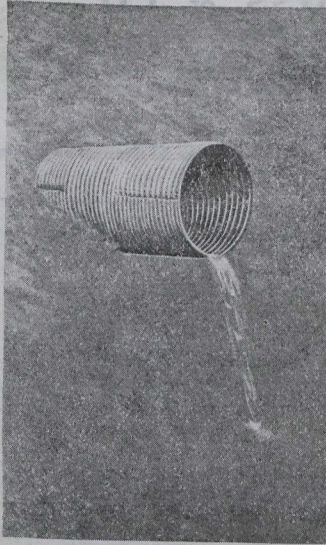


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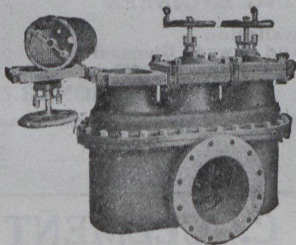
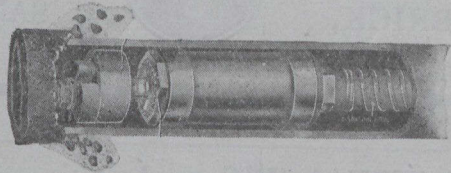
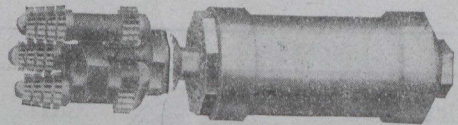
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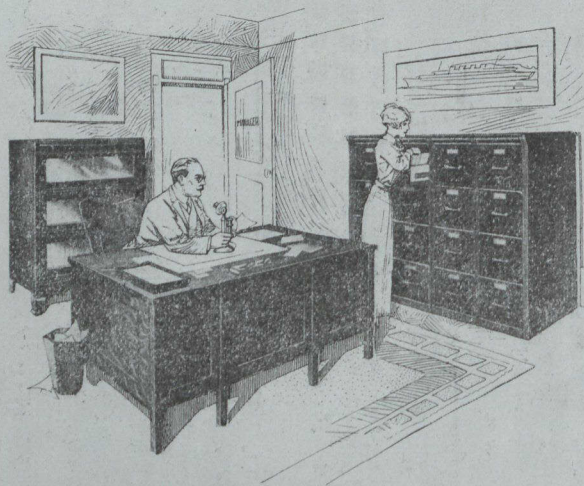
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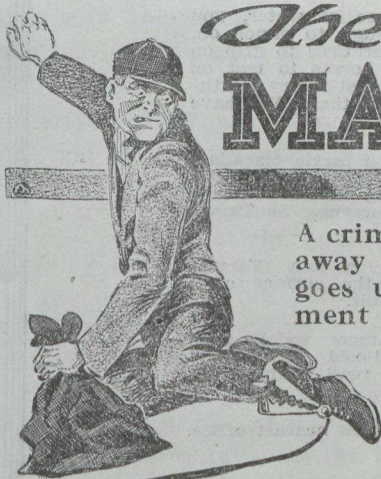
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The Westmount News

POLICE SIGNAL SYSTEM PROVES SUCCESSFUL

That the local police signal system is a most useful agency to the local force, was proved recently when constable Thomas made his sensational capture of Edward St. On the night of the 11th inst. in the case, who was the sixth of the line, showed to the police officer giving a description of the man who had just taken her purse. Inside of three minutes this description had been placed in every constable on beat. At 11 o'clock the man had been captured and was locked in the girls' lock up.

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Tarvia is a coal tar preparation, shipped in barrels or in tank cars.

It is made in three grades, to be used according to road conditions: viz.

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With "Tarvia-X" in place of water, you have a road smooth enough to dance on, resilient enough for rubber tires to grip on without skidding, or for horses to trot on without slipping, without dust in dry weather, without slime in wet weather. You have a road that lasts.

The first cost of making a tarvia-macadam costs but little more than the old-fashioned macadam, but the saving in maintenance more than pays this difference. So Tarvia costs you nothing!

"Tarvia-A" is, practically a thin "Tarvia-X", used for recoating the surface of a macadam road already built.

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Booklet on request. Address nearest office.

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JANUARY, 1917

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The Montreal Commission

The Premier of Quebec in appointing a commission—nominally through the legislative committee and the Legislature—to make a contract on behalf of the City of Montreal and the Montreal Tramways Company, though acting strictly within his powers and no doubt in good faith, created a precedent at once dangerous and a menace to the basic principle of British government for which we are even now fighting to preserve on the fields of Flanders, namely "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." Sir Lomer Gouin, because of the weakness in numbers of the opposition is virtually dictator of the Province so that his responsibility is all the greater in interfering, rightly or wrongly, with a responsible elected body like the city council of Montreal.

It is true that the Mayor and a number of the council as well as a fairly large delegation of the citizens were in favor of the commission, and that the personnel of the commission would seem to guarantee that a satisfactory agreement with the tramways company will be arrived at, but the fact that no official request from the council was made for such a commission would indicate the usurpation of the unassailable rights of the citizens through their elected representatives.

While, in the words of the Premier, municipalities like companies receive their charters and powers from the legislature, there is a vast difference in principle between creating a local authority and a private company. A local authority is part of the British constitution just as much as the legislature of Quebec, which receives its authority from the British parliament under the British North America Act. And the British parliament has exactly the

same power to take away that authority as the Quebec legislature has to take away all, or any, of the powers of a municipality, but with one exception—that of the United States, when it had its lesson—the Imperial parliament has never attempted to interfere with any authority where its members are elected by the people. The constitution of the Empire is an unwritten system of delegated authority, with adjusted checks, from the Imperial authority to the smallest council, and though Sir Lomer Gouin might have taken the best course in the appointment of the Tramway commission he has taken away the citizens' great birthright of local autonomy, which under the British constitution is not limited to the Provincial or Federal parliaments of Canada.

PREPAREDNESS.

"Preparedness for Peace should almost be our watchword," said Mayor Costello, in his presidential address before the recent Alberta convention, a slogan which this Journal re-echoes to every civic body in Canada. The problem of preparedness has long been in our mind and was discussed at the recent convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, with the consequence that we have started a propaganda of investigation of industrial opportunities for the municipalities, as being the most tangible form of preparedness to meet after war conditions. The results of the investigations will be presented to each of the municipal councils in a special number of the Journal, together with special articles dealing with different phases of industrial development from the pens of experts and leaders of municipal thought. Fuller particulars of our Preparedness Programme will be published in the February issue.

The Years 1916 and 1917

The year 1916 for Canada has been a strange contrast of loss and gain, of sorrow and hope, of splendid sacrifice of the many and sordid gain of the few. She has come through all these happenings chastened in mind but with greater confidence in the future of her nationhood and her institutions. This is particularly true of her municipal institutions for they—though many were caught at the beginning of the war overloaded with debt—have found themselves so completely that not only have they taken up their full share of the responsibility and burden of the war, but have readjusted their finances so well that there is hardly a municipality in Canada but what has decreased its debt and increased its official efficiency. It would seem that it required this present Armagedden to show what men could do not only on the field of battle but at home.

But the war is not yet over, and won't be until,

THE LAST POST.

At the convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities a resolution was passed endorsing the petition of the Last Post Fund to the Government of Quebec for a sufficient sum of money to guarantee the decent burial of indigent soldiers or sailors who die in the Province. We understand that each Provincial government will in turn be petitioned in like manner, and it is to be hoped with satisfactory results, for it is certainly an act of duty for the state to bury its dead heroes, and it is somewhat disconcerting to the citizens of Canada to know that no provision has been made before. But since this war has brought home to us the splendid spirit of sacrifice on the part of so many of our best manhood, we cannot delay any longer our duty to those soldiers who die in indigent but uncontrollable circumstances.

The Last Post Fund itself was founded because one man was humane enough to put up a fight to save the body of a veteran from the dissecting table! That was eight years ago. Since then the kindly work of giving practical evidence of respect to the memories of these derelicts of Society, but who had well served their country in the heyday of their strength has been continually going on in the City of Montreal. Two large lots were purchased—one Catholic, one Protestant—in the local cemeteries and now over a hundred veterans are lying there side by side waiting for the last call. The reading of the discharge papers would show that these men have seen service in every campaign since the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny and that practically every British regiment, including those Canadian regiments that took part in the Fenian Raids (1867-1870), the Riel Rebellion, and the present war, are represented in that little burial ground on the slopes of Mount Royal. Surely a silent tribute to the patriotism of man to his country.

How many old soldiers have been given to the dissecting tables and Potter's Fields of Canada we know not, but it is time such desecration should end. No nation that respects itself can do less to those who have defended its honor than a decent burial when they are no more. Let not our thanks be given only to the living but to the dead soldiers as well.

in the words of Premier Lloyd George, full reparation is made and some time will elapse before Prussian militarism will be humbled sufficiently to accept such terms. In the meantime word has been sent out to speed up the human and material resources of the Empire, with instantaneous response from every quarter of the globe, that each unit of Greater Britain is ready for still greater sacrifice to win the war."

