all cities.

14. Licensing of drivers or operators of all motor vehicles.

15. Exclusive use of siren whistles on police and fire vehicles.

16. Standardization of accident reports by municipalities.

17. Chain guards on vehicles driven by side chains.

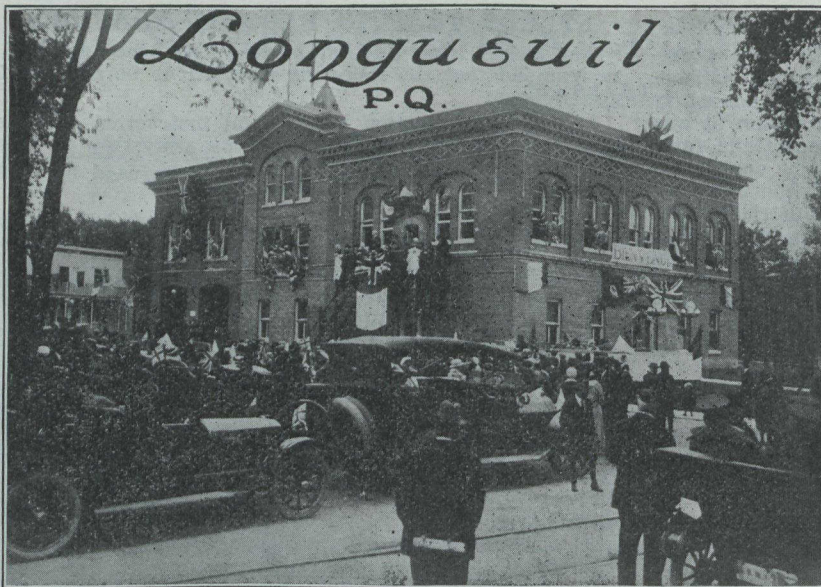


HOW MUNICIPAL CARS HELP RECRUITING.

Above is a photograph showing the splendid use to which street cars can be put at this time. The picture is that of a corporation car of the City of Bradford, England. Arrangements were made for an appropriately illuminated recruiting car, equipped by the Tramways Department, to run to the out-districts to convey the speakers and others in connection with an extensive recruiting campaign. This car was used nightly for a month, and the Recruiting Committee expressed their appreciation of the facilities afforded them, which they assured the department had had an appreciable effect on enlisting in the out-districts. In connection with the mobilization of troops, the department was also able to render useful service to the military authorities by transporting a quantity of guns and ammunition wagons. By means of a special arrangement on the cars the guns were attached and towed through the city.

We are enabled to reproduce the photo through the courtesy of The Municipal Journal, England.

A satisfactory condition of the people will some day come to mean that when and where unemployment prevails there will be a national fund from which money can be paid out to the unemployed, not in the form of charity or relief, but as payment of deferred wages.

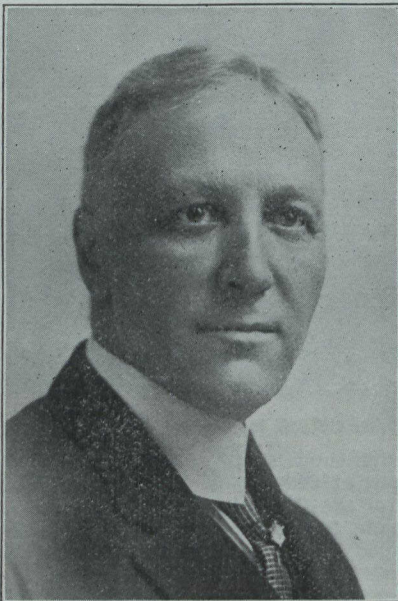


*“The Old World
and the New.”*

HON. R. ROGERS, Minister of Public Works, addressing a recruiting meeting from balcony of Longueuil Town Hall.

Right opposite to the commercial metropolis of Canada, and enjoying the great privileges of the big waterway of the Dominion, and the national port of Montreal, lies the Town of Longueuil, which has been well termed an ideal compromise between the old and the new—the old sense of local pride and contentment so characteristic of the French race, and the newer spirit of pushfulness of the Anglo-Saxon. This combination is building up a new Longueuil—a Longueuil of industries and

he granted allotments of land to tenants and took up residence in the district. Many of these first settlers have descendants still living in the neighbourhood to-day, though the farms, on which for generations they had paid rent, are now their own. For his services to the new colony Mons. Lemoyne received the title of Sieur de Longueuil in 1668. Of his ten sons four attained eminence in the service of their country, one discovering the mouth of the Mississippi river, another founding New Orleans,



MAYOR ALEXANDER THURBER.



LONGUEUIL COLLEGE.

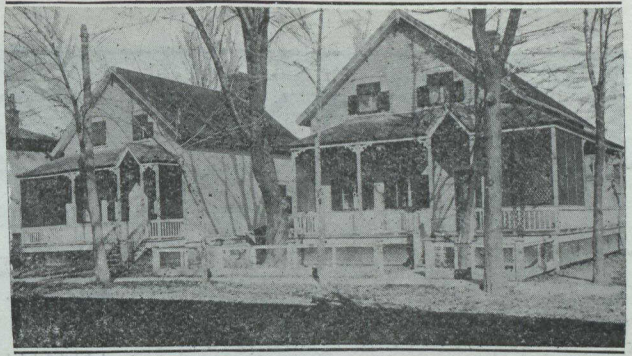
manufactures—and a Longueuil of large perspective.

To start at the beginning—Longueuil was founded in the year 1657 by Charles Lemoyne under the system of seigniorial tenure. This gallant Frenchman, who was born in Normandy and came over to this country in the year 1641 at the age of fifteen, had for services rendered to France been granted lands opposite to Ville Marie (Montreal) to which he gave the name of Longueuil, and as he acquired more lands in the neighborhood he combined the whole into a seigniory, though it was not until 1678

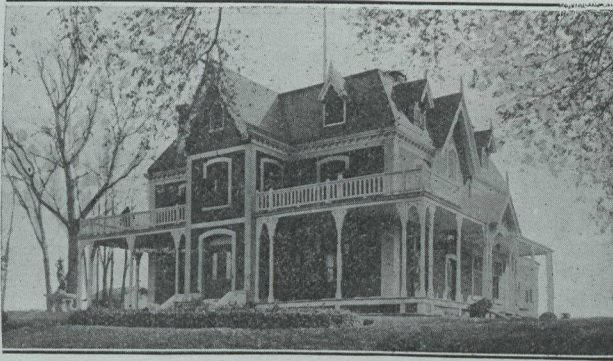
and a third taking a prominent part in the siege of Quebec. The first baron, who was the oldest son of Charles Lemoyne, built in 1685 the Chateau of Longueuil which contained a little chapel, the predecessor of the present Roman Catholic Church. With the widow of the third Baron marrying a Scotsman named Grant and her daughter and heiress marrying his nephew, the title of Baron of Longueuil became merged in that of Grant, who now lives in France.

To the writer the most delightful side of Longueuil life is the sense of prosperous optimism that

seems to light up the faces of the inhabitants when speaking of their town, and the splendid confidence that the men have in its future. These men have shown their faith in their spirit of sacrifice for the public interest—they have given their word, through their council, that Longueuil will progress. It will. The building of the Roman Catholic Church already mentioned, and which is one of the finest pieces of architecture in a province of fine churches, and which cost an enormous amount, is a sufficient guarantee of the religious nature of the people, as under the Catholic hierarchy no church is consecrated until it is fully paid for, and though the bulk of the population is Catholic this self-sacrifice on



A Group of Workmen's Cottages.



One of Longueuil's Fine Residences.

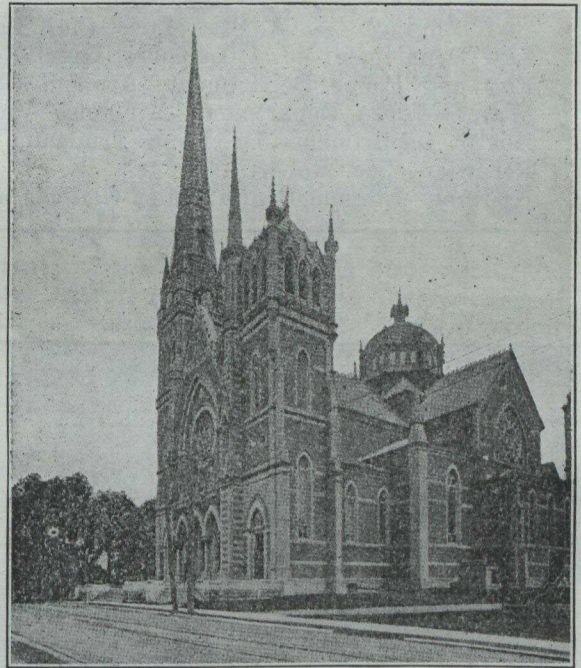
the part of each family was no mean one.

Longueuil, which has a population of 7,000, is a bright example of the French and English speaking people living together in harmony, not only as neighbours, but on the public bodies as well, both races being represented proportionately to their numbers, the population being made up by about three-fourths French speaking and the other fourth English.

The main street in Longueuil is also one of its prettiest thoroughfares—the stores, the banks, and residences and churches running side by side in a delightful way, and in passing it might be said store prices in Longueuil are quite as low as in the larger community of Montreal.

Educationally Longueuil is in advance of that offered by any other towns of a like size in Canada. The Catholic college is an up-to-date school for boys and young men, and provides room for at least 300 boys from the town. For the girls and

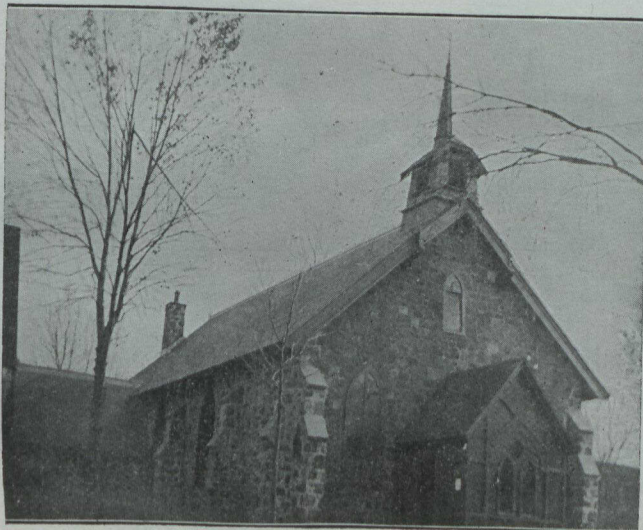
younger children of the Catholic faith, a new Academy has been built, which in point of architecture and appliances is equal to anything in the province. The general supervision of the education of Roman Catholics is under an elected School Commission, which has the power to tax for educational purposes the families of the Catholic faith, while those of the Protestant faith are likewise taxed by an elected board of School Commissioners who educate about 200 children in a school quite on a par with the Catholic Academy. The standard of all the schools is good and practical—and has been for



Catholic Church.

many years—and many prominent public and business men of to-day have received their early education in Longueuil.

The civic government of Longueuil is in the hands of a Council of eight, under the able chairmanship of Mayor Thurber. The Council, which meets weekly, is thoroughly representative of the citizens, who take a keen interest in municipal affairs, and each alderman devotes much of his time to the study of Longueuil's welfare. There has, within recent years, been a complete change in the aspect of the sidewalks, and the roadways; the general scheme being to give the surface a hard facing of solid concrete. An efficient sewerage system, which cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000, has been laid down. Water pipes have been carried to every house in the Town, and the waterworks, with a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons a day, improved to give



Protestant Church.

TOWN OF LONGUEUIL, Que.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS OF MUNICIPALITY.

Assessed Value for Taxation (1916)	\$3,146,315
Exemptions not included above	850,500
<hr/>	
General Debenture Debt	372,000
Less, Sinking Fund	\$ 12,706
Waterworks Debentures	165,750
<hr/>	
Net Debenture Debt	\$ 193,544
Current Revenue	48,487
Current Expenditures	45,397
Value of Municipality's Assets	538,797
Tax Rate, General, 10 mills. School, 5 mills. Area, 722 acres. Population, 6,000.	
J. R. Bournet, Treasurer.	