The municipal councils this coming year will be called upon to increase their patriotic contributions and to allow still more of their men and officials to go to the front or otherwise engage in National service. And the demand will not be made in vain. And those who are left behind to carry on the work will do it with a cheerfulness begotten of the knowledge that in doing their own and other men's labor they will be well serving the State.

NATIONAL SERVICE.

The Government of Canada with the coming in of the New Year is taking an inventory of the man power of the Dominion with the object of prosecuting to the fullest of our resources our share in the great war. Some months ago the Premier promised that Canada would raise and equip 500,000 soldiers. Up to this date 375,000 men have enlisted, leaving 125,000 still to be raised, and the primary object of the New National Service is to secure those soldiers by inducing others not of military age nor fitness to take their places, whether it be on the farm, in the workshop or office; and this must be done if Canada's promise is worth anything. In addition to military service Canada is behind with her ammunition orders, principally because of the scarcity of labor and the National Service Commission hopes through the inventory to remedy this grave defect.

Whatever may be the result of the inventory of Canada's man power and there is no reason why it should not be successful, a grave responsibility rests upon every citizen to help in speeding up the vital forces of the Dominion to their maximum power in the production of the necessaries of the war. Each one of us has much to do—even to the extent of self-denial—if we are really in earnest that German domination will have no place in our democracy.

RE-ELECTION OF FOUR WESTERN MAYORS.

It was with real pleasure that we heard of the re-election of such municipal stalwarts as Mayor Costello in Calgary; Mayor Young in Saskatoon; Mayor Cater in Brandon, and Mayor Henry in Edmonton. These four gentlemen are strong evidence of the determination of western citizens to elect good men and then hold on to them. The reputation of the re-elected Mayors has spread far beyond the confines of their respective municipalities and it would have indeed been a pity, particularly at this war time, if their services had been lost to their communities—and to municipal Canada.

STUDIES IN PLANNING.

A very remarkable and unique book has just been published by the University of Chicago Press in a selection of twenty-seven plans, which had been submitted in a competition for the laying out of a section of the City of Chicago. Each of the plans, which are beautifully colored, is explained by the designer in detail and a very instructive volume is the result, though how far such elaborate plans are commercially practicable would be hard to say. But the City Club of Chicago, institutor of the competition, is composed of business men not given to dreams even in Town Planning and as the published plans were selected from a large number submitted a perusee of them is well worth the time of any one studying the city beautiful. In all there are seventy-five colored plans and illustrations and half tones—and the price (\$3) is very low considering the quality of the paper and binding—and reading matter. The work was edited by A. B. Yeomans, Landscape architect.

THE SHACK LOCKER.

We recently had the pleasure of reading some real Canadian deep sea fishing stories. The author, Frank W. Wallace, who is a Nova Scotia skipper himself tells his stories with all the vim and superstitious imagination, and all the salt of the sea. He describes in vivid language the dangers and the humour of the fishermen. He visualizes the home life of the fisherfolk of Nova Scotia and explains, more by suggestion than in direct language, the superstitions of those who go down to the sea in ships. The contrasts of homely swear words and the simple but deep religious feeling underlying every action, the recklessness of their own lives and the tender care of the lives of others make the fishers in the book of Mr. Wallace very dear to the reader.

It would seem well nigh impossible that the small fishing schooners of the Maritime Provinces could stand the strain and rigors of the North Atlantic gales and yet most of the vessels fish all winter—often away from the home port for a month at a time, and in one story is described a voyage almost to the Antarctic ocean. But such is the confidence that these banker skippers have in the seaworthiness of their little vessels and the seamanship of their crews that they do not hesitate to sail to any part of the world, provided it was made worth while. It must be remembered that most of these fishermen are Scotch-Canadian, and shrewd, but they deserve every dollar they make. The money is not earned without brave daring.

Mr. Wallace has written many stirring stories of the sea, most of which have been published in the American magazines, and the present volume is made up of stories that have already appeared in magazine form, but they are none the less valuable for that and should be in the hands of every Canadian who takes pride in the doings of our hardy fishermen. The book is published by the Industrial and Educational Press of Montreal and Toronto.

APPROACHING TRIUMPH.

Dr. J. M. HARPER.

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune,
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

—Shakespeare.

There is no other way of Canada making good all that has been said of late about the fighting skill and bravery of her lads at the front, than by her rallying, as a rising commonwealth, to do even more than her bit, in preparing to withstand the terrorism which has made a prey of Belgium, and Serbia, and Poland. Ulric Barthe in his "Similia Similibus," has made a forecast of what is lying in wait for the gateway city of Canada, should the Hohenzollern gifts of rule ever drift up the St. Lawrence to deprive Canadians of the birthright of a Christian civilization. And since there has been sounded in our ears the advance of the highest in the land—our statesmen, our capitalists, and our other counsellors in Church affairs as well as in the affairs of State—there is surely nothing for us to do but to follow their advice as to how to secure an approaching triumph for civilization, by keeping the secondary entirely subordinated to the essential in our outlook. We have to plead with all of our own who can go to share in the activities of the battlefront of Europe, so that the courage of our own who have been and are still at that front, may not have been spent in vain. In a word, it is for all of us, to stand shoulder to shoulder while winning a victory of which history will carry down, from generation to generation, its brilliancy and decisiveness.

Lo, victory's banner, ours, unfurled,
If stained, forsooth by memory's tears—
Assuring symbol to the world,
That learns so little from its years!

A bitter-sweet it emblems still,
As war and peace their tasks fulfil
Fluttering aye, o'er what has been,
Passions aflame with hopes between,
O'er tales of courage daring death,
Of zeal urged on by inborn faith—
Rallying the world's best to save,
Rallying to prove that right is might,
The only might one dares not blight.

Ah, truly now, it triumph flutters,
The triumph of the peace of days:
All hail, hurrah, for what it utters:
"A God for all, a God to praise!"

"KING'S HIGHWAY FOR PEDESTRIANS."

In a recent judgment, Mr. Justice Cross, in dealing with an appeal case in which the Montreal Tramways Company had been condemned to pay \$2,400 damages because of injuries sustained by Francis McAllister, who was struck by a car in Westmount in May, 1913, made some commonsense remarks. In part His Lordship said:

"One cannot but be impressed with the conviction that conditions of present-day city street traffic are quite unduly adding to the perils of the pedestrian. Formerly he had not much to fear, but butchers' carts and runaway horses. Now he must look out for tram cars and for silently-running motor vehicles which may come from various directions. Because the great majority of pedestrians, for the sake of bodily safety, run for shelter like hunted animals when they hear the car gong or the motor horn, people are in danger of coming to think that such vehicles have some sort of right of way over foot-passengers.

"That delusion may perhaps be strengthened if it be found that traffic-regulating policemen confine their attention to vehicles as if pedestrians deserved no consideration.

"It should be made clear that such an idea will find no acceptance in a court of law; it should be made clear that the King's highways are for the use of all his subjects and all peaceful wayfarers, and that if there is to be regulation at crossings and busy places it should be in the way of giving the greatest protection to those who need it most."

The judgment of the lower court was upheld.

Convention of Union of British Columbia Municipalities

(Continued from last month).

SOLICITORS REPORT.

22. "(a) 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."

Dropped.

23. "That the Convention appoint a 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."

The President and Executive Committee interviewed and discussed this matter with the Provincial Government, and gave them the assurances set out, and have the assurance of the Government that if they see that any help can be accepted from the Municipalities they will make use of it freely.

Dropped.

24. "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, or general taxes."

This was granted, and it now forms part of Section 38 of the Act.

25. "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 towards 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."

Dropped.

26. "That the term of office of mayor and aldermen and reeve and councillors be fixed at two years instead of one year as at present.

Re-submitted.

In this connection it seems proper to bring to the attention of the Convention the action of one member of the Executive of the Union. It is almost an impossibility to carry any measure through the Legislature as being the wishes of the Convention if a member of the Executive comes before the Attorney General, and again before the Municipal Committee, and advances arguments and reasons as to why the legislation which has been adopted by the Convention should not be brought into effect. The solicitor brings the action of Mayor Haynes, of the City of North Vancouver, in opposing this section whilst still a member of the Executive, to the attention of the Convention, at the same time stating that as it has been expressed on many occasions by the Premier of British Columbia that he thinks this legislation unwise, it is the opinion of your solicitor that Mayor Haynes' action had no influence whatever in this particular matter.

27. "Re Moving Picture Theatres. That as the income as a rule from moving picture theatres in the smaller cities is very small, and as they have hitherto been paying a license in the various Municipalities in which they have been situated, it is considered that the heavy license now placed by the Provincial Government on these theatres is almost equivalent to either putting them out of business or compelling the Municipality to withdraw their license fee. And as the Municipality has to bear the expense of controlling and policing these theatres, it is not considered equitable that the latter alternative should have to be adopted, but rather that the Government license should be greatly reduced."