CORPORATION OF TOWN OF LONGUEUIL.

Mayor—Alexander Thurber.

Aldermen—Arthur Vincent, Henri Mongeau, David T. Kyle, Henry J. Cross, Arthur J. L'Heureaux, Jean Simon, J. O. Boucher and Joseph Lebeault.

Town Clerk—E. H. Leveille, N.P. Treasurer—J. R. Bournet.

Civil Engineer—L. A. Ste. Marie, Civil Engineer.

Law Department—J. I. Lamarre, Legal Adviser.

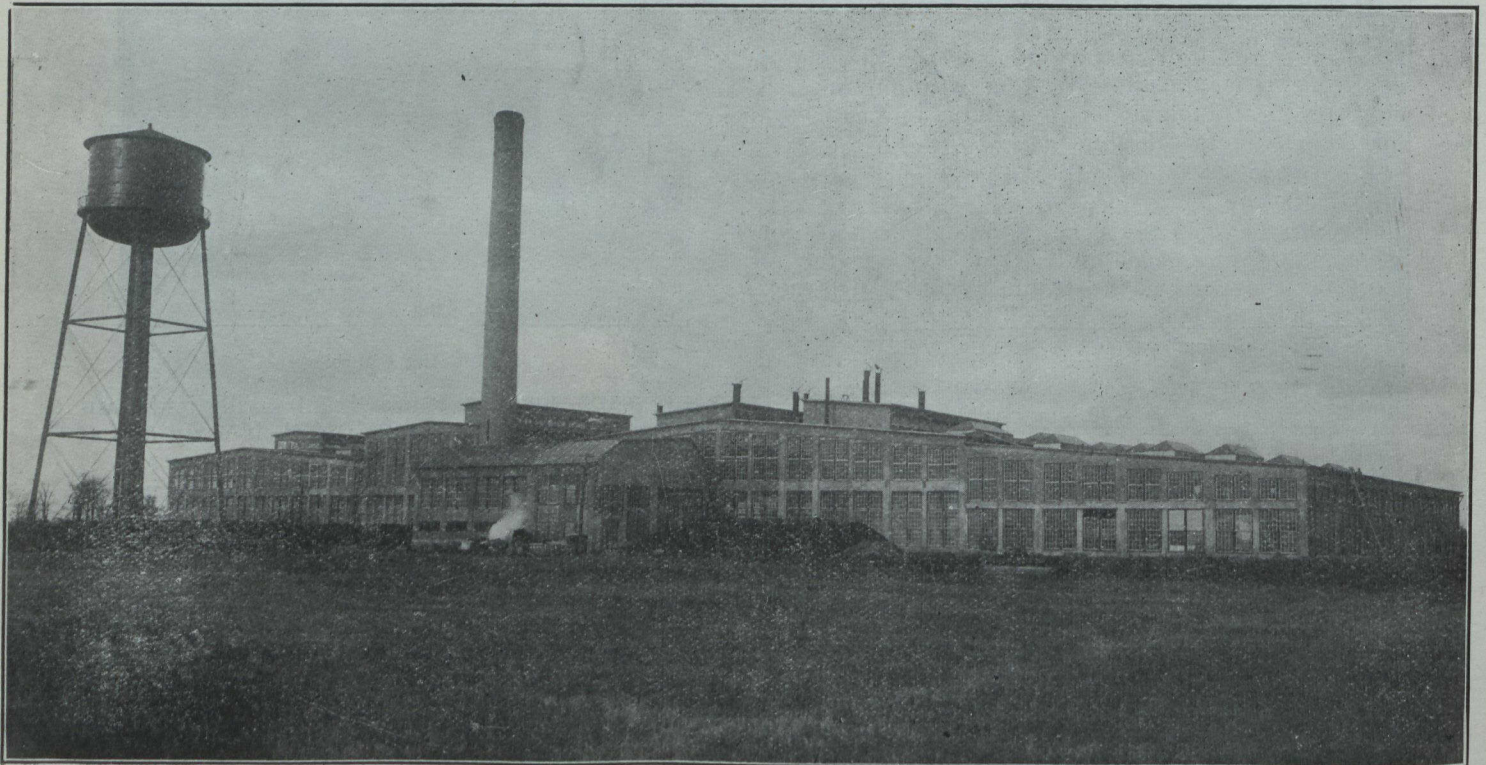
Fire and Police Department—Armand Charron, Chief.

Water Works Department—Alphonse Vincent, Chief Engineer.

Health Department—Dr. Louis Trudeau, Medical Officer.

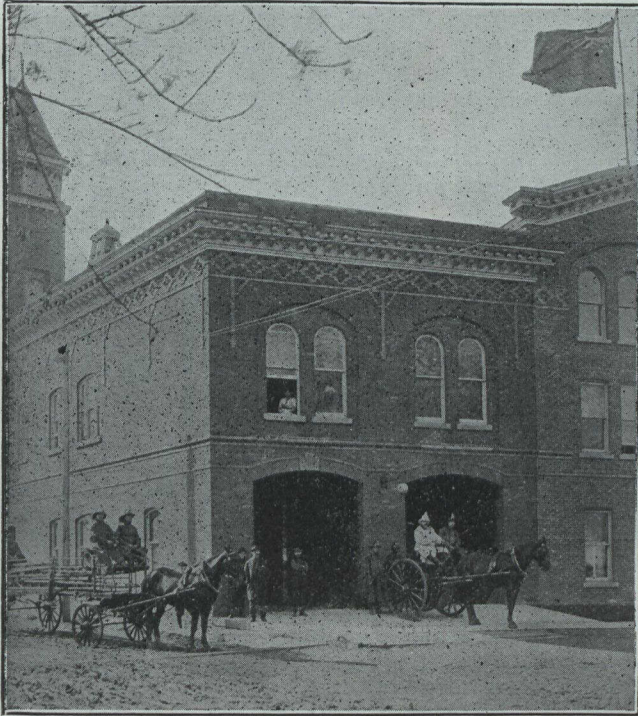
Recorder—Leo. Robert.

Assessor—Etienne Benoit, Jules Gadbois and Leon Viger.



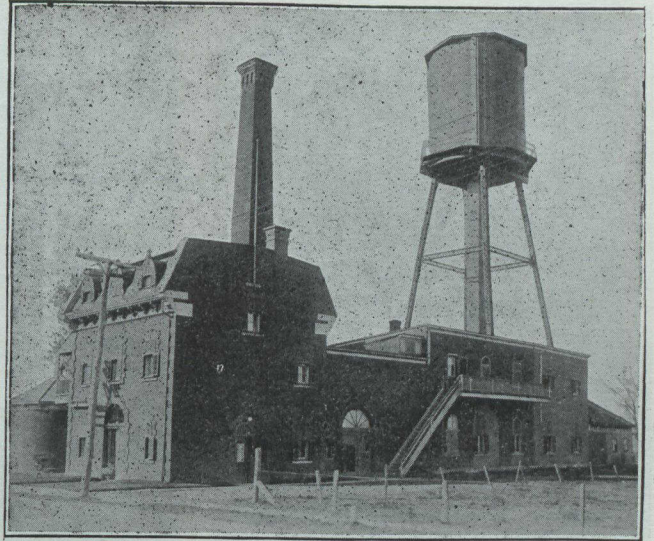
The Armstrong-Whitworth Works, Longueuil, which will shortly employ 5,000.

the inhabitants the purest water supply possible. The electric lighting system, which is under the control of the Council, is up-to-date, and supplied to the inhabitants at a very low cost. The Town Hall has been made one of the most handsome buildings in the district,—the large hall holding over a thousand. While all these material improvements have been going on, the natural scenic beauty of the streets has not been in-



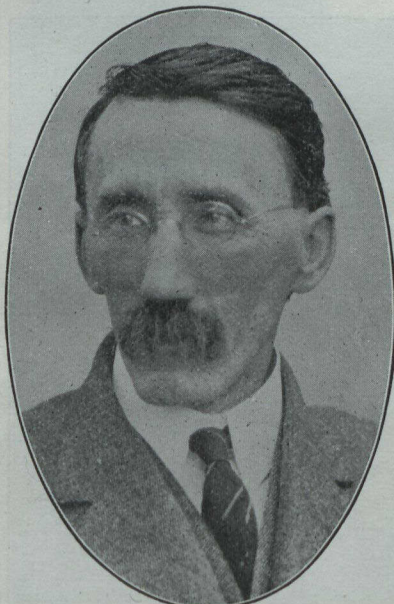
The Fire Brigade of Longueuil is Up-to-Date.

terfered with, and to stop the building in the future of ugly or insanitary houses, all plans have to pass the inspector, and each dwelling must be built at least twelve feet from the roadway. This is in keeping with the present houses which are, with very few exceptions, artistically and well built, and away from the road.

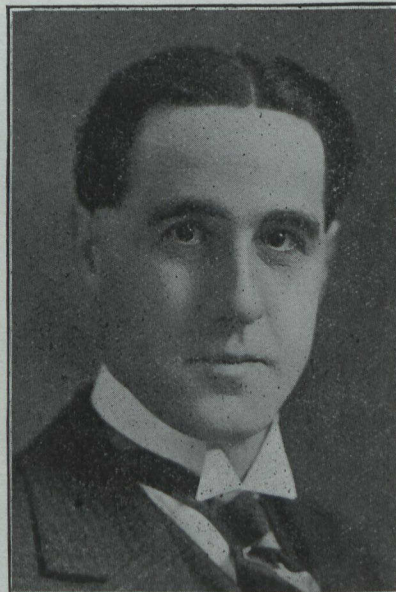


LONGUEUIL WATER WORKS.
Capacity 1,000,000 Gallons Daily.

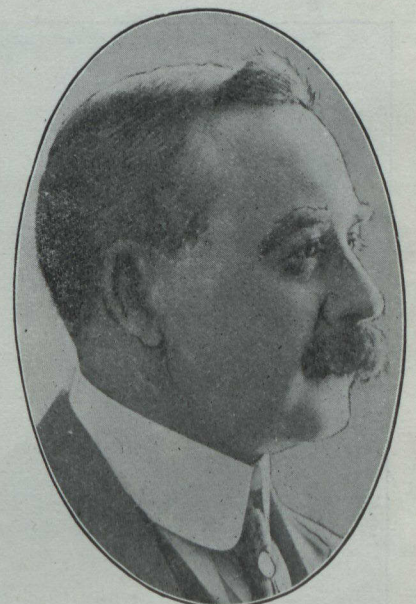
At the present time there are three means of transportation to and from the City of Montreal. Electric cars which run about every twenty minutes during certain hours of the day, and which take thirty-five minutes to complete a journey to the centre of Montreal; the railway train, which takes but fifteen minutes to run into the big city, and by two ferries during the summer months. The ferry boats run every 15 minutes, and carry vehicular traffic as well as passengers. When the Harbour Bridge is built, an extra means of transportation will be at the disposal of the inhabitants, in fact, this new means will bring Longueuil within five minutes' distance of the heart of the big Metropolis. A large factor that is already affecting the location of industries in Longueuil is in the transportation service of the three railway companies—the Deleware & Hudson, Quebec & Southern Counties, and Grand Trunk—which have direct connection with the town. These, with the great waterway, bring Longueuil in cheap and easy communication with all parts of the world.



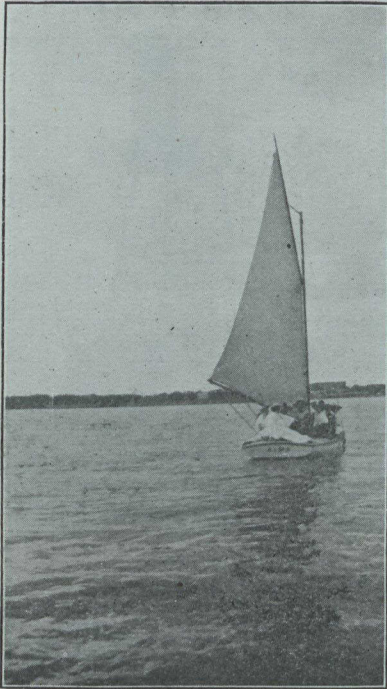
ALD. ARTHUR VINCENT.



ALD. J. ARTHUR L'HEUREUX.



ALD. DAVID L. KYLE.



Sailing on the
St. Lawrence op-
posite Longueuil.

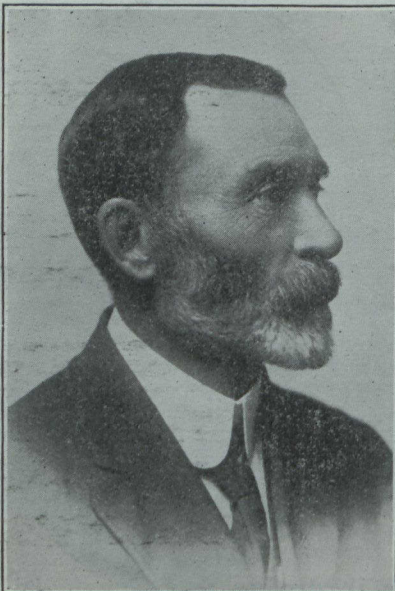
As to be expected, Longueuil's ideal situation on the beautiful St. Lawrence gives its people splendid boating facilities which are taken advantage of to the full. The Longueuil Boating Club is one of the oldest and best known on the St. Lawrence, and most of the premier honours of the river have at different times been won by crews sporting the club's colours. The Longueuil Tennis Club has also won a reputation because of its splendid courts and the ability of its playing members. Every kind of summer and winter sports are encouraged by the authorities and the local band gives regular concerts on the town square where a band stand has been erected. The social side of Longueuil life is well taken care of by a number of societies for both sexes and by the churches, and for those who would attend the Montreal theatres, late electric cars are at their disposal. There are three churches in the Town, the Roman Catholic Church already mentioned, and the Anglican Church, which was built

in 1842, and presented to the parish by the second Baron de Longueuil together with the site of the Parish Hall. The latter now used at a Sunday School was for many years occupied as the Protestant day school. The Anglican Church, which has been recently renovated at a cost of about \$6,000, is one of the most beautiful little churches in the district of Montreal, and ideally situated in a grove of trees. The other church which belongs to the Presbyterian body, is a commodious building. The social life of the district is very active, because the churches work together for the welfare of the town, and the sense of patriotic responsibility of the community has been well illustrated in the many schemes successfully engineered for recruiting and for the benefit of societies looking after the soldiers and their families.

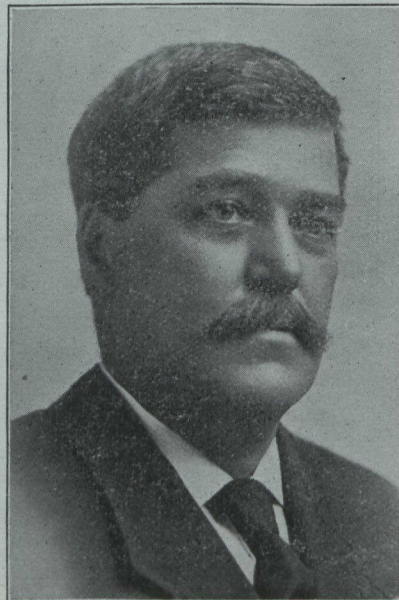


The South Shore Hunt Club.

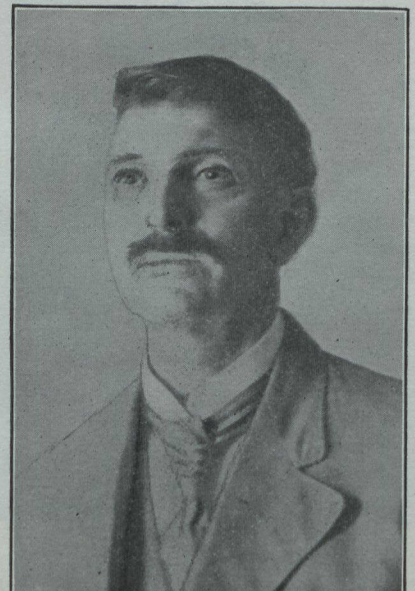
Having given a pen description of the Town of Longueuil to show something of the growth, both socially and materially, and its preparedness to take advantage of the new era that is beginning to spread over the district, I will now ask my readers to consider with me the potentialities of the Town, and it would not be out of place to appreciate the principal reason of the great English firm of Armstrong-Whitworth Company selecting Longueuil for the location of their new works (which cost over one million dollars for the plant alone, and which will ultimately employ about 5,000 men). The chief reason of the company's deciding on the locality was its splendid situation for transportation and nearness to the labour market, and the actual site



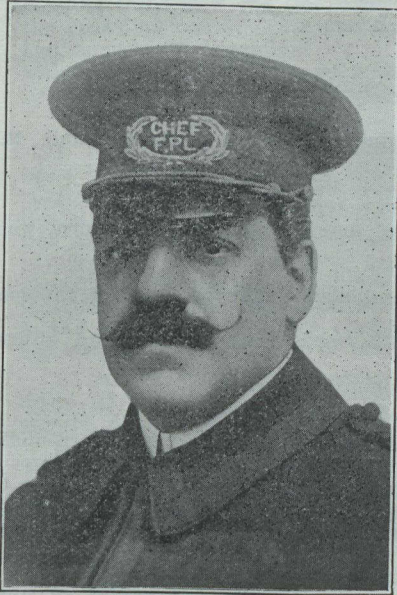
ALD. J. O. BOUCHER.



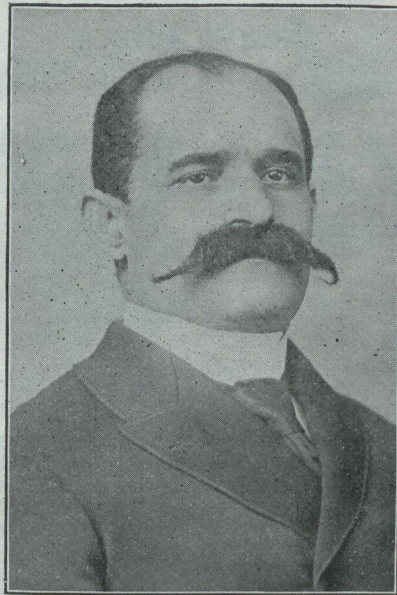
Ald. JOSEPH LEBEAULT.



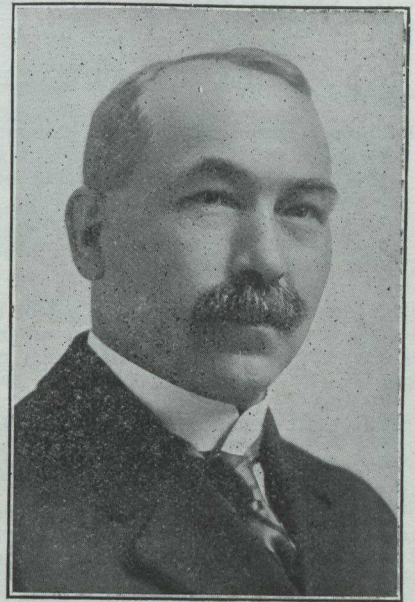
ALD. HENRI MONGEAU,



ARMAND CHARRON,
Chief of Police.



ALD. JEAN SIMON.

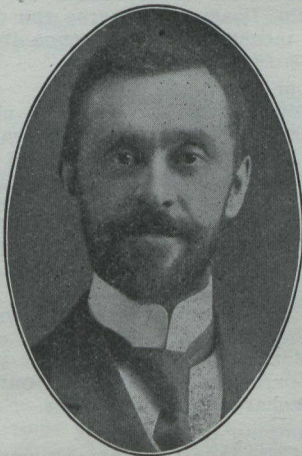


ALD. HENRY J. CROSS.

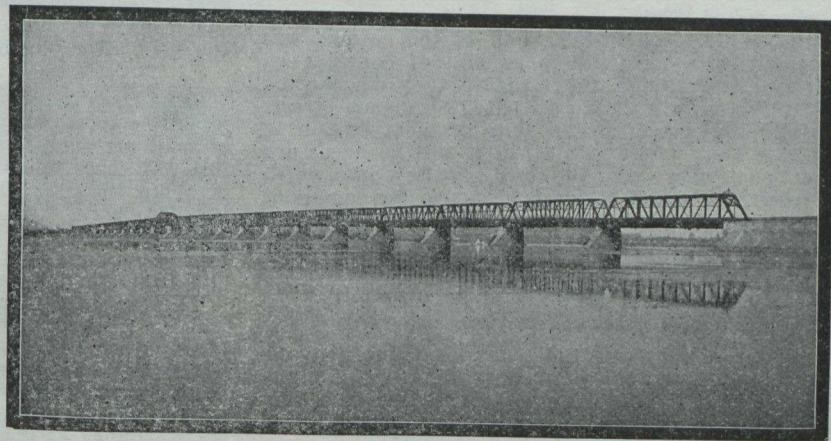
was selected because of the nearness of the St. Lawrence, and the solid formation of the property which runs down to the waters edge. As a further inducement to bring industries to the neighborhood, the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal who own all the foreshore on both sides of the river, and who are responsible to the Federal Government, will build wharves for any plant located on the River provided they receive a small interest on the cost. With the Armstrong-Whitworth steel works locating in Longueuil a number of other industries, which use steel as their basic material, soon follow-

so that the future of Longueuil is assured, for it has every facility and every convenience for the manufacturer and his work people. And why shouldn't Longueuil grow? Nature has done her part; the people have done theirs, and the coming manufacturer—for commercial reasons—will do his.

One can easily picture the new Longueuil with its tall chimneys studding the banks of the mighty river, where centuries before the redskin built his tepees, with its broad and handsome streets and prosperous people living the life as it should be



E. H. LEVEILLE, N.P., Town Clerk.



Victoria Bridge, joining Montreal to a point near Longueuil.

ed. Boats of all sizes can load and unload at the Longueuil wharves, and splendid transportation facilities, both by rail and water, to all parts of Canada and the United States are at the command of the Longueuil manufacturer.

Cheap power and pure water—two very necessary commodities in the industrial world—are to be had in Longueuil very easily; plenty of good labour can be secured from Montreal; the prices of manufacturing sites are reasonable and taxes low,

lived; a community respected because of its civic government, and the high tone of its inhabitants, but it will be good for the city of to-morrow that the fathers of yesterday and to-day have seen to it that a proper foundation of civic government has been planned and laid; that stringent bye-laws of a preventative nature have been made, bye-laws which will prevent the overlapping of houses and overcrowding of families.

Design of a Sewage Disposal Scheme for a Town on the Sea Coast

By C. J. YORATH, Assoc. M. Inst. C.E., M.R. San. I., City Commissioner, Saskatoon.

Just before coming to Canada, Commissioner Yorath initiated a scheme for the Port of London (Eng.), Authority for the better filtering of the storm water which had hitherto been anything but pure. It is this scheme, which has been adopted with good results, that forms the basis on which the following instructive article is written.—Ed.

The question of sewage disposal of a town which is on the sea coast or on the shore of an inland sea is becoming one of the most difficult which municipal engineers have to deal with, and present-day sanitary ideals make it more so.

Until quite recently it was thought by authorities on sewage disposal that all that was required to be done to get rid of a seaside town's sewage was to discharge it into the sea at the nearest point.

The contamination by sewage of fishing grounds, and the detrimental effect to seaside resorts by the discharge of sewage upon the foreshore have created not only engineering difficulties, but oftentimes heavy expenditure through having to design the main outfall sewer of a large town, so as to eliminate these two objections.

In order, therefore, to design a sewage disposal scheme so that the objection of the seaside resort may be removed and the fishing grounds may run no risk of contamination, it will be necessary very carefully to consider the position of the outfall and also if it will be necessary to treat the sewage or storm water before discharge.