Re-submitted and nominal fee charged.

28. "Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention alterations in the laws both of Canada and the Province should be introduced providing for some satisfactory way of maintaining the wives and children of:

- (a) Persons who desert their families.
- (b) Persons who being able to work, do not work or make adequate provision for their children.
- (c) Persons, who from the drink habit, dissipate the money gained by them and thus waste the substance that should be used to support their families.

Re-submitted.

29. The twenty-ninth resolution of the Convention was a long resolution looking towards the adoption of a system of delinquent tax certificates instead of the present system. Prior to its presentation to the Government, the President obtained reports from every Municipality, and the overwhelming consensus of opinion was that this scheme should not be adopted. Consequently, at the request of the President this matter was left in abeyance and was not presented.

Dropped.

30. "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."

Adopted by the Government.

"Tax sales to be compulsory yearly."

Not to be submitted.

32. "That redemption be not two years instead of one year."

The effect of Section 39 is to put in force the substance of these two sections.

31. "Resolved, that this Convention respectfully request that when any amendment is contemplated in the Municipal Act, the Executive of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be placed in possession of the proposed amendments in time to consider their effect on British Columbia Municipalities."

Re-submitted.

The Executive Committee very strongly pressed this matter upon the attention of the Attorney-General and to the attention of the Municipal Committee, and received assurances that so far as possible this would be carried out. Your solicitor, however, has to report that in this year's session the Hospital Act was brought down on the 16th May, 1916; received its first and second reading on Friday; was read in the Committee of the Whole House on Monday afternoon, and passed its third reading on Monday evening, the 22nd May, and the effect of this Act is to make a very considerable change in the law as affecting the collection by hospitals from Municipalities in the case of indigent patients. Your solicitor regrets to say that both the Local Improvement Act and the Municipal Act had received their third readings at the time, and that he was not paying very much attention to the proceedings of the House in consequence. Owing to the rapidity with which the Act was put through he was not aware that any such legislation was contemplated until after the bill had received its third reading, and what he could do and what the President could do after that time was attempted, but unsuccessfully.

The Executive Committee of the Union have sent a strongly worded protest to the Minister in connection with the same, and your solicitor is of opinion that the Convention might consider the advisability of supporting the action of the Executive.

Your solicitor also desires to bring to your attention, for your judgment thereon, the practice of certain municipalities at the last moment, without submitting the matters to the Union, and without coming before the Municipal Committee, using their political position with members of the Government, to have inserted clauses in the Act which have never been considered by the Union. Section 29 of this year's Act is a sample. It was promoted by Reeve Cunliffe of Point Grey, when the act was standing for its third reading. It was carried through over your solicitor's protest. It is badly drafted and practically unworkable as it stands, but if it were well drafted and could be worked out, it is mischievous in its idea, and of no use except to persons designing to make a commission out of the sale of the debentures of the Municipality.

Section 31 of the Act was also put in at the last moment. It never came before the Municipal Committee. It is the opinion of your solicitor that strong representation should again be made to the Government that no legislation should be made touching the Municipalities

Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).

without at least, the same being placed before the Municipal Committee of the House, and without, if possible, fulfilling the terms of your resolution of last year.

33. "That the clause respecting 'disqualifications, being a naval or military officer on full pay' be repealed." Adopted.

34. "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 County of Matasqui, 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 and 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 Watcom County and the Canadian Municipalities adjacent to do this work in a manner fitting the great circumstances which it would commemorate:

"Therefore be it resolved: That this Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities 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."

We do not press this at the present time.

35. "That so much of Section 36, Chapter 127, Land Registry Act, 1911, applies, be inserted in the 'Municipal Act' (Re Certificates by collector for tax sale).

Passed by the Government. See Sections 45 and 46 of the Act.

36. "That Section — of the Municipal Act be so amended as to provide that the amount paid by the purchaser at a tax sale shall be only such amount as it 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."

Struck out.

There are a number of other very important sections placed in the Municipal Act and in the Local Improvement Act which your solicitor has been consulted on and has given the best advice, information and assistance that was possible in connection with the same.

Your solicitor spent a great deal of time on the redrafting of certain sections, particularly Sections 97 and 134, and the making of the financial sections flexible so as to meet conditions which might arise from time to time, and particularly as to annual instalments, bonds, and serial bonds, and the changing of stock issues into some other form; and also on section 5 of the Local Improvement Act, containing provisions for the apportionment of local improvement charges in case of subsequent subdivisions; and also on Section 6, being a redraft of Section 40. Practically the whole of this year's Local Improvement Act has been an attempt to make workable the highly technical Local Improvement Act, which is an Act which needs to be redrawn altogether in order to make it satisfactory from a Municipal point of view.

Perhaps the most far-reaching employment of your solicitor during the year, has been in connection with the Western Canada Telephone Company's bill at Ottawa. The Western Canada Telephone Company applied for a charter to operate telephone lines in British Columbia and outside the Province, and to be declared a work for

the general advantage of Canada; to assume and take over the assets and liabilities of the British Columbia Telephone Company, and then for permission to change its name after assuming those assets and liabilities, to the name of the British Columbia Telephone Company. Your solicitor found on going into the various old charters of the British Columbia Telephone Company, that there was very little, if any restriction, on the rates, tolls, and tariffs of the company. Under some charters there was absolutely none; under some there was a very high maximum limit placed, and no provision appeared for the regulation of these rates. It also appeared in the various charters of the British Columbia Telephone Company, that there was no effectual clause for the regulation by the Municipalities of the streets in the Municipalities, and it further appeared that, in the private bill promoted at Ottawa, there was not a word either of the Municipality's control of its streets, or of any regulation of rates, etc., Your solicitor then made a very long report to the President, and the President was fortunate in being able to obtain the assistance of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, and as a result of the strenuous labour of the President, very efficient safeguards for Municipal regulation of streets were placed in the hands of the Municipalities in the private bill, and the control of all the rates, tariffs, charges and tolls of the telephone company were placed under the control, jurisdiction and authority of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada; and the Western gestion now contains these clauses.

Canada Telephone Company Bill as amended at our sug-

The Western Canada Telephone Company's Act provides that they shall, within four months, file their tariff of rates and charges with the Board of Railway Commissioners, who are to approve of the same. At a meeting of the Executive of the Union, called by the President, your solicitor was instructed to ask for a hearing when the rates and charges were to be considered and at a meeting of the Board of Railway Commissioners held in the City of Victoria on the 28th day of June, 1916, the Board of Railway Commissioners directed the British Columbia Telephone Company, at the time they file their rates and charges, to file a copy of them with the Secretary of the Union, and the Union will have a chance to speak to the adoption or rejection of any particular rate as set out in their tariff.

Perhaps the best feature of this will not be appreciated for some time. The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada will at any time hereafter entertain the complaint of any private citizen against the British Columbia Telephone Company wherein he may think he is overcharged or aggrieved, and all that the private citizen has to do is to write a letter to the Secretary of the Railway Board, and the Railway Board will hear the complaint on their next visit to the West, and adjudicate upon the same at once, and that any intervention of any lawyers, law stamps or any fees whatever. Your solicitor is of the opinion that the success which has attended this matter has justified the existence of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for all time to come.

Your solicitor would ask, "That a special resolution of the Union should be passed thanking Mr. J. S. Scholefield, member for Ymir, as Chairman of the Municipal Committee of the House, for the very patient and courteous hearing of the representatives of the Union by the Committee all through the past Session.

Carried.

There were nineteen meetings of the Committee, all of which were attended by your solicitor, and most of which were attended by your President as well, and the treatment which we received from Mr. Scholefield and the Committee is, in my opinion, worthy of the thanks of the Convention.

Your solicitor desires to express his deep gratitude to the President. While the President is a very busy man, as the mayor of a large city municipality must be, the affairs of the Union were uppermost in his mind, and as he was immediately available to the solicitor, he had much more work to do than any former President of the Union has been asked to look after.

Your solicitor desires to express his sense of obligation also to the Inspector of Municipalities, and to the City Solicitor for Victoria, Mr. R. W. Hannington, whose skill in draftsmanship was a decided asset of which your solicitor took full advantage.

Resolved that the Report of the President be adopted

Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).

together with the recommendations contained therein and the report be placed in the minutes — further that the Convention place on record their esteem and appreciation of his increasing work during the past year.

Carried unanimously.

Suggestions From the Councils Either Adopted or Referred to Executive.

PRINCE RUPERT.

I submit that sections embodying the following ideas should be inserted in the Municipal Act:

- (1) A clause authorizing the passage of a by-law to either increase or decrease the number of Aldermen or Councillors; mentioning, if it should be thought advisable, a minimum.
- (2) Providing that such by-law should be submitted to the ratepayers;
- (3) That such by-law may be submitted to a vote of the ratepayers at any time in the year;
- (4) When such by-law is passed and carried by vote, say by a majority vote, to be stated in the section, that the by-law shall then take first effect at the next election.