The assumed factors which have brought about the necessity of a main drainage scheme, such as will be described, are:—

(a) Owing to the very rapid growth of the town the existing outfall has proved inadequate, and is unable to store the necessary quantity of sewage during such time as it is possible to discharge, having regard to the state of the tide. In consequence of this flooding occurs.

(b) An injunction has been obtained against the Town Council to prevent them discharging sewage to the detriment of the fishing grounds.

(c) Many complaints that the bathing grounds and foreshore are polluted with sewage.

It will be seen, therefore, that proper and efficient main drainage must be provided so that the objections raised may be eliminated.

The ultimate disposal or treatment of the sewage will no doubt lead to a considerable amount of controversy, many of the faddists insisting that before discharging sewage into the sea it should be treated by means of septic tanks and bacteria filters, in spite of the fact that in order to carry their views into effect it will be necessary to construct somewhere near the town sewage works which will ultimately, no doubt, be as much cause for complaint as the objection which has brought about the necessity for the new sewage scheme.

Besides the objection of having a sewage works in or near a town, the question of annual expenditure must also be considered, together with the difficulty of disposing of the sludge.

In the case of inland towns these objections are unavoidable, but where sewage can be discharged direct into the sea without incurring a too heavy expenditure in taking the outfall sewer to a suitable point there should be no hesitation in adopting this method of disposal.

The main principles of the scheme designed upon these lines will be to—

(a) Convey the whole of the sewage and storm water by means of an intercepting sewer to a pumping station on the banks of the river.

(b) Pump a certain number of volumes of the dry-weather flow to a trunk sewer, through which it will flow by gravitation to the outfall.

(c) Pump a further quantity of storm water to be filtered through screening beds before discharge into the tidal estuary.

(d) Provide storm water overflow to take excessive quantities of storm water direct into the tidal estuary.

The points to be considered in designing the scheme are:—

(1) The most suitable point of discharge into the sea.

(2) The period during which such discharge shall take place.

(3) The most suitable point for pumping.

(4) The route to be taken by the sewer.

(5) The quantity of dry-weather flow and storm water to be discharged.

(6) The size, inclination and shape of sewers.

(7) The storage and discharging capacity of the main trunk sewer.

(8) The area of filter-beds for screening and filtering storm water.

(9) The pumping plant required.

Point of Discharge into Sea.

From a survey of the foreshore and the surrounding country it will be seen that the north point suggests itself as being the most suitable place of discharge for the new sewer, but before definitely deciding, floating operations will have to be carried out to ascertain the direction and flow of the currents.

The floating operations should extend over a month in order to get reliable records of the currents at all states of the tide, including every height from one highest spring tide to another.

The best method of determining the direction of the currents is by means of a textant in a small boat, the floats being of timber 6 in. by 4 in., about 3 ft. long, and weighted at the bottom so that they project about 12 in. above the water, the top painted bright red.

At the commencement of each operation the float should be dropped into the water at a selected point, and, with a sextant, angles should be taken nearly simultaneously to three defined points on the land. In order to take the angles in rapid succession it is best to use three sextants and to read the angles afterwards.

The simplest method of plotting the various observations on a plan is to draw three lines on tracing paper, including the two angles subtended by lines joining the points on shore, the third angle being a check angle. Then move the tracing paper about on the plan until the three points are exactly covered by the three lines. The points from which the three lines radiate will be the required station.

The velocity of the currents can be estimated by observing the time taken by the floats to traverse the distance between stations and measuring the distance from the plan after plotting.

The Period of Discharge.

From the direction of the currents shown upon the plan it will be seen that those numbered from 8 to 15 are such as will carry and discharge the sewage from two hours before and three hours after high tide direct out to sea. The currents shown by lines 1 to 7 show a tendency to hug the foreshore, and any discharge of sewage at similar times and state of the tide would probably lead to further objections and complaints, both from the bathers and from the proprietors of the fishing grounds.

The best time, therefore, for the discharge of sewage will be (according to the time and direction of the currents) during the period of two hours before high tide and three hours afterwards, or a total of ten hours out of twenty-four during which discharge can take place.

To Ascertain if Pumping is Necessary.

In order to fix the level of the invert at the commencement of the intercepting sewer, it will be necessary to ascertain the level of the lowest point of the district to be drained. It will also be necessary to ascertain the level of the existing outfall sewer. It is assumed that the invert of the new sewer at its commencement might be fixed at 18.00 ft. above ordnance datum.

It will be observed that the highest tide is 25.00 above ordnance datum, but as this only occasionally happens, and the highest spring tide is 20.00 above ordnance datum, the level of the outlet of main trunk sewer might reasonably be fixed at 23.00 ft. above ordnance datum.

It will therefore be seen that in order to drain the lowest part of the district, to intercept the existing outfall sewer, and to discharge at the point selected, pumping will be necessary.

To be Continued.

B.C. CONVENTION.—Contd from Page 386.

viser of the Union and the Inspector of Municipalities—to the crowding out of consideration of the larger questions and aspects of municipal work from the discussion of which so much more interest and inspiration would be derived.”—Referred to Finance Committee.

Point Grey.

“1. That all city, urban or suburban municipal corporations hereafter incorporated shall within one year of incorporation cause to be prepared, by competent authorities, a town plan which shall show the direction and location and width of streets and lanes within the area incorporated, and such suggested plan for land subdivision, showing industrial areas, residential areas, retail areas, location for public buildings, etc., as shall appear to be in the best interests of the community, and plan shall be approved by the Inspector of Municipalities.

“2. That in such municipalities a valuation shall be made of all land by competent valuers within six months of incorporation.

“3. That such municipal corporations shall be empowered to compel owners of land to subdivide, according to such plan when land is subdivided.”

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve Bridgman: That this resolution be referred to Executive and Officers of Point Grey.—Carried.

“4. That all municipal corporations shall, in addition to power already provided, be given authority to refuse subdivision plans if it can be shown:

- (1) That such plan is not in the public interest.
- (2) That the topography of the area or true nature of soil is not suitable for subdivision.
- (3) That the area of the lots is unsuitable to the locality or situation of the land proposed to be subdivided.
- (4) That such subdivisions would entail upon the corporation unwarranted expenditures.

(5) That before the final passage of any subdivision plan, all streets and lanes therein shall be cleared, graded and surfaced to the satisfaction of the council or such official as may be appointed by the council for that purpose.

The above amendments were approved by resolution at a meeting of the council on August 9, 1915.

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Coun. Cunliffe: That this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Friday 9.30 a.m.

Convention opened by the singing of the National Anthem.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

The selection of the place of meeting of the next Convention was decided, in favour of Vernon. Mayor Smythe, of Duncan, extended an invitation to the Convention to meet in that city next year, but the Convention this year being held at the Coast, as is the custom, the next Convention will be held in the upper country. Under these circumstances, Mayor Smythe withdrew his invitation, in favour of Vernon.

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER.**Unemployment Question.**

“This question will doubtless be opened for general discussion without leaving it to any particular municipality to introduce the matter, and we suggest that the resolutions on the subject passed at the recent special meeting of the Union of Canadian Municipalities (published in the current number of the Canadian Municipal Journal) be taken up and considered with a view to endorsement or further suggestions.”

By Mayor Taylor, seconded by Reeve Bridgman:

“That this Association, in full session assembled, is in hearty sympathy with the Union of Canadian Municipalities in its propaganda to bring together in conference with Federal, Provincial and Civic authorities, together with the employers and employees, as a first step toward a solution of the unemployment situation which threatens to be serious this coming winter, and that the Executive be authorized to help in the work so far as lies in the power of the Association.” Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for 1916 resulted as follows:—

Mayor Stewart, of Victoria, President.
Mayor Smith, of Vernon, Vice-President.
Ex-Reeve H. Bose, of Surrey, Secretary-Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mayor Grey, of New Westminster.
Mayor Barber, of Chilliwack
Reeve Fraser of Burnaby.
Reeve Bridgman, of North Vancouver.
Reeve McGregor, of Saanich.
Mayor Crawford, of Kamloops.
Alderman Byrne, of Vancouver.
Adjourned for luncheon.

FRIDAY, 2 P.M.

Meeting called to order by the President.

TAX SALES.

“The delegates of this council will present a resolution as follows: That this council place itself on record as opposed to the proposal recently made to the Government that the time for redemption of properties sold for delinquent taxes be extended to two years from the date of sale.

“The council present this resolution because they consider the interests of the municipality as a whole and of the owners who regularly pay their taxes should be considered in preference to the interests of the individuals who are delinquent in the performance of their obligations.”

By Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Alderman Bell: That this resolution be referred to the Special Finance Committee. Carried.

EXEMPTION OF RAILWAY COMPANIES FROM TAXATION.

“That this Union urge upon the Government that in granting to railway companies any extension of time for completion of their undertakings as set out in their agreements with the Government, it be made a condition of such extension of time that the railways shall pay taxes upon all lands which are held by them in organized municipalities and are not actually in use by them as a part of their railway system.

“The Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company hold in this municipality fifty acres of valuable waterfront property adjoining their tracks which they are admittedly not using at the present time. The form of the exemption clause in the agreement, Schedule 2, Geo. V., Chap. 34, is as follows:

“The company, and its capital stock, franchises, income, tolls, and all properties and assets which form part of or are used in connection with the operation of its railway, shall, until the first day of July, A.D. 1926, be exempt from all taxation whatsoever, or however imposed, by, with, or under the authority of the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia, or by any municipal or school organization in the province.”

“The interpretation of ‘railway’ under the Railways Act is as follows:

“‘Railway’ means any railway which the company is authorized to construct and operate, and shall include all branches, sidings, stations, depots, wharves, rolling stock, equipment, works, property, real or personal, and works connected therewith, and also every railway bridge, tunnel, or other structure connected with the railway and undertaking of the company.

“The joint effect of these clauses is to exempt this land from taxation as forming part of their railway, and the municipality has recently had a decision of the court to this effect given against it.

“Different decisions have been obtained by other municipalities and it is a question just how far these decisions were based on different circumstances. However, the whole matter needs placing on an equitable footing, in order that the municipalities may not be deprived of large amounts of revenue without any coincident benefits in the shape of industries or improvements.”

By Mayor Stewart, seconded by Reeve Bridgman: That this resolution be recommended. Carried.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACT.

“This Act should be entirely redrafted. It was originally drawn and passed in 1913 with the intention that every work of local improvement would be completed and the cost ascertained before such cost was raised by loan.

“Section 40 was amended in 1914 so as to provide that

B.C. CONVENTION.—Continued.

"The council may before any works of local improvement is commenced pass one by-law, providing for the construction of such local improvement, and also authorizing the raising of the estimated cost thereof," etc.

"Immediately one commences to work under this amended section, one finds that he is called upon to use machinery which cannot be applied, and a technical difficulty is raised under many sections of the Act, which none of the forms scheduled to the Act have any application to estimated costs.

"The many points that could be raised would take too much space here, but the municipal inspector is fully alive to them and will probably endorse a request for the re-drafting of the Act.

"Apart from the above-mentioned defect, one thing worth noting is that in connection with water, gas, light, heat and power works the Act only authorizes the extension and not the construction of these works as a local improvement."

By **Reeve Bridgman**, seconded by **Alderman Bell**: That this be left in the hands of the Executive and Municipal Inspector. Carried.

"Another is, that if an improvement to a road were described as 'macadamizing' in the by-law it would be brought under the operation of Section 23 by the definition of 'paving' and 'pavement' in the interpretation clauses, notwithstanding the obvious intention that that section should apply only to various classes of sidewalk construction, and that Section 27 is intended to cover all street improvements."

By **Reeve Bridgman**, seconded by **Ald. Bell**: That this be left in the hands of Executive and Municipal Inspector. Carried.

CITY OF VANCOUVER.

"Resolution passed by Council, August 16, 1915:

"That the following resolutions be brought before the convention of the Union of B. C. Municipalities, to be held in Chilliwack on September 9 and 10, 1915, by the delegates from Vancouver City Council:

"1. That the Convention urge upon the Provincial Government to provide work for the unemployed who come to the cities and municipalities from unorganized districts of British Columbia, such work to be of a remunerative nature to the province."

By **Mayor Stewart**, seconded by **Ald. Bell**: That this resolution be adopted. Carried.

"2. That the Convention appoint a representative committee to interview and discuss with the Provincial Government the question of land settlement in British Columbia, assuring the Government that the Union as a representative body from all over the province, desires to assist the Government in arriving at a practical and early solution of this important question."

By **Mayor Stewart**, seconded by **Coun. Fletcher**: That this resolution be adopted. Carried.

"3. That it is the opinion of this council that the time has arrived when the cities and municipalities of the province should be given greater control over the expenditures of school boards and police commissioners as the uncontrolled expenditure of these bodies is becoming a serious burden on the taxpayer."

By **Mayor Stewart**, seconded by **Reeve Fraser**: Be dealt with by Finance Committee. Carried.

"4. That in the opinion of this council, cities and municipalities should have the power to accept from a taxpayer 25 per cent or other percentage on account of taxes in arrear on general taxes."

By **Mayor Stewart**, seconded by **Coun. Fletcher**: That this recommendation be received and adopted. Carried.

"5. That cities and municipalities should have the right to borrow up to 100 per cent. on arrears of taxes."

By **Reeve Bridgman**, seconded by **Mayor Stewart**: That this be referred to Finance Committee. Carried.

"6. That cities and municipalities should have the power to sell property for arrears of taxes without waiting for taxes to be in arrears one or two years; provided, the taxpayer be given the right of redemption within three years from the date of such tax sale."

By **Mayor Stewart**, seconded by **Reeve Bridgman**: That this be referred to Finance Committee. Carried.

By **Reeve Bridgman**, seconded by **Reeve McGregor**: That the Convention accept the offer of Chilliwack to take a drive and continue the session in the evening. Carried. Convention adjourned until 8 o'clock in the evening. Convention called to order at 8 p.m. by the President.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED):

"2. Amend the Municipal Act so that owners of lots sold at tax sales may have two years in which to redeem."

By **Mayor Stewart**, seconded by **Reeve Bridgman**: That this be referred to Finance Committee. Carried.

KELOWNA.

"Whereas, high powered automobiles cause more damage to public roads and streets than any other form of traffic;

"Whereas, motor traffic does not in any way contribute toward the upkeep of roads and streets situated within municipalities;

"Be it resolved, that the Provincial Government be requested not to levy taxes on automobiles used and owned by persons residing in municipalities, but to give municipalities authority to license all such automobiles, the fee for said license to be based upon the rated horse-power of said automobiles."

By **G. H. Dunn**, City Clerk, Kelowna, seconded by **Ald. Lynch**: That this be referred to the Executive Committee to be taken up with the Government. Carried.

By **Reeve Bridgman**, seconded by **Coun. Macdonald**: "That this Convention refer the report of the Special Finance Committee to the Executive for favourable consideration; that the Executive Committee refer their suggestions to the different municipalities for their consideration, and for them to report back to the Executive in time for them to take up the questions with the Government before the next sitting of the House." Carried.

It was moved and seconded that No. 10 of the Solicitor's report be re-submitted. Carried.

REPORT ON SOLICITOR'S REPORT.

By **Mayor Stewart**, seconded by **Ald. Vance**: That "Clause 9" be re-submitted to Government. Carried.

That "Clause 19" be re-submitted to Government. Carried.

That "Clause 34" b referred to Joint Committee of Canadian Municipalities and Governments. Carried.

Adopted.

That **Mr. McDairmid** be thanked for representing the Union for the past year, and that the balance of \$365.00 not paid be paid and that the salary hereafter be \$135.00. Carried.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF FEES.

Mr. President and Delegates: Sept. 23, 1915.

Your committee have given the subject most careful consideration and beg to submit the following as the minimum fees to be payable by each municipality:

Burnaby	\$50	Duncan	\$20
Chilliwack	25	Enderby	15
Coldstream	10	Fernie	25
Coquitlam	10	Grand Forks	15
Delta	25	Greenwood	10
Esquimalt	25	Kamloops	40
Fraser Mills		Kaslo	15
Kent	10	Kelowna	25
Langley	25	Ladysmith	15
Maple Ridge	15	Merritt	15
Matsqui	20	Nanaimo	35
Mission	20	Nelson	35
North Cowichan	25	New Westminster	50
North Vancouver	25	North Vancouver	40
Oak Bay	25	Phoenix	15
Peachland	10	Port Alberni	15
Penticton	20	Prince George	20
Pitt Meadows	10	Port Coquitlam	15
Point Grey	50	Port Moody	15
Richmond	35	Prince Rupert	40
Saanich	35	Revelstoke	20
Salmon Arm	20	Rossland	20
South Vancouver	50	Salmon Arm	10
Spallamcheen	25	Slocan	10
Sumas	10	Trail	10
Summerland	20	Vancouver	75
Surrey	25	Vernon	30
West Vancouver	15	Victoria	75
Alberni	10	Armstrong	20
Chilliwack	20	Cranbrook	25
Cumberland	15		

1. The minimum amount required to meet the obligations of the Union.

2. The financial conditions of the municipalities concerned.

B.C. CONVENTION.—Continued.

3. The necessity for every municipality, whether great or small, to be included within the Union.

And suggest further that if any municipality should find itself unable to pay the full amount of this levy, that the amount such municipality may be able to pay be forwarded to and accepted by the Secretary.

Every municipality, as in the past, will be retained upon the roll of membership, and the co-operation of each and every one of them is earnestly asked, and copies of all literature will, from time to time, be forwarded to them.

Your committee do not recommend that this be a permanent scale, but that it be subject to revision as and when conditions may improve. Adopted.

COLLECTION OF TAXES.

Sept. 24, 1915.

"To the Committee on Resolutions, 11th Convention of Union of B. C. M.

"As the Special Committee appointed by the Convention on the 23rd inst., to make recommendations as to the collection of delinquent taxes due to Municipalities of British Columbia, we hereby respectfully submit the following:

"Whereas it is imperatively necessary that Municipalities in British Columbia should be placed in a legal position to collect at as early a date as possible all delinquent taxes to enable them to pay the expenditures incurred during the years for which such delinquent taxes were levied.

"We recommend the submission to the Convention now in session of the following resolutions:

"1. Resolved, that all municipalities be empowered to borrow the full amount of all delinquent taxes due to them by specifically hypothecating to the lender said delinquent taxes.

"2. Resolved, that one month after the taxes charged against:

A. Real property are delinquent municipalities shall have the right to make out and issue certificate or certificates of delinquency against such property, such certificate bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 10 per cent per annum.

B. Real property upon which a certificate of delinquency has been issued may be redeemed at any time within three years from date of issuance of certificate of delinquency by the registered owner or registered encumbrancer paying to the municipality the amount for which the certificate was issued with interest to date thereon at the rate specified in the certificate.

C. Provided the holder of a delinquent certificate shall suffer a subsequent certificate of delinquency to issue on the same property included in his certificate, then the purchase of a subsequent certificate of delinquency shall at the time of obtaining his certificate deposit with the municipality the amount, together with interest due upon all previous certificates of delinquency, such payment vesting in lieu all legal rights of the holder of the original certificate of delinquency issued in respect of said property.

D. Six months prior to the expiration of the 3-year period of redemption the municipality shall serve notice by registered letter to all registered owners and encumbrancers of its intention to proceed to sell the property and issue a deed unless the amount due, including interest, is paid on or before the expiration of the redemption period.

Recommended: That property be not sold for taxes until two years' taxes apart from the current year's levy are owing, the one-year redemption period to remain. Tax sales to be compulsory yearly. This system to remain in force where the other alternative system is not adopted by the municipality. Adopted.

"Resolved, That this Convention respectfully request that when any amendment is contemplated in the Municipalities Act, the Executive of the Union of B. C. M. be placed in possession of the proposed amendments in time to consider their effect on B. C. Municipalities." Carried.

By Coun. Loutet, seconded by Reeve Bridgman: "That redemption period be not two years instead of one year." Carried.

By Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Mayor Stewart: "That the clause respecting 'Disqualifications': 'being a naval or military officer on full pay,' be repealed." Carried.

A Good Idea.

"Whereas the 49th parallel from Blaine and White Rock at the sea coast to Sumas and Huntingdon traverses a natural pass of even grade nearly the entire distance of twenty-five miles, and

"Whereas, the development of the country on both sides of the line demands the construction here of a highway, and

"Whereas, the County Commissioners of Whatcom County, in the State of Washington, and the Municipal Council of Matsqui, in British Columbia, in joint meeting, held to arrange for the building of this road in such manner as to avoid duplicating expenses, found as follows:

"1. That the road would be of equal value to the people of both countries.

"2. That, connecting, as it would, the Pacific Highway passing through Blaine from California to British Columbia, and the Inter-Provincial Highway passing through Huntingdon and Chilliwack, if properly constructed it would be impressed in the memories of tourists of many countries who use these highways.

"3. That it would be indisputable evidence that British and American ideals of Government make boundary lines evidences of good-will and service, and therefore a most striking means of commemorating the Century of Peace.

"Whereas, it is beyond the means of Whatcom County and the Canadian Municipalities adjacent to do this work in a manner fitting the great circumstance which it would commemorate;

"Therefore be it resolved, that this Convention of the U. B. C. M. petition the Governor-General-in-Council to negotiate with the Government of the United States for the joint building and maintaining of this road, and the placing of tablets on the International Boundary Posts, thereon setting out that the work was done in Commemoration of One Hundred Years of Peace." Carried.

By Clerk Dickinson, seconded by Reeve Evans: That so much of Sec. 36, Chap. 127, Land Registry Act, 1911, as applies, be inserted in the Municipal Act. (Re Certificates by Collector after Tax Sale). Carried.

By Jas. L. Raymur, seconded by Ald. Bell: That Sec. _____ of the Municipal Act be so amended to provide that the amount paid by the purchaser at a tax sale shall be only such amount as is required to pay the taxes that may be owing, together with the interest and costs, the balance to be paid when the deed is issued, together with interest from the date of sale at _____ per cent. Carried.

REPORT OF CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

Clause (b). Strike out last four words "according to the population." Carried.

Clause V. be amended to read: "The annual meeting shall be set for the second Wednesday in October." Carried.

"Quorum IX." Add the following: "But for the purpose of placing the results of the Convention's deliberations before the Government a Special Committee, consisting of the President, Secretary-Treasurer, Solicitor, and one member of the Executive Committee chosen from among their number, will constitute a quorum." Carried.

"That a vote of thanks be tendered to Mayor Gray and the other Executive Officers for their services during the past year. Carried.

Mayor Stewart tendered to Mayor Gray the thanks of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, which Mayor Gray acknowledged.

By Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Reeve Fraser: That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to Mayor Barber for the City of Chilliwack, and to Reeve Macleod for the Municipality of Chilliwack, for the manner in which the Convention had been entertained; also to the committee who had extended the invitation to attend the concert given by the Australian Cadets. Carried.

Mayor Barber acknowledged the thanks of the Convention for the City, and Reeve Macleod for the Municipality.

By Clerk Dickson, seconded by Reeve Macleod: That the committees appointed at the commencement of the Convention be honourably discharged, and thanked for their services at the Convention. Carried.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Some Notes on Municipal Finance

(By T. BRADSHAW.)

(Continued from last month.)

Municipality's Debt Adversely Affected.

The practice of selling bonds carrying a rate of interest materially less than the current rate for like securities has the effect of unduly swelling the municipality's debt. It is only necessary in this connection to consider the loan above referred to. If this loan had carried the normal rate of interest, a rate which would have enabled the municipality to dispose of its bonds at about par, the debt created would have been only \$1,460,000 instead of \$1,586,612. The increase in this particular debt amounted to not less than 8½ per cent.