Referred to Executive to deal with when they meet in Victoria.

NANAIMO.

To Regulate Sources of Milk Supply.

Whereas it has been scientifically demonstrated that untreated milk is one of the readiest and most effective media for the propagation and the dissemination of disease-breeding germs, and then produced from diseased animals or amidst unclean or insanitary conditions or surroundings, is a most fruitful source of tuberculosis and many other diseases, especially amongst young children, and

Whereas it has been proved beyond the possibility of doubt that the dairy herds in practically all sections of the Province have been and are now more or less affected with tuberculin diseases, and

Whereas the work carried on for the last few years by the Department of Agriculture, in the inspection of dairy premises, the testing of dairy cattle and the destruction of affected animals has considerably reduced the percentage of diseased animals in the dairy herds, and

Whereas the amount appropriated for the carrying on of this work is entirely inadequate and there is grave danger that the large amount already spent will be utterly lost, and that conditions may shortly be as bad or worse than before, and

Whereas it is reasonably certain that if this work is carried on for a few more years, and effective measures taken to prevent the importation into the province, of any but tested animals, certified free from disease, bovine tuberculosis at least, and probably most other diseases affecting dairy and other cattle, will be entirely eradicated, to the great and lasting benefit of the province, and

Whereas there is a lack of necessary information amongst some of the dairymen and others, as to the best and most effective methods of producing, caring for, handling and using milk and milk products.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Government be strongly urged to continue the present or an improved system of inspection and testing of dairy and other cattle, inspection and grading of dairy premises, buildings, machinery and appliances used in the production and handling of milk and milk products; that such testing and inspection be carried out by properly qualified inspectors; that it be compulsory that it be carried out at intervals of not more than six months, and that reasonable compensation be paid for all animals it may be found necessary to condemn and destroy.

Resolved that we consider it imperatively necessary for the Government to take immediate steps to inspect and test all cattle imported into the province and when such cattle are not certified by competent authorities to have them tested and found free from disease immediately previous to their shipment.

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Council it is the duty of the Government, in order to safeguard the public health, to take every other necessary step to more effectively control and regulate the conditions under which milk is produced for sale and use, and also the conditions under which milk and milk products are manufactured, transported, stored and used, and to this end would suggest:

- 1—That such regulations be formulated and enacted

into law, as will compel the use in every case of proper methods, appliances and buildings for the production, handling, storing, transportation and sale of all milk and milk products, and also the observance of such sanitary measures as will tend to preserve the health of the herds and prevent the contamination of all milk and milk products;

2—That such regulations and sanitary measures be enforced by frequent and rigorous inspection by qualified inspectors, and by the infliction of adequate penalties for violation of the same;

3—That accurate scientific knowledge, as to the best methods of producing, transporting, storing, handling, preparing and using milk and milk products, be compiled, arranged and disseminated throughout the province for the better information of the people.

Resolved that copies of above preamble and resolutions be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture at Victoria, and that the Government be urged to consider and act upon the same at once.

Resolved that copies be also forwarded to the Executive of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and to each of the Municipal Councils of the province, requesting that the same be endorsed and forwarded to the Government at Victoria, urging immediate consideration and action thereon.

This was adopted.

Merritt.

That all sections of "Municipal Act" relating to levying rates be grouped under one heading together with sections relating to discounts and interest.

As to levying rates, Section 201 to stand as at present down to the words "for such year" the first proviso to be omitted and the following added as follows:—

(1) For general purposes, not exceeding 15 mills (2) for debenture interest and sinking fund (3) for school purposes, ordinary and extraordinary (4) for board of health and hospital purposes not exceeding one mill.

That section 243 be repealed and a uniform discount, as may be determined by the Council up to but not exceeding one-sixth of the total amount of taxes for all purposes, be submitted.

That the ambiguity of the financial sections of the "School Act" as far as they concern the Municipal Council, be cleared up and that the following points be observed in drafting the new sections;

Municipal machinery to be used in collecting and receiving school taxes, grants and other monies; ditto re disbursements.

Separate account to be kept by the Municipal Treasurer of all monies received for school purposes and of all school disbursements.

Council to have power to hypothecate school taxes; proceeds to be used solely for school purposes.

Separate school bank account to be kept; all monies received on behalf of School Board to be paid into such account except such school taxes that may have been hypothecated to secure an advance.

School Board expenditures not to exceed estimates, and in cases where no funds are available to meet legitimate expenditures, and action is brought and judgment obtained for recovery, a special rate to be levied and such judgment satisfied from the proceeds of such levy.

Referred to Special Committee.

That the "Municipal Act" be rearranged so that all sections relating to one subject be under one head and follow in correct sequence, and that a comprehensive index be provided. Also that marginal reference be made to other provincial acts affecting any section or the subject matter dealt with.

Adopted—Carried.

Revelstoke.

Whereas, the rebate on taxes as provided for in section 242 of the "Municipal Act" and limited by section 38 of Chapter 46 of the 1915 statutes of B. C. is insufficient and no inducement for the prompt payment of taxes;

Be it therefore resolved: That the Provincial Government be petitioned to repeal said section 243 of Chapter 243 of Chapter 52 as amended by section 38 of Chapter 46 of the 1916 municipal amendments, and to substitute the following:

"The abatement provided for by the two next preceding sections shall not apply to (a) road taxes (b) special rates provided for in any bylaw under which a

(Continued on page 24).

The Municipal Clerk and the Office He Fills

Graham Rosoman, City Clerk, Enderby, B.C.

It befits the office of the municipal clerk that he should but rarely make his voice heard in public. His motto, like that of the British Navy, should be "Silent Service."

But it so happens that there are some things known to the municipal clerk which, apparently, are not known to anyone else: that is, from his place in the interior of the municipal machine he has an outlook over the field of local government not obtainable from any other viewpoint; and therefore, while silence may in general be a convenient and necessary condition of his office, it is, perhaps, not unfitting that an exception to the rule should be made on such an occasion as the present, when we are met together for the purpose of studying the theory and practice of municipal government; and that those who, while themselves an indispensable part of the administrative machine, are still—if I may be permitted to say so—as it were, an exterior part, should for a brief space listen to a voice from within.

In taking up the subject of "The Municipal Clerk and the Office He Fills," it is not my intention, primarily, to speak on behalf of municipal clerks as a class. We are all here as representatives of the public—a Municipal Parliament, and therefore constitutionally entitled to give attention to public matters only; and class interests can only enter into discussion in so far as they are involved in, or form part of, that larger interest—the welfare of the State, which is the *raison d'être* of our existence as a public body.

Municipal government, in common with other forms of government, rests on a philosophical basis; therefore, in order to obtain the right perspective on our subject, I must ask you to bear with me for a few moments while I briefly summarize that underlying philosophy.

It is true that all great things—that is, fundamental things, elemental principles—are simple; but man has lost sight of first principles, and through disorder, aggravated by half-hearted or ignorant attempts to deal with it, or consciously or unconsciously to work in spite of it, life has become so intricate and artificial that now, as Ruskin says: "It is far more difficult to be simple than to be complicated; far more difficult to sacrifice skill and cease exertion in the proper place than to expend both lavishly."

As the result of this ever-growing evil, there has arisen, during the last fifty or sixty years, a small and peculiar class of people—specialists, or experts; men who, taking some one small part of the domain of life, devote themselves exclusively to it; in order, by exhaustive research and concentration of effort, to clear away the obstructing accretions of false thought, and arrive at—what? Simplicity: basic facts and elemental principles. As I remarked in an address delivered before this convention some ten or twelve years ago: "It is the art of the true expert . . . to throw light on what is dark, to make hard things easy, and to reduce complexity and confusion to the simplicity of law and order."

Here, then, we arrive at the point from which we can view through the right perspective the subject of municipal government. But few people realize that there is a science, and an art, of public administration; that it is based on natural law, on the principles of being; and that by orderly evolution of thought an administrative machine could be built up, true to nature, perfect in its parts, symmetrical and beautiful, a joy to those who operated it, an inspiration to those whom it was designed to serve.

Now, in the exercise of this mission of ours, where and how are we to begin our practical work—where is the point of commencement? If we have learned our lesson, we can be in no doubt. We must go straight to the heart of anything which we wish to understand or to work for. The office is the heart of the administrative machine; and, as the heart is, so will the machine be. If all is right at the heart of the municipal system, there will radiate from it in all directions an impulse of brightness and efficiency.

The office system must be designed on broad, definite lines, and must be capable of taking care of all the various kinds of business to be put through it; but it must have the minimum number of parts. It must be constructed according to the analogy of the visible-writing typewriter—that is, its work must at all stages be cap-

able of observation, open to inspection; and its every operation must be so conducted that the whole process can at any length of time afterwards be plainly traced by any qualified person, even in the absence of the operator. There must be neither redundancy, lack, nor error, but in every point sufficiency, order, accuracy. To secure the exactness and uniformity thus demanded, recourse must be had to carefully constructed, printed forms. In no other way can the work be standardized. Without standardization there will inevitably be variation, and consequent error and obscurity, causing uncertainty, hesitation and lack of confidence on the part of the clerk; and efficient inspection will be practically impossible. But with standardization the clerk will at all times be able to keep a mental grasp of the work, to avoid errors, proceed with confidence and speak with authority; and inspection will be expedited and facilitated.

In the working of the system a method of segregation and aggregation must be followed; that is, transactions, as far as possible, must not be put through singly, but in groups, and at regular intervals; and the various operations must follow each other in logical sequence. The office must be open to the public during certain well-understood hours; it is desirable that they be fixed by by-law; these hours need not be long—in fact, short public hours lend themselves to a better routine, condensing the work of waiting on callers, and leaving more time after hours for other work. The public hours, whatever they are, must be strictly adhered to by the clerk, so that the public can always be sure of transacting their business when they come to the office. On the other hand, business should never be transacted with the public after public hours. If one is favoured in this way all must be, for the clerk can be no respecter of persons; and then there is an end of all order and routine.

It should be made clear to the public that the whole object of office routine, standardization, grouping of transactions, orderly sequence of operations, the fixing of a time-table, and so forth, is the simplification and efficient conduct of the people's business. Efficient work can only be done by a clear mind; a clear mind can only be maintained in a clear, orderly office, and with a clear logical routine. I would ask you gentlemen who are members of councils, then, to support your clerk in the maintenance of all reasonable rules and regulations, designed to aid him in his work and help him the better to give good service to the community. Without such support on the part of the council, the people, perceiving that the work of the office follows a set course, will soon raise the cry of "red tape"; they will then speedily come to the conclusion that they are being taxed to pay for "a whole lot of unnecessary work," and at the next election a candidate will come out pledged to do away with this "abuse." I need not follow the result out in detail; the likely outcome will be that the clerk, who had loved his work and given the best that was in him to the service of the people, will resign and seek another position—perhaps give up municipal work altogether, completely disheartened, throw away the good of all the years he had spent in the study and practice of public service; and, at a disadvantage to himself and the real, though unacknowledged, loss of the public, take to some other way of earning his daily bread.

Now, gentlemen, I have, as I said, no appeal to make to you primarily on behalf of municipal clerks as a class. But if you think that the public interest requires competent municipal service; that the welfare of the state demands that the municipal offices of Canada be conducted by qualified men, in a clear-cut, definite, efficient manner; then I ask you to initiate, now, at this convention, some movement for the organization and regulation of the municipal civil service.

If the right kind of men are to be induced to enter this service, there are a few reasonable conditions which must be assured to them. There must be security of tenure of office; a fair, progressive scale of salaries such as exists in other branches of the civil service; such hours of attendance at the office as will leave adequate, daily leisure for relaxation; such regular vacations as will assist in keeping the bodily health braced up and the mind fresh

(Continued on page 34).

Municipal Affairs in Manitoba

H. E. MORTON.

Just now in Winnipeg, two things are attracting the attention of taxpayers to a greater extent perhaps than any other subjects have for several years past. One is the equity or otherwise of the city's present assessment, and the possibility of discovering a better, and the other a strong and growing agitation for municipal trading as an antidote for the high cost of living.

Throughout November and December, the Board of Valuation and Revision, the body dealing with local assessment, held a series of open sessions or meetings at the City Hall, and in one of the public schools of each ward in the city, at which the public were invited to offer suggestions or outline any plan of taxation considered to be more applicable to local conditions than the system now in force.

This, as it now stands, provides for land being assessed at 100 per cent. of its value, and buildings at sixty-six and two-thirds per cent., with, as a supplement, a six and two-thirds per cent. tax on the rental value of all business property, this latter being termed a business tax and bringing within its scope all retail stores, manufacturing premises and buildings used for office purposes. In addition to this, taxes are imposed on certain businesses not thus reached, and which it is considered advisable to have under more direct control. It is the business tax which led up to the sessions being held, local retailers having protested over and over again that even if justified, the tax as at present applied fell unduly heavy on their shoulders, which, under present conditions were not sufficiently broad to bear more than their proper share.

At the recent sessions many and varied were the suggestions advanced, single taxers, retailers, wholesalers and income-taxers all expounding their pet schemes. These, some of which contained valuable suggestions, will in due course find their way into print, and be considered by the City Council, the members of which in their election platforms in December last all advocated a revision.

Some system of income tax based on the English system seemed, however, to appeal to the majority of those addressing the board. H. M. Tucker, general manager of the T. Eaton Company, Winnipeg, thought that if the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments were all to raise taxation on this ability-to-pay basis, there would be no ability to pay. Taxation on business, also he said, was really a tax on the workingman, who, in comparison, spent much more than the millionaire in commodities. Mr. Tucker also stated that owing to the uncertainty as to what might take place during the next few years—meaning presumably, some tax by the Federal Government to provide for outlays made during the war—the present was a very inopportune time to think of changing existing methods of civic taxation either in Winnipeg or elsewhere, at least to any great extent.

Mr. Tucker said that he thought the Ontario system of income tax, so far as the income tax proposition went, might be considered a fair assessment. On the land question and single tax, which found a champion in F. J. Dixon, a member of the Manitoba Legislature, Mr. Tucker said that he had been informed by a property owner of Vancouver that at the present rate of progress of single tax in that city, all the buildings would soon be in the hands of trust and loan companies.

On the other hand, there were those who, while admitting slight flaws in the present system, favored its continuance subject to slight alterations. Among these was W. J. Christie, financial broker, of Winnipeg, a member of the Royal Commission on Assessment, which sat in Winnipeg in 1908 and 1909, and considered by many to be one of the few having the assessment question at their fingers' tips.

Mr. Christie stated that his idea of land tax or single tax was that land should bear the whole of the taxes, and for all purposes for which they were applied in Winnipeg. This, he said, would, if adopted, prove a hardship to the

salaries or working man renting or owning his own home, and would be an advantage to the owners of large blocks of buildings. It would, in short, be letting off the one who was able to pay and unloading the burden on to the man who could least of all afford to bear it.

The land tax exponent, he said, argued that by having a land tax only, all lots would be built upon. Did this land taxer ever stop to think that if every lot in Winnipeg were built on with its due proportion of apartment blocks, it would call for Winnipeg having a population of over one million souls, instead of as at present, 200,000? The reason people were not erecting buildings at present, he said, was that there were already more buildings in Winnipeg than people to occupy them, and impartial observers could easily see that with no demand, it was unreasonable to expect owners of land to build further and tax them out of existence for not so doing.

Going carefully into figures, Mr. Christie stated during his argument, that he could see no advantage in making any drastic change in the form of assessment, his idea being that the present system could reasonably be termed one of the most equitable in existence, as it divided the burden of taxation among all citizens in proportion to their holdings.

Dr. A. B. Clark, Professor of Political Economy, Manitoba University, addressing the board, held that not by any single tax, but by various ways could they hope to reach the ideal of taxation in proportion to income, and this gave the fairest distribution of general burdens, or what was known as onerous taxes. Many local services, he said, were not general, but specific, and for these provision should be made, as far as possible, on the benefit basis. It was true that no hard and fast line could be drawn between general and specific burdens—onerous and beneficial taxes, hence there was a difficulty in applying this principle in practice; for in addition to the direct service rendered to individuals there was some advantage to the whole community. In other words the tax was a payment for benefit received, such as water supply, public lighting, cleaning, drainage, roads and sidewalks, hence the citizen paid for certain useful commodities or services. The Winnipeg Frontage Tax could therefore, he said, be justified on this ground.

The high cost of living—the other subject engaging much local attention, was taken up with much avidity during December, both at the meetings of the City Council and at meetings held in connection with the local municipal election, at all of which the candidates, from those for the mayoralty downwards, underwent a severe grueling on this vital question.

Deputations of the Local Council of Women, the Women's Political Educational League, and the Women's Civic League, invaded the City Hall and were successful in having civic delegates appointed, who with them bearded Premier Norris, and his lieutenants, with the result that the question was placed in the hands of a commission with Public Utilities Commissioner MacDonad as head.

Several sittings have been held to which the principle bread companies have been called to give evidence. Incidentally it might be stated that bread, which in Winnipeg was early in the year five cents per twenty-ounce loaf is now seven cents. Albert A. Riley, manager for the Canada Bread Company, one of the largest baking concerns in Winnipeg, stated that in September, October and November the company made a profit of 8.21 per cent. on its total turnover, which worked out at 7.76 per cent. per annum on an investment of \$500,000.

Mr. Riley stated that all bread manufacturers figured on a return of not lower than 12 per cent. on their investment, and that a lower return wouldn't be worth while investing capital for. Mr. Riley also said that the inquiry was demanded not by the people, but by only certain people, and that the criticisms that had been levelled at the breadmakers were untruthful and unjust.

Municipal Affairs in Alberta

REGINALD SMITH.