At a time when the debts of many of our municipalities are assuming large amounts, it is important that they should not be improperly inflated, and the municipality's financial position thus adversely represented. Moreover, when debts of the different municipalities are being closely scrutinized and compared by financial houses and investors, it is important, for the sake of their credit, that nothing should be done that would place them in a worse condition than that which they are entitled to occupy. It is well known that the more favorable the financial affairs of a municipality are, the more highly will its bonds be regarded and the higher will be the price which they will command.

In the municipality to which reference has been made, it may be interesting to state that in the year 1914 its debt was increased by \$752,000, or almost 7 per cent., through discount on bonds issued at a rate of interest inconsistent with market conditions. This amount the city had not received or expended and to that extent its debt was unwarrantably swollen.

Market Effect.

It might be thought that it would injuriously affect a municipality's credit in the investment market if its bonds were to be issued at a higher rate of interest than that which obtained in past times. There is absolutely no foundation for this view, as investors and financial houses recognize that governments and municipalities, like corporations and individuals, must be prepared to pay the current rate of interest for their loans. Justification for varying the interest rate is to be found in the practice of governments and important municipalities. They adopt the principle of putting out their loans at a low rate when money is cheap and a higher rate when money is dear. We have only to mention in this respect the action of such important borrowers as the British and Dominion Governments, the City of New York and the Province of Ontario. Great Britain and New York have increased their interest rate to 4½ per cent., the Dominion of Canada to 5 per cent., Ontario has effected loans within the past year at a 5 per cent. interest rate; moreover, is it not just as injurious to a municipality to have its bonds, on account of the low rate of interest which they carry, selling away below par, as it is to issue its securities carrying a higher rate of interest?

The third and last matter which I will refer to is, the

Administration of Sinking Funds.

While I have advocated the desirability of doing away with the issuing of new loans according to the Sinking Fund Method, a number of Ontario municipalities, about 125, have Sinking Funds for the redemption of their long term bonds. The aggregate of the funds now amounts to approximately \$26,000,000.

Their administration entails considerable responsibility. Some have been administered with much care and skill; others, regrettable to say, have been grossly mismanaged. Let us consider for a few minutes some of the features associated with their administration.

Sinking Fund—A Trust Fund.

The Sinking Fund of a municipality is essentially a trust fund for the benefit of bondholders and citizens, and is universally recognized as such by all authorities. It is established and maintained for the one purpose, viz., the paying off of bonded debts as they mature from time to time. The fund is built up year by year from the taxes of the citizens and from interest accumulations, first, as a guarantee to the purchasers of the municipality's bonds that provision is being made for their prompt payment in full at maturity, and second, as an assurance to the taxpayers that due provision is being made for the liquida-

tion of the municipality's bonded indebtedness, as it falls due.

Purchasers of a municipality's bonds, as well as the taxpayers of the municipality, are entitled to know that the Fund is being utilized solely for the purpose for which it was constituted, that it is being fully maintained and that it is being administered in the most efficient manner.

Sinking Fund Used as a Convenience.

In the past, the Sinking Funds of some of our municipalities have been utilized more or less as a convenience to meet its varying financial necessities. The bonds of the municipality itself have been sold to the Sinking Fund and re-sold by it, not because it was in the interest of the Fund, but because it was convenient for the municipality for the time being that such transactions should take place. This treatment of Sinking Fund moneys arises from lack of appreciation of the primary fundamental already referred to, viz., that the Fund is a sacred Trust and that its administration should be governed in accordance with the well recognized principles of trusteeship.

The Investment of Sinking Fund Moneys.

The method of making investments on behalf of the Sinking Fund lies at the foundation of the Fund's successful administration. In many instances, it has been a practice of the municipality to purchase with the Fund's money its own debentures at the uniform price of par, no matter what rate of interest the debentures carried, nor what their true market value at the time of investment might be. In one instance, where debentures have been issued over a course of years at 3½ per cent., 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent., and such debentures have been marketed at considerably below par, such debentures have been bought by the Sinking Fund at par, the Sinking Fund thus suffering to the extent of the difference between the artificial par value and the lower market value.

The aim, unquestionably, should be to make investments for the Sinking Fund, no matter whether it is in the municipality's own debentures or in these of other municipalities, on the most favorable terms possible for the Fund, just in the same way that a trustee would do who is charged with the management of an estate.

The volume of funds to be invested and reinvested from time to time on behalf of the Sinking Funds of the municipalities of this province is such that there is no reason why securities should not be purchased for them on equally as favorable a basis as that which obtains in our important banking and financial houses. It is impossible to determine the extent of the loss which municipalities have already suffered in pursuing the policy referred to, but it is quite safe to say that it must run into the hundreds of thousand of dollars.

Sale of Securities Held by the Sinking Fund.

Sometimes, although the necessity should not arise frequently, sales of securities held by the Sinking Fund have to be made. The practice in such cases of some municipalities is to dispose of those investments held in their own debentures to the municipality itself, and when such is done, the municipality pays to the Sinking Fund the artificial value of par, no matter what the true market value of the security may be. This course may have resulted, on the average, in the Sinking Fund's obtaining a higher price than the current one, but if so, the municipality, on the other hand, has suffered. There is no necessity for a municipality, when purchasing securities from the Sinking Fund, to make a loss. The principle that should govern such sales is the same as that which has been laid down in connection with purchases, viz., that where the necessity arises for the sale by the Sinking Fund of securities held by it the best current market price should be secured therefor.

As previously intimated, in the proper conduct of a Sinking Fund, the necessity to sell investments which have been carefully chosen will seldom arise, for the reason that purchases should be made in the light of permanent rather than temporary investments, and with due regard to the maturity date of the debts which are to be redeemed thereby. The important sales of securities made to and by the Sinking Fund of some municipalities in recent times would indicate that they have been carried through more for some temporary expedient than in the sole interest of the Fund.

(Continued on Page 412.)

Municipal Finance

JAMES MURRAY,

TAX SALES.

A great deal of discussion has been going on lately in the press as to the wisdom or otherwise of the tax sales which are taking place in our Western municipalities. One can quite understand the reticence of local authorities to take the step of selling up a man, but owing to the system adopted of practically "Single tax," there is only one course open to them to get revenue, namely, to seize the property. This the owners cannot object to, for they must have known the conditions when buying, and while it is true that the authorities are somewhat to blame in even countenancing real estate booming, yet the speculators must take their medicine, if they cannot pay. But whether it is in the interest of the community that the sales take place is another thing. We certainly think it a bad policy to sell at the present moment, as they are doing in the Province in Saskatchewan; the principal objection being that the properties being thrown on an impoverished market, will swing the pendulum from boom prices—too often fictitious—to the other extreme, which can only have a bad effect on the assessed value of the whole community, and this Canadian Municipalities—particularly those up in the West—cannot afford, for their credit is at stake in the millions of dollars worth of debentures now scattered throughout the world—every dollar of which has been secured on the assessed value of property as represented by each municipality. So that if Municipal Canada is to keep up its financial credit abroad some other solution must be brought about.

This financial stringency is not confined—as some financial papers would have it—to Canadian municipalities by any means. In the United States it is equally as bad, and in Oregon they have adopted a method which from all accounts works out very well. Instead of putting up the property to public sale the system is for the municipality to issue certificates for the amount of the taxes in arrear for the year. The charge (certificates and interest, which is 15 per cent in Oregon), being made against the property. The certificates are redeemable within a fixed period—three years—upon payment of the arrears and interest. If the taxes are in arrears the following year a second certificate is sold at the same rate; the same the third year, until the time of expiry of the first certificate. The owner is privileged to take up the certificate if he cannot, the property passes to the owner of the certificates. One might term the system the selling of debentures at a high rate of interest, with the property as security. The advantage to the municipality is that it derives a revenue without having to place the property on the open market.

Whether the above system could be adopted in Canada is hard to say, but it is worth investigating. This is now being done in Calgary, and was the subject of discussion at the recent convention of British Columbia municipalities, with the consequence that certain proposals will be laid before the Provincial Government, which, if adopted, should do much to get over the difficulty of tax sales.

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THOSE CARPING CRITICS.

It is very evident that this Journal's campaign to place the municipal councils in their proper place in the public machinery of the Dominion has come as a surprise to those who would belittle their efficiency. We have been even charged with "white-washing" the municipalities, particularly in regard to municipal finance. With the charge came a hint that we browbeat the councils into curtailing local expenditure. "Too extravagant," was the term used. In fact, in the minds of some there seems to be the idea that extravagance is the only word that can be used to express the management of Canadian municipal finance. It is true that some municipalities have overstepped all bounds of reasonable expenses, but one would point out that the municipal finance of this country is only on a par with that of its progress. The matter with Canadian municipalities is not so much the apparent extravagance in improvements, but the obtaining of loans has been so easy as to encourage the selling of debentures instead of raising taxes to bring in revenue. To those who would answer that local taxes are high enough already one would refer them to Great Britain, where the rates are considerably higher than in any part of Canada.

If these critics of the municipal financing of this country would investigate a little more before crying out "wolf" they would find that Western municipalities (which seem specially to come under their ban), have well provided against these exceptional times by the reduction of controllable expenditure; in some cases to the extent of 50 per cent, and in every case to the extent necessary to cover current liabilities. It would also be interesting too to study the per capita debt of Western municipalities, which not only compare favourably with the East, but with any other part of the British Empire and the United States. And the tax rate of the West is exceptionally low—too low, if anything—but a god fault, and very easy to remedy when necessary.

HAMILTON'S ASSESSMENT.

The assessment of the City of Hamilton just completed shows an increase of \$1,327,079 over that of last year, the present taxable assets of the city amounting to \$79,695,212. These figures make good reading when it is considered that the increase has been made in face of general adverse conditions. But Hamilton is blessed with a live council and a smart industrial commissioner, who thoroughly believe in building up business—if only to keep the civic pot boiling. Since the war broke out five large industries have been induced to locate within the city's precincts, and what is specially remarkable about these recent additions to Hamilton's industries is that no special inducements have been held out—such as free sites and exemption from taxes, etc. The great recommendation that the industrial commission relies on is the satisfaction of those manufactures already located in the city. There is a great deal in this, for more than one municipality have lost industries because of the discourtesy of municipal officials who have the bad habit of putting obstacles in the way of manufacturers and others who may be making some enquiries. This, of course, a good commissioner prevents by taking up the burden of adjusting the differences, small in themselves, but wearisome.

NORTH VANCOUVER REPLIES.

The Editor:

I regret to notice that in your October issue you should have misrepresented me in connection with a recent letter of mine written to the Monetary Times.

Referring to the repayment of debentures you state that "there is at least one municipal man, Mr. S. Humphreys, of North Vancouver, who does not believe in the serial payment plan," and then proceed to quote my letter. Your statement, however, is quite incorrect as to my beliefs, and my letter contains nothing to warrant such an assertion.

As a matter of fact, I am absolutely in favour of the serial payment plan with reference to city debentures, but know that before it can be adopted by many western cities that new methods of finance in connection with the collection of taxes, or their equivalent, must be used, or the result will only be disaster.

For the sake of argument, let us assume that the following facts are correct:—

"A loan rate has been included in the annual tax-levy for the purpose of raising interest and sinking funds or interest and annual instalments as the case may be, only 50 per cent of the taxes has been actually collected, and the bank has refused to advance the amount of the uncollected taxes." It is apparent that under such circumstances some liabilities have to "go by the board." In case then that the levy was made for debentures of the Sinking Fund plan it would be a comparatively easy matter not to set aside the Sinking Fund until such time as the balance of the taxes was collected, but in the case of serial payment debentures where the full amount of the levy would require to be on hand, what then?

I might say that the above assumption has been to my knowledge the experience of a good many cities.

My reason for writing the portion of the letter referred to by you was not to argue upon the merits or demerits of any plan for the repayment of debentures, but to gently infer that whilst "expert municipal financiers" are often fond of laying down certain arbitrary financial rules for the guidance of cities, it might sometimes be well for them to commence at the root of the matter first, which in this case is the collection, or rather non-collection, of taxes, and then work upwards.