The year 1917 will be an important one for Alberta municipalities, but more especially for the cities, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. Confronting the administrations this year are the questions of taxation, the standardization of charters and accounting systems, and the hundred-and-one war measures which every municipality has to face.

Edmonton and Calgary are fortunate in the choice of the electors of the respective cities for mayor this year. In Edmonton W. T. Henry has been returned to office for the third consecutive term. In Calgary Dr. Costello has received similar honors. Western cities have had conditions to face far more important than the older established cities. The boom days have left the west staggering a little under the load created. Nowadays though, with efficient municipal administrations, the cities are watching the silver lining to the dark 1914 cloud, and with continued practice along the economy policy lines, will eventually bring the ships of state to a safe port. Mayor Henry has saved Edmonton something like \$750,000 in two years in the controllable expenditures. With the establishment of a comptrollers' department, payments and expenditures are checked before and after the requisitions are issued, so there is a constant check on expenses all the time. Needless to say, bank officials themselves give Edmonton a good name—it does not need a westerner to boost—easterners are doing it now.

The city of Edmonton has recently borrowed from its bank, the Imperial Bank of Canada, the sum of \$650,000 at six per cent., hypothecating as securing \$719,000 of debentures unsold and part of the 1913 tax arrears debentures. Estimates of current expenditures and revenue are now being prepared by all the municipalities, and during this month (January) will be considered, pruned and passed on.

In the month of March or thereabouts, Edmonton will hold the first tax sale for twenty-two years. Property on which 1913 and before that year taxes are owing will go under the hammer, but the statutes provide three years for redemption. At the last session of the legislature, power was given the city to hold a sale, and it was decided to first put up for sale land which owed for 1913, and to leave the property owing 1914 and 1915 for another year. On the strength of this tax sale, debentures were issued for \$2,719,000, and of this total \$2,000,000 were sold to Otis and Company of Toledo for 99 7-8. The balance of the issue have been placed with the bank as security on the loan recently obtained.

Calgary at its annual elections, decided to give proportional representation a trial, but the electors also decided to turn down the daylight saving scheme. Western Canada does not need this daylight saving scheme at all.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND MANITOBA.

(Continued).

Allegations that a combine to boost bread prices existed were made by a leading north-end Jewish baker, who stated that certain bakers who did not live up to an agreement along this line were the subjects of persecution. As far back as before the war, he stated, Winnipeg bakers held a number of meetings at which the subject of increasing the price of bread was discussed. It was, he stated, a case of the south-end bakers wanting the north-end firms to increase the price.

Testifying before the commission, Louis Wicker, representing the Co-operative Bakery, stated that his company was selling at twenty-two loaves for the dollar, compared with the \$1.54 charged by bakers in the south end. They, however, did not deliver to customers, and to this cause a number of bakers present attributed their higher charge.

The next sitting of the commission is expected to be taken up with evidence to be given by the milk companies, and these will be followed by owners of cold storage plants.

The long days in summer are long enough; in winter the

shorter they are the better when the thermometer is freezing itself.

The councils of the west will have to face the question of salaries to civic employees. When the war broke out in 1914, municipalities as well as business houses everywhere stampeded, salaries were reduced, and now the cost of living has soared so high, that the employees are petitioning for a readjustment of the pay check. Lethbridge city commissioners have been gathering data for some time to make comparisons. Calgary employees are watching Edmonton before they make a move, whereas Edmonton's employees have already taken the bull by the horns, passed a resolution, forwarded it to the City Council, and made an advancement in their aims. The 1916 Council before retiring, recommended to the 1917 Council that a readjustment of salaries be made in the estimates for the New Year. What will happen eventually is conjecture, but it is certain that those receiving a monthly salary or wage of under \$100 will get more than they received in 1915 and 1916.

During the year, when the Provincial Legislature is in session, the Minister of Municipal Affairs will bring down a measure to standardize the city charters. It is called the Model City Charter Act, and is divided into three classes, cities, towns and villages. Another scheme which is being advanced is the standardization of accounting systems for the cities. The towns and villages of the province have a system all their own, but the three cities work under different systems. When comparisons of departmental expenditures are made, it is difficult, unless an analysis is made, to compare one department in Edmonton with its companion in Calgary.

Another thing which Edmonton intends to do this year—the City Council will take full responsibility for the assessments. In the past few years an advisory board has been appointed. This board is comprised of three citizens, all real estate men generally, and they act in an advisory capacity to the city assessor. In reducing the assessments for 1916, they seemed to hit the wrong spot. Result, severe criticism on the part of the electors. However, Edmonton's assessment in 1914 was over \$190,000,000. To-day the municipal assessment is \$130,916,285. The tax rate in 1916 was 21 mills, against 17.50 in 1915.

The general municipal elections are over. The 1917 Councils are now ready for business, and best wishes are extended to them, with the hope that their deliberations will be for the best interest of all the citizens and the city as a whole.



DR. COSTELLO,
Mayor of Calgary; re-elected by a large majority to
the Mayoralty of Calgary.

Changes

R. O. WYNNE-ROBERTS, C.E.

Whilst listening to the addresses and discussions at the Town Planning Conference held recently at Hamilton, it was evident that changes are taking place, and others even more momentous, are impending. Education, along different lines, is working for changes in our conception of the public requirements. Our interpretations of public requirements are changing, and the public is itself holding different opinions to those held previously. New civic aspirations and new communal viewpoints are being evolved. The war, although destructive in its character and use, is productive of many changes. The twentieth century will see reforms and transformations which will transcend anything hitherto believed to be within the range of practical politics. Old conditions must yield to the new. Belgium will be rebuilt on lines which may, if rightly directed, be an inspiration to those who may live in the future years.

GOOD ROADS.

The speakers at the Hamilton meeting were calling for a change in the methods of subdivision of land, and for a control of such enterprises. Fields have been subdivided into small building lots, where there were but the remotest prospects of being built upon. There are at present sufficient number of subdivided fields to accommodate dwellings for probably ten million people, in addition to our present population. Changes are sought in the planning and construction and maintenance of the roads and streets. The former indifference of the rural population in respect to the condition of the roads is changing into one of deep concern. Villages, cities, provinces and the Dominion are wakening to the need for better roads, for transportation facilities are recognized as powerful influences in the development of the rural communities. The rigid regulations as to the widths, alignment and construction of roads are being considered so as to make them more flexible and better suited to the needs of different localities.

The old idea of crowding as many houses on an acre of land is slowly changing to the newer and better one of limitation, so that people shall enjoy some measure of pleasing surroundings and healthy environments, instead of being enclosed by a mass of brick and mortar, as if we were oppressed by Nature's gift of immense territory and afraid to take the fullest advantage of the opportunities for expansion that are open to us.

Agitation is going apace for a change in the system of government. More continuity of service of men who have served the public faithfully and well, is desired. Politics in municipal affairs are barriers to efficiency. Men who have gained experience and become better qualified to serve the people are retired when they should be given every incentive to continue in office. Promotion and not retirement should be the reward of true public service. If there is any organization which demands high ideals, noble aspirations, great knowledge, enormous work and self-sacrifice, it is in connection with civic government, and especially so in countries which are relatively young.

Fair and square criticisms are not resented by broad-minded men; it is encouraged by them, because it is the principal means by which public men are able to gauge public opinion on matters which concern them. Without criticisms and public opinion it would be impossible to know whether any steps taken are in conformity with the best minds of the community.

Changes are sought for in the method of Provincial and Federal assistance to Councils and control of municipal affairs. Municipal authorities are carrying out functions which have been relegated to them by the State, and the manner in which the duties are performed is a measure of the assistance that the Provincial and Federal Governments should give, and the control they should exercise. When municipal government is administered in an excellent manner, the assistance to be given, and the control to be undertaken, by Provincial authorities must evidently be very limited, because there is less need for the same, but when municipal administration is not what it should be, then the governments in their own and public interest should have the power to interfere. There

are sufficient number of incidents well known to the readers which will show that this should be the position. The State can render most valuable aid to the municipal authorities by co-ordinating the best experiences of administrative and executive departments, by undertaking investigations into the work done elsewhere, and presenting the information in useful reports, and so on.

ASSESSMENT.

Take the question of Assessment. This is a matter of great import to the public. It involves the equitable distribution of the financial burden on individual ratepayers. It is also the key to the borrowing powers. Volumes have been written on Assessment by many able authors. Many of the great cities of America have employed competent authorities to investigate the subject, and to submit methods by which properties may be assessed according to some rational system, and yet the problem has not been solved to satisfy the public. Since the State must be the final guarantor of municipal liabilities, it would be more satisfactory if assessments of property in any Province were based upon some standard system set by the State.