Yours Faithfully,
S. HUMPHREYS,
Treasurer,

City of North Vancouver, B.C.

NINE MONTHS' RECORD OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALS.

The bonds sold in the home market for the first nine months of this year compare with the previous year as follows:—

	1914.	1915.
January	\$ 1,953,137	\$ 1,784,947
February	5,995,336	3,672,011
March	5,123,176	2,572,357
April	2,847,953	8,603,094
May	6,400,755	3,864,281
June	4,617,857	2,395,744
July	2,180,758	1,618,422
August	395,395	737,415
September	535,050	2,646,484
	\$30,049,417	\$27,894,755

The sales in the United States market compare as follows:—

	1914.	1915.
January	\$ 340,000
February	\$ 50,000	6,390,000
March	18,000	6,543,947
April	25,000	7,100,825
May	1,750,000	400,000
June	2,100,000
July	1,130,000	850,000
August	35,000	750,000
September	90,000	4,086,342
	\$5,198,000	\$26,461,114

—Monetary Times.

BRANTFORD, ONT.

The assessor's returns show a total taxable assessment \$17,839,395, and the total exempt assessment to be \$3,739,100, making \$21,578,495.

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NOTES ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE.

(Continued from Page 408.)

Purchase and Sales Should Be Made on Best Possible Terms.

It might be thought that if the Sinking Fund buys the municipality's own debentures at par, and, when the necessity arises to sell them, disposes of them also at par, the Fund does not materially suffer, in that it receives during the time the debentures are held the rate of interest which the debentures bear. This viewpoint is not only economically unsound, but it must produce gross inconsistencies. Unquestionably, it is the duty of the municipality to obtain in the disposal of its own debentures, whether to the Sinking Fund or to financial houses, the highest possible price; on the other hand, it should be the aim of the Sinking Fund to purchase its investments on the most favorable terms possible. If these viewpoints are ignored, sometimes the municipality will suffer, while, at other times, the Sinking Fund. But it will be found that the Sinking Fund usually has been the greater sufferer, and that the Fund has frequently been employed to take over the municipality's own securities at a much higher price than they were actually worth. This condition has no doubt been aggravated by the fact that the same officers have occupied the illogical and anomalous positions of sellers and buyers, at the same time of the municipality's own debentures.

Interest Earned by Sinking Fund.

Having regard to the character of the investments which the moneys of the Sinking Fund may be invested in, and assuming that investments are made strictly in the Fund's interests, it will be realized that a much higher rate of interest than the assumed 3%, 3½% or even 4% should be earned. If trustees were charged with the administration of the Fund they would be exceedingly derelict in the fulfilment of their trust if they were not able to show an earning power of at least 1% greater than the assumed rate. In the case of one important Sinking Fund, the average rate of interest earned was 3.65%. An improvement in this rate of only 1%, which is a conservative suggestion, would produce an annual additional revenue to that municipality of over \$100,000. It should unquestionably be the earnest effort of those administering this important trust to realize the highest rate of interest compatible with the absolute security of the investment.

Prompt Investment of Moneys.

Investment of moneys belonging to the Fund should be made promptly and systematically. One of the basic essentials associated with every Sinking Fund is, that the moneys paid into it shall be earning interest at the earliest possible time.

Securities Should be in a Safe Depository.

All the securities of the Fund should be kept in a safe and convenient depository. Practically all the securities held will be payable to "Bearer." Where possible, they should be registered in the name of the municipality, but in some instances no provision may have been made for registration. Access to them should be properly safeguarded, in accordance with well recognized rules and regulations.

Yearly Report.

A yearly statement of the operations of the Fund should be made, embracing at least (1) a valuation to determine the mathematical efficient sufficiency of the Fund; (2) receipts and disbursements of the year; (3) Profit and Loss Account; (4) a Balance Sheet, including in detail all securities, cash, etc., held in the Fund, and the exact amount

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standing to the credit of each issue of Sinking Fund Debentures.

I have no hesitation whatever in saying that if such a course were followed, a municipality's securities, when offered for sale, would be more highly regarded by investors and financial houses, and, consequently, would command a higher price. (The obtaining of an additional one point in the sale of one municipality's securities for one year would represent a saving of more than \$100,000). Moreover, if such reports as those referred to were available, the tax payer would be enabled to get an intelligent conception of the object and status of the Fund, and thoroughly appreciate its functions. At the present time, owing, it is believed, to the meagre information available of the operation of municipal Sinking Funds, the taxpayer has a very superficial knowledge of what the Fund is intended to do, and what its true position is. The whole subject is more or less shrouded in mystery and suspicion, and I am convinced that this condition is chiefly due to the failure to present the whole facts to the taxpayer in a simple and concise form from year to year.

In conclusion, let me repeat that in my humble judgment there is no branch of municipal finance in which officials, boards of control, councils and taxpayers should be more concerned and informed about than that which treats with the method of the repayment of debts, the rate of interest which these debts should carry, and the proper administration of Sinking Funds. The fact that the municipal debts of this Province now aggregate, approximately, \$175,000,000, that these debts run in many cases for a great number of years, and that time and interest are most potent factors, it is submitted that practices which are now regarded as uneconomical and obsolete should be revised and give way to those which are the most efficient, the most effective and the most economical.

The present Ontario Municipal Act has given much satisfaction and, generally speaking, it is highly regarded. It will, however, be recognized that changing conditions and new light on old problems will suggest from time to time amendments, and it is, therefore, believed that the following matters, among others, are worthy of consideration when the Act is under revision, which no doubt it will be at the next Session of the Legislature:—

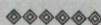
- 1.—Limitation of the borrowing powers of municipalities.
- 2.—Improvement in the method of repayment of loans.
- 3.—Prohibiting the raising of loans by way of permanent bonds to liquidate discount on bonds sold.
- 4.—Prohibiting the sale of bonds at an abnormal discount.
- 5.—Providing that the Provincial Municipal Department shall lay down rules for the administration of sinking funds; that the proper officer shall be required to see that such rules are adhered to and carried out; that the funds are efficiently administered, that they are properly invested and are sufficient to liquidate the debts for which they are being accumulated.

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GALT CITIZENS BUY CITY'S DEBENTURES.

The experiment of the City Council of Galt, Ont., in offering city debentures for sale locally has proved a success, the demand for this kind of investment exceeding the amount of debentures offered, with the result that it has been decided to dispose of all remaining debentures locally. These debentures bear five per cent interest, payable half-yearly. The present block of debentures amounts to the sum of \$9,757, running 20 years and bearing interest of 5 per cent. per annum.

According to recent assessment figures, the total amount of taxable property in Galt, Ont., amounts to \$6,354,100, as compared with \$6,235,080 in 1914, showing an increase of \$119,020 during the year.

PORT MOODY.

A by-law is under consideration at Port Moody, B.C., to authorize the City Council to make an agreement with the Port Moody Steel Works, Limited, guaranteeing its debentures in the sum of \$100,000, to be secured by mortgage on all the company's property.

ST. CATHARINES.

The assessment of the city of St. Catharines, Ont., during the past year of war has increased by \$811,705, and the population by 649. Under the extraordinary circumstances prevailing these reports are most encouraging.

PETERBOROUGH.

The returns of the Peterborough assessment remain very nearly stationary, being only \$38,205 in advance of the 1914 figures. The census shows a decrease of 227 in population, which is readily explained by the departure from that city of over one thousand men for military purposes.

SASKATOON.

Saskatoon has obtained the consent of the Local Government Board to a by-law for the extension of the period of repayment on a number of local improvement debenture by-laws, with the result that the annual levy to be raised by Saskatoon will be reduced by the sum of \$78,000.

YARMOUTH, N.S.

Mr. Marino Pothier, the town clerk of Yarmouth County, N.S., says that Wedgeport is the only town in Nova Scotia out of debt. Continuing, Mr. Pothier says: "I do not see why the people to-day are so eager to borrow and to burden the rising generation with obligations that cannot be avoided. I trust that towns and municipalities will be more careful for the future."

MUNICIPAL BONDS AWARDED.

Fort Erie, Ont.

\$10,000 5½ per cent 20-years, to the Imperial Bank.

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\$17,898, to Messrs. W. A. Mackenzie and Company, Toronto.

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According to the Saskatoon Phoenix, over \$60,000 was taken into the coffers of the City of Saskatoon in taxes during the first 22 days of September, thanks to the special inducement which was offered by the City Council, when it agreed to take property off the tax sale list providing half the overdue taxes were paid in cash and a promise was given to pay the remainder in three months.

ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES EMPOWERED TO INCREASE THEIR INTEREST.

During 1914, 15 municipalities applied to the municipal and railway board for authorizations to increase their interest rates per cent on bonds. They were: Winchester, 5 to 5½ and 6; Smith's Falls, 5 to 5½; Galt, 4½ to 5 and 5 to 5½; Brockville, 4½ to 5; Fort Frances, 5 to 6; Brantford, 4½ to 5; Burlington, 4½ to 6; Caledonia, 5 to 6; Wallaceburg, 5 to 6; Little Current, 5 to 6; Berlin, 5 to 5½; Niagara, Township of, 5 to 5½; Sandwich, 5½ to 6; Chatham, 5 to 6; Thorold, 5 to 6. There were 161 applications to the board under the municipal act in 1914, involving debentures of a total value of \$3,071,337.83. Acting under the powers conferred upon it, the board was able to grant relief in nearly all of these cases, thus validating debentures under more than 150 by-laws, the majority of which would otherwise have required special acts of the legislature to make the debentures valid and saleable. The amount of debentures validated by the board during 1908 was over \$840,000; during 1909, over \$1,326,000; in 1910, over \$718,000; in 1911, over \$1,353,000; \$1,335,169.16 in 1912, and \$2,992,013.58 in 1913.

MAISONNEUVE, P.Q.

Taxable property in the city of Maisonneuve, P.Q., stands at \$31,844,690, as compared with \$32,440,700 for the year previous, a decrease of ,966,050. At the same time there is an increase of \$3,482,859 in the valuation of non-taxable property, the figures being \$25,844,690 against \$22,361,795.

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ESTABLISHED 1874

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Rest	-	\$4,750,000
Total Assets over	-	\$50,000,000

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The Canadian Bank of Commerce

PAID-UP CAPITAL.....	\$15,000,000
REST.....	13,500,000

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Total Assets.....	185,000,000

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B.C. Municipalities Want to Invest Their Sinking Funds

In the Parliamentary Agent's report to the B. C. Union, which was mailed to each of the municipalities of British Columbia, appears the following interesting item:

12. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities recommend the Government to issue a 4½ per cent issue of Provincial Stock with dates of repayment suitable, so that the municipalities may have an issue in which they can invest their sinking funds. This to be optional with each municipality.

This was not granted. The reason assigned for not granting it was that, while the scheme appeared to the Government to be a good one, that this present year was not the year to create any innovation in connection with the sinking fund, but on the contrary that the matter should stand over for a year. The Government is not at all satisfied that the municipalities would take advantage of such a sinking fund to any appreciable extent, and they desire to have the municipalities take the matter up, discuss it among themselves, and to receive the report of what action was taken upon it at the next convention. I append hereto, as part of my report, a copy of a letter which I wrote to the Honorable the Attorney-General, which give the argument in favor of the scheme as adopted by the Union. (Letter follows report).

December 28, 1914.

The Honourable W. J. Bowser, K.C.,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.

Sir,—I have a letter from the Secretary of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities in which he says that you have made arrangements with Mayor Gray not to meet the Executive of the Union until after the next municipal election, which would be just prior to the meeting of the House. There is one matter, however, which has to be taken up with you by the Executive, which seems to me should be brought to your attention at once in order that if anything is to be done in this Session the legislation might be got ready without that hurry which is always involved in working against time.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities at their last convention at Kamloops passed the following resolutions: "Resolved, that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities recommend the Government to issue a 4½ per cent issue of Provincial Stock with dates of repayment suitable, so that the municipalities can have an issue in which they can invest their sinking funds. This to be optional with each municipality."