No one, however competent or experienced, can hope to have concentrated in him, the latest and best conception of civic administration. It is in a community of minds we expect to find the maximum of wisdom, and although we are often disappointed, yet free discussion, generous service, and co-operative citizenship may ultimately lead to the desired goal of civic aspirations. Departments of municipal affairs have already been established in some Provinces, and they are proving useful. Much depends upon the power conferred upon such departments as to whether they can effectually fulfil the objects for which they have been created. Freedom from political influence, power to enforce their requirements under special circumstances, authority to regulate capital expenditure, technical experience to scrutinize, approve or veto proposed schemes, or to suggest improvements therein, affording the public opportunities to present evidence in favor of and in opposition to, the carrying out of public works, diplomacy and power to encourage the execution of works, and if need be, to check it; regulation of the carrying out of works so that employment may be found when it is most necessary, and when it will cost the least, and so on, are a few essentials of a department of this kind. Freedom to perform anything and everything a city authority may decide upon does not always mean unalloyed liberty. Germany boasted of her freedom to strike, and the world beholds the appalling consequences. Freedom to undertake any work carries with it a responsibility and involves the due regard of what future annual burden it will entail. Posterity will have its load to carry, apart from anything which we do.

It is a strange coincidence that changes are taking place in almost every sphere of life at a time when the world is witnessing an awful tragedy in Europe transcending all other disasters recorded in history. The civilized world has passed through periods of great convulsions, only to restart on a higher plane with a chastened public opinion, and a nobler perception of what is necessary for the betterment of humanity. Changes are essential for progress; they are indications of the restless desire for better things.

MAYOR OF LYONS IN NEW FRENCH CABINET.

One of the most interesting figures in the re-organized French Government is that of M. Herriot, Minister of National Subsistence and Labour, who is also Mayor of Lyons. Another position that M. Herriot occupies is that of Senator from the district of Lyons. He organized the Lyons Exposition in the early part of 1914, which was visited by many Canadians, and did much to secure the appropriation from the French Government for the Panama Fair at San Francisco. Mayor Herriot is considered one of the strongest men in France.

The Bureau of Social Research

J. S. WOODSWORTH, Director of the Three Prairie Provinces, Winnipeg.

A recent article in a number of American newspapers describes the work of the Bureau of Social Research. Illustrations of a rural home, a rural school and a rural church draw attention to the article, which is entitled "A New Stimulus to Home Life in Canada." This article is used as part of a campaign of a railway company to attract settlers to the last Great West.

It is very suggestive that instead of a description of "our wonderful natural resources," or of the "number of bushels to the acre, there should be held out the inducement that Canada is attempting to create wholesome surroundings for home life, and to conserve and develop her human resources. The establishment of the new Bureau by the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta at Winnipeg, is indicative of a new attitude towards the problems of public welfare. We are gradually coming to understand that social problems may be scientifically investigated, that society runs in accordance with certain well defined laws which may be ascertained, that improvement is not a mere dream of the idealist, that it is a scientific problem in efficiency which can no longer be neglected without serious results.

Further, it is being recognized very clearly that matters of public welfare cannot be left entirely to private initiative, but that the State itself must definitely assume responsibility for adjustment of social conditions.

The Bureau, which is the first of its kind in Canada, is organized along the lines of Bureaus which have been at work for some time in several of the States. The purpose is in general to make a practical study of community problems with a view to (a) promoting a more general interest in social welfare; (b) providing expert advice and assistance to any community desiring to organize its forces for more efficient citizenship; (c) securing data which will form a basis for sound and progressive legislation.

The functions are two-fold. First—to secure information; which will be done through co-operation with public departments, with private agencies and by special investigations. Secondly—to disseminate such information when secured, by means of reports, bulletins, the public press, lectures, correspondence, etc. The field of social research is, of course, almost illimitable. The range of work to be undertaken by the Bureau has purposely been left somewhat undefined in order that the Bureau might be allowed, as it were, to feel its way and to develop its policy and organization as it attempts to meet the outstanding needs.

Three lines of study are being carried out during the first year. First—an effort is being made to secure definite information with regard to social conditions in the rural communities across the three Prairie Provinces. Questionnaires have been sent out to the clergymen, school teachers and secretaries of the farmers' and womens' organizations. Already several thousand replies have been received. These are being carefully studied and summarized, with a view to presenting the social opportunities, as well as social needs. The following paragraphs from the letter which accompanied one of the questionnaires suggests some of the outstanding social questions which face us in the West.

"The non-English immigrant is found in most districts. He is here to stay. His children will marry our children. Is he contributing his part in the upbuilding of our national life? Does he understand our Canadian ideals and life? Have we given him a fair deal? Have we given him a chance to learn English? What opportunities are there for him to gain a knowledge of our political affairs?"

"A campaign for better schools is being carried on in some districts. Why not in every community on the prairies? Is the present curriculum suited to conditions in rural districts? Is it training our boys and girls for efficient citizenship? Is the school doing the broader educational work needed in your district? We say that the welfare of our children is our chief concern. Is the school teacher the biggest man or the most competent woman in the community the most honored—the best paid?"

"Our public life in Canada is notoriously corrupt and

inefficient. Yet the people control. Surely the time has come for a change—not a change of government, but a change in our attitude toward public affairs. Do the people of your district take an active interest—not in elections—but in our business as conducted by our Municipal, Provincial or Federal representatives? Are there frequent opportunities for the discussion of public questions? People's Forums are doing good work in some communities? Have you one?"

The second line of study is that of the feeble-minded. In view of the fact that the Western Governments are already making provision for co-operating in the care of this class of people, it seems very necessary that a preliminary enquiry should be made as to the numbers and location of these dependents; and also to educate public opinion with regard to the necessity for prompt and vigorous action.

It has been estimated that in most countries there are almost as many feeble-minded as there are insane. If that is so, in Manitoba we must face the need for the erection of large institutions such as the hospitals for the insane at Selkirk and Brandon. This would seem to involve a tremendous financial obligation. On the other hand, only those who have come very closely into contact with social work have any idea of the immense expenditure now involved in dealing with the feeble-minded who are continually being dealt with in our schools, juvenile courts, reformatories, hospitals, rescue homes, gaols and through our relief agencies and other public and semi-public institutions.

Further, it is recognized that the feeble-minded are in reality much more dangerous than the insane in that insanity is not usually hereditary, whereas the majority of the feeble-minded pass on their weakness to their children.

Unfortunately, up to the present the feeble-minded have as a rule come to public attention only when they have become dependent or delinquent. Then we stupidly treat them as paupers or criminals—all the time they are simply children mentally, and should receive all the consideration and protection which we give to children. In kindness to these unfortunates they should receive much greater attention than is now possible with our existing institutions, and legislation.

The other line of work is a detailed study of the Ukrainian (Ruthenian) settlements across the prairies. Though there are said to be over two hundred thousand members of this nationality in Canada, and they number altogether some thirty-five million people, comparatively little is known of this interesting people. Since many of them came to us from the Province of Galicia, we put in with them a half-dozen other immigrant groups, and call them all "Galicians," even going out of our way to distinguish them from those whom we call "white people." They do not speak our language or wear our style of clothing, so we have jumped to the conclusion that they are a little higher in the scale of civilization than bushmen or South Sea Islanders. As a matter of fact, hundreds of years ago they had a flourishing university and a rich literature. They have had a most unfortunate history, which, however, has not quenched their ambition for better things. We in this country have regarded them simply as "hewers of wood and drawers of water." About the only Canadians who have got in touch with them have been the political organizers, the machine agents or the denominational missionaries. Many of them have thus begun to suspect all Canadians of having some ulterior motive in seeking their acquaintance.

It is surely high time that we had a more definite knowledge concerning the actual conditions which prevail among them, and thus form some intelligent plan by which they may be incorporated into our Canadian national life.

We have a Commission for the Conservation of our Natural Resources. It is passing strange that we have not yet awakened to the need of a commission whose duty it would be to conserve and develop our human resources.

It is hoped that the Bureau may become a sort of clearing house for information along social lines.

Affairs in British Columbia

By JACK LOUDET.

B. C. CONVENTION.

The annual convention of the Union of B. C. Municipalities recently held at Vernon, was well attended. The rules were relaxed somewhat so that some time was lost in dealing with matters which, strictly speaking, should not have been brought before the convention.

Among these was the question of tax exemption for churches. A ministerial delegation of three presented the case for the churches at great length. Eventually, after much debate with strong church members on both sides, a vote was taken after midnight, with many delegates absent, resulting in a small majority for exemption. Since then it may be noted that ratepayers' associations and the Trades and Labour Council in Vancouver have condemned the proposal. A fruitless discussion with the School Trustees Convention resulted in a great display of ill-feeling, and possibly did more harm than good.

The loss of time resulted in a speeding up of the work to such an extent that matters affecting certain municipalities were not properly debated. Much useful work was accomplished in spite of this. There seems to be a growing feeling among delegates that less time should be taken up with papers to be read at the convention, and more given to the problems which in practice confront the municipalities. This feeling has been expressed at every convention, but no attempt has been made to carry it into practice. The executive of the union met a day before the convention, and simplified matters by preparing resolutions on the subjects on the agenda. This was an improvement on the practice of previous years, as the Resolutions Committee were generally kept so busy that they had no chance to take part in the debates.