At the present time the sinking funds of the municipalities can only be invested in Dominion or Provincial Government securities or by deposit in an incorporated bank, or in municipal debentures to be guaranteed by the Government, according to the Municipal Act. There are none of the latter. There are no facilities this side of London, England, for the purchase of Dominion Government stock and until this year there was no Provincial Government securities available on this side of London, and while the matter might possibly be worked out under Chapter 48 of this year's Statutes, it seems there is not enough money available under that Act for the purposes needed. As a matter of fact the municipalities have been and are driven in practice to depositing their moneys in a chartered bank, as the only place available.

Now, the Act says that the sinking fund may be estimated at any rate not exceeding four per cent. As a matter of fact, outside of the City of Victoria, no municipality has been able so far to get a better rate than three per cent. Up until this last year the rural municipalities invested in mortgages that brought them in six and seven, and sometimes eight, per cent, and consequently did not feel the strain of the sinking fund as they have been feeling it since. This they are now prohibited from doing under the Act. The matter of the difference between three and four per cent on the last Saanich loan, for instance, amounts in the lifetime of the loan to \$35,862.50 more taxation to be raised to repay that loan than would have to be raised if they got four per cent for their money. I have taken that as a sample because it is a large loan, at the same time, an average one in length. It is \$450,000 twenty-five years, and the difference in the sinking fund is \$3.41 per thousand per

annum. Now, if you multiply this one small loan by all the loans in the Province, which represent practically all the moneys borrowed by the municipalities in the Province for the last five years, you will see at a glance that the saving in taxation to the people of the Province, when spread over the Province, is going to be something enormous.

The Inspector of Municipalities informs me that the aggregate indebtedness of the municipalities of the Province at the present time is \$93,400,573.42. While a great portion of this must undoubtedly be ten-year debentures, yet at least 30 per cent are fifty-year debentures, for a great deal of Victoria, Vancouver, and all the larger cities have been issued on a fifty-year basis. A great deal more of it is twenty-five years, and I have for the purpose of this letter to you assumed that twenty-five years would be a fair average, but if I assumed ten years as the average the annual amount of taxation would be higher, the difference being \$3.94 per \$1,000. You can readily understand from this the enormous saving of taxation which would be made to the people of this Province by allowing them the privilege of raising by taxation for enough sinking funds on a four and a half per cent basis, rather than on a three per cent basis. Assuming the average life of the loan at twenty-five years, the annual amount saved would be \$318,494. Assuming it at ten years the annual amount saved would be \$367,996.

I might be permitted to remind you that this sinking fund does not in any way represent any value received by the Province or by the municipalities of the Province, or the people of the Province. The capital has already come to the Provincial municipalities and has been utilized by them, and this is simply the sum necessary to be raised each year by taxation to pay the same back. While it is accumulating it is of no benefit to the Province for it cannot be invested in anything that builds up the Province, but remains simply and solely trust funds on deposit, and when it is accumulated it is paid outside the Province to the people who originally supplied the capital.

So much from a municipal standpoint. From a Provincial standpoint it does not seem to me to work any hardship on the Provincial Government. The last loan Act is on the basis of four and one-half per cent, and if the Province should be able to borrow in the London market, at any future time, moneys at a less rate, the Act might provide that by Order-in-Council or authority the rate of borrowing might be reduced to four per cent, for even at four per cent there would be an enormous saving to the municipalities over and above what the banks would give them.

The Finance Minister would from time to time know exactly what he would have to pay out in any one year and provide for it in his estimates, and taking it all in all, it seems to me a matter worthy of the best consideration of the Government of the Province.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. A. McDIARMID,

Solicitor for the Union of B. C. Municipalities.

CHILLIWACK SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

"The Sewerage System of Chilliwack, which has just been completed, is the result of years of agitation, based upon the unsanitary condition of the city, resulting from the system of septic tanks in vogue.

"This culminated, in the beginning of 1913, in the electors voting the necessary money, \$35,000, to install a modern system of sewerage, which has been prepared by Messrs. Cleveland and Cameron, Civil Engineers, of Vancouver.

"By virtue of the topography of the district it was impossible to avoid lifting the sewage, and this factor of pumping, together with the adverse physical conditions, render the sewerage of Chilliwack of rather an uncommon nature.

In next month's Journal will appear an article by Mr. A. Hudson, showing how they got over the difficulty.

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Engineers—And what they are doing

BERLIN, ONT.

City Engineer Herbert Johnston, reports that during the past year 22,867 square yards of pavements have been laid, including 2,100 square yards of concrete and 20,767 square yards of tarvia. In addition, some 98,850 square feet of sidewalk have been constructed.

WINDSOR, ONT.

Windsor, Walkerville and Sandwich, Ont., are urging the Provincial Government to approve of the formation of a metropolitan commission, whose duty it will be to assume control of waterworks, sewers, hydro-electric systems and street railways in the three towns. It is felt that these public utilities can be managed more intelligently and satisfactorily than under the present system of individual control.

MOOSE JAW, SASK.

City engineer commissioner George Mackle, has announced a saving of \$9,900 in the operation of the waterworks department over the 1914 expenditures, with an efficiency still sufficient to meet all requirements.

SHADE TREES.

In Boston there is a discussion as to the merits of the oak, the elm and the maple as shade trees for city streets, and each variety has its champions. Why not compromise by deciding that each is very desirable for the purpose. The trees are beautiful and live long. Here in Canada we have many trees, and every one is admired by all sensible people. The maple, the oak, the elm, the birch, the poplar, the beech, the basswood or linden, the hickory, the pine, the spruce, the balsam fir, the hemlock, the cedar, the tamarack, and others less common are to be seen everywhere. More and more is their presence being appreciated, and governments and municipalities have taken up the work of protecting them and encouraging their growth, both for the sake of beauty and utility.—Montreal Gazette.

EDMONTON ELECTRIC SUPPLY.

Edmonton City Council at a special meeting held on September 14, 1915, endorsed the offer of the Edmonton Hydro-Electric Power Company, and ordered that an agreement between the council and the company, on the basis of a thirty-year franchise, be prepared and submitted to the burgesses. The company (with whom are associated Messrs. G. W. Farrell and Company, of Montreal, and Sir John Jackson and Company, of London, England) proposes to establish a hydro-electric power station on the Saskatchewan River near Rocky Rapids, and, in addition to its power line, to connect the power station with the city by means of an electric railway. The estimated cost of the power station and contingent works amounts to almost \$6,000,000.

OUTREMONT SIGNAL SYSTEM.

The City of Outremont, Quebec, Canada, has recently installed a police and fire signal system, which is unsurpassed by any American city. The fire alarm system consists of twenty-seven positive non-interfering succession keyless bell-less boxes, and the police signal system consists of thirteen boxes equipped with wagon, duty and telephone signals, and with a green flashlight and a large vibrating gong.—National Municipal Review.

DANGEROUS MUNICIPAL OPERATION.

A line foreman of the municipal lighting plant, wishing to be of service to an unappreciative city-owned mule, began to trim the fetlock on the business end of the animal's anatomy, to wit—his right hind leg. Apparently the nippers must have pulled out one of the mule's hairs because, without preliminary warning, he kicked the foreman squarely in the mouth, injuring him so painfully that he had to be removed to his home.—The Palladium.



MR. WALTER F. WRIGHT,
Ontario Manager of Eugene F. Phillips' Electrical Works, Ltd.

LARGE CABLE CONTRACT.

The Eugene F. Phillips Electrical Works were recently awarded by the City of Ottawa the contract for the supply and installation of the 13,200 volt, Three Conductor Paper Insulated Cables connecting up the central distributing station with the new pumping plant. This is one of the largest cable contracts given out by a Canadian municipality for some time.

Mr. Walter F. Wright, who has been appointed Ontario Manager of the Eugene F. Phillips Electrical Works, with offices in the Traders Bank Building, Toronto, is a son of Mr. J. J. Wright, founder and former general manager of the Toronto Electric Light Company. After graduating in Applied Science at the University of Toronto he spent several years with the General Electric Company at Schnectady, N.Y., and Denver, Col., returning to Toronto to join the staff of the Canadian General Electric Company. For the past three years he has been Manager of Motor Sales for that company.

IT OFTEN HAPPENS.

A municipality lays a new pavement; a public service corporation a few days later cuts holes in it, and crudely attempts to repair the damage. This is part of their cost of doing business, and the consumer pays the bill.

To-day civic management requires men of foresight, men who are specially trained in solving difficult questions of engineering, sanitation and transportation, as they are affected by the growth of the city into the immediately adjoining territory.

OAK BAY, B. C.

During the last seven years the municipality of Oak Bay has installed 33 miles of water mains and about 2,000 services. Since the installation in 1912 of the sewerage system, over 30 miles of sewers have been laid. Road improvement began in 1911, and last year alone some 2½ miles of new pavement was constructed and over six miles of earlier work resurfaced. Some 18 miles of sidewalks have been built.

WOOD BLOCK PAVEMENTS.

Creosoted wood block pavements are rapidly becoming recognized as a most satisfactory street paving material. They are noiseless, durable, sanitary, and, if properly treated and laid, are distinctly economical. The failures in the past which have in some cases prejudiced cities against wood blocks have been corrected, so that there is no excuse now for the existence of any wood block pavement which doesn't meet all of the modern requirements of service. The improvements in the methods of treatment and laying are largely the result of organized activity by various associations representing either the lumber interests or wood-preserving plants.

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The Canadian Municipal Journal

THE ONLY EXCLUSIVELY MUNICIPAL PAPER FOR ALL CANADA

To Chairmen of Finance Committees, City Clerks and Secretary-Treasurers:—

Dear Sirs:—Read the following extract from one of the leading journals in England:

MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD PUBLISH BALANCE SHEETS.

“The publication in a contemporary of the balance-sheet of the City of Ottawa gives rise to the reflection that valuable ends would be secured were this excellent method of exhibiting to the world a statement of their financial position more widely followed by other Canadian cities. In the past, when it was the fashion for Provinces and Cities throughout Canada to appear with more or less regularity in the London market to negotiate a loan or arrange for a sale of bonds, much difficulty and delay was frequently experienced by the paucity of data available to the British investor. And to-day, though loans be no longer possible, the amount of English capital invested in Provincial and Municipal issues and securities is of a magnitude sufficient to justify the regular publication of financial statements, not only on grounds of public interest, but as a national matter, calculated to work powerfully for the credit and good standing of the Dominion as a whole. Particularly so would such statements be welcomed at the present time. The world-conflict has involved so many enterprises in ruin, and shaken confidence in so many branches of investment, that the testimony afforded by the publication of figures by Provincial Governments and Municipal Authorities as to the inherent soundness of their financial position would do more to sustain and deepen the confidence of British investors in the Dominion than perhaps anywhere else.”

The necessity of the publicity of municipal statements has been pointed out time and again in the financial columns of the CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL.

The MUNICIPAL COUNCILS of Canada must not forget that when the war is over, Great Britain will again be the principal market for Canadian Municipals, also that investors in both the United States—our present market—and Great Britain always want a line on the financial standing of the municipalities of the Dominion. They also want to know something more—the character of the place.

To comply with the common sense advice of the above statement it is not necessary to publish your full financial report, which might take up many pages, but just the salient points.

This necessary information of your community can all be tabulated in a form at once informative and interesting by those who know their business.

The CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL is specially equipped to prepare such statements for publication in the Journal, which means that your financial statement would be seen and examined by the leading financial houses in Great Britain, the United States and Canada, because the Journal is mailed to them all.

In addition, all financial statements appearing in the Journal will be reproduced in book form at no extra cost to our clients, and mailed as a reference book to the leading financial institutions.

Do you not see the advantage to your municipality of your financial statement appearing in the Journal? If so, send down your annual report, with comments, and we will make up a financial statement that will take up just one page of this Journal—but sufficient for your purpose.

The cost to you will be low.

Yours truly,

Business Manager,

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Coristine Building, Montreal.