VANCOUVER HARBOR.

Alderman Kirk, in Vancouver, proposes to raise \$5,000,000 by way of debentures to relieve taxation to the extent of \$1,000,000 yearly for five years. Alderman Todd in Victoria has a much more elaborate scheme dealing more fully with the causes of the financial trouble, and dealing also with the protection of soldiers' property and the iniquitous War Relief Act, which has lately enriched the legal profession at the expense of the people, and given so much work to the courts.

The scheme of the Vancouver Harbour Board for the development of the Port of Vancouver is at present receiving much criticism in the municipalities comprising Greater Vancouver.

That increased facilities for the port are desirable in order to adequately prepare for the increased business which the port shows signs of developing seems to be the general opinion, but as regards the manner of doing this there is a divergence of opinion. In Report No. 529 of the Privy Council of Canada appears a statement in Clause 3 that infers that the municipalities on Burrard Inlet, public bodies and business men, have approved the detailed scheme of proposed expenditure of \$5,000,000 shown in Clause 2 of the said report.

No such endorsement was ever given or implied and the weak excuse of the Harbour Commissioners for this obviously misleading statement is that the municipalities have from time to time passed resolutions favouring improvements to Burrard Inlet. The general desire appears to be that the Harbour of Burrard Inlet, one of the finest natural harbours in the world, should be developed first and leave all other schemes in abeyance meantime. The Commissioners, however, are proceeding to acquire the Kitsilano Reserve in English Bay, and propose to make it suitable for railway and shipping purposes at a cost of \$16,000,000. This property has an area of 80 acres.

A much less sum would be required to develop land on the real harbour, and no expensive sea wall would be required.

When interviewed on this point the Commissioners stated that North Vancouver waterfront owners asked \$500 a foot, but this figure was apparently from the owner of a small lot, who did not wish to sell. It was shown by the municipality of North Vancouver District that land inside the first narrows adjacent to the creosoting works and shipbuilding yards could be secured for prices ranging from \$60 to \$100 per foot.

160 acres of level land could be secured in one piece and other smaller areas were also available. At Port Moody, 12 miles from Vancouver, the Commissioners propose to pay \$115 per foot, and are very enthusiastic about being able to make it pay, so that even \$100 at North Vancouver, opposite the heart of Vancouver, should be a bargain. Articles appear daily in a Vancouver morning paper eulogizing the scheme of the Board, and men are quoted who have never in any way been connected with the transportation business. In order to off-set their lack of knowledge, it is customary to include in the article strong condemnation of the C. P. R., in the belief that such tactics will lead the public to embrace the present scheme.

It is hoped that the Government will not allow itself to be misled in this matter, but will appoint experts to determine the lines along which development shall take place. It would be interesting to know whether Mr. Swan, the engineer who drew the plans for the Kitsilano scheme was asked to report on the harbour as a whole, or instructed to prepare plans whereby the Reserve could be made available for shipping purposes.

The Jitney Problem.

In Vancouver and Victoria, the B. C. Electric Railway Co. are once more engaged on the task of trying to abolish or further restrict the jitney traffic. The company undoubtedly has a pretty fair case, but overlooks the important fact that the public is not so much interested in the welfare of the B. C. Electric as it is in an efficient tram service. The people argue that fares came down and better service followed the advent of the jitney, and that it is safe to assume that with its disappearance conditions may revert to their former state. The company would probably have better results if they would drop their educational propaganda and substitute promises as to their behaviour in the future provided the jitneys are abolished.

Still more public bodies are coming out in opposition to church exemption from taxation, among the latest being the Methodist Church itself. A growing church does not fear taxation, but a weakening one needs propping up.

GOOD ROADS.

One or two of the Fraser Valley municipalities have been able to boast of an absence of bonded indebtedness, but with the growth of settlement this is more to be condemned than praised. Road conditions are getting more serious every year, and settlers are moving out owing to the impossibility of hauling during the winter months. Instead of trying to remedy this, if necessary, by borrowing and constructing hard roads, the brilliant expedient of passing a by-law has been tried and power given to officials to forbid hauling on certain roads. These municipalities must soon wake up to the fact that good roads are a municipality's greatest asset, and that a little extra taxation will be more than repaid the farmer by the lessened cost of his haulage. It should not be forgotten that the farmer does not pay all the cost, and that the speculator, when made to pay his share, is more likely to hasten the development of his property. Surrey and Langley are right in line for big development, but the want of roads is keeping them back. The antiquated system of paying the settler to repair his own road may keep him quiet, but does not in the long run do the municipality any good.

Preferential Voting

HOWARD S. ROSS, K.C.

Mayor Hardie, of Lethbridge, in his address at the recent Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, spoke of their system of "preferential voting" in connection with the election of their Commissioners:

One of the objects to be carried out by voting is to make decisions, either between policies (measures) or between candidates for administrative positions. To carry out this object a system is required which will range the majority of the voters concerned against the minority.

The other object to be carried out by voting is to make up a body fit to make decisions—subject to the operation of the initiative and the referendum where they are in force—on behalf of all the voters, so as to have a truly representative body. Though the principles of democracy require that the decisions made in such a body should be made by majority voting it does not follow that the body itself should be made up by majority voting.

This distinction between the two objects of voting is the prime secret of fundamental electoral reform.

Wherever the object is to make up a body fit to make decisions, and choose administrative officials on behalf of all, our present system should be replaced by a unanimous constituency system in which a form of preferential ballot is used, but in which pluralities and majorities have no place.

The system used at Lethbridge, majority preferential voting, is the Hare system, (called in Great Britain the "alternative vote,") applied to the election of one person, and is also known as the West Australian system, having been first used there. It has sometimes, in the United States, been referred to as the Ware system. Mr. War a member of a committee of the Alumni Association of Harvard University, and a professor in the Institute of Technology, introduced the Hare system for the nomination (not election) of the Overseers of Harvard. As it was clearly a mistake to apply the Hare system to nominations, it was soon given up by Harvard.

Mr. C. G. Hoag, General Secretary of the American Proportional Representation League, thinks the West Australian system is far superior in its political effects to the Bucklin system first proposed by Condorcet in 1793, and adopted in 1909 by Grand Junction, Colo., under the leadership of the Hon. James W. Bucklin. The West Australian rules prescribe—if there is no majority of first choices—the dropping out of the candidate lowest on the poll and the distribution of his ballots only according to the second or the next highest available preference marked on them, then the dropping of the next lowest candidate in the same way, and so on until one candidate has a majority. The Bucklin rules prescribe—if there is no majority of first choices—the adding together of the first-choice and the second-choice votes for each candidate so as to see whether any candidate has a majority, counting both; next, if no candidate has such a majority, it prescribes the adding together of the first-choice, second-choice, and third choice votes for each candidate so as to see whether any candidate has a majority, counting the three grades of votes together; and so on until some candidate has behind him a majority, counting all the grades of votes thus far taken into account, when that candidate is declared elected.

A majority preferential system that differs from the West Australia and the Bucklin only in the rules of the count was devised by Professor Nanson, of the University of Melbourne, Australia. Under this system a first choice is given more credit than a second throughout the entire count; a second more than a third, and so forth. Then in accordance with simple rules, those candidates whose total credits show them to be unquestionably inferior to other candidates in the opinion of the voters as indicated on the ballots are successfully dropped out as defeated until the candidate preferred to any other is left and declared elected.

A comparison of the three systems of counting majority preferential votes is given in United States Senate Document No. 359—"Effective Voting" by C. G. Hoag, General Secretary of the American Proportional Representation League, Haverford, Pa.

However, those who favor proportional representation

take the position that when the object of voting is not to make a decision, but to make up a body fit to make decisions on behalf of all the voters, then majority voting, even by an infallible system, is only one degree less disastrous to democracy than plurality voting. No candidate should be elected unless he is supported not merely by a majority, but by approximately the whole of a constituency or "quota," so that the process of electing the body as a whole shall be simply a condensation of all the voters into their true representatives.

SOCIAL WORK SHOULD BE BETTER SUPPORTED BY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES.

By J. J. KELSO.

Small appropriations by Municipal and Government authorities for the carrying on of modern social work has been, and is still largely the rule, and the vexatious limitations put upon expenditure for prevention has often made it impossible to secure the best and most effective service. In recognized routine, money can be spent without question; while unusual work of the highest type is questioned, and expense accounts rejected. Enterprise is therefore at a discount. It is easier, for instance, to have children made wards of the State and chargeable indefinitely to public funds than it is to spend a comparatively small sum in so improving conditions as to make the separation of parent and child unnecessary, and it is as simple as sliding down a hill for tired and shiftless people to get into charitable institutions. It has always been a problem how to finance the social machinery that would not only affect vast improvement, but also in a short time bring about an enormous saving of money now spent in doing the wrong thing and perpetuating obsolete and harmful charity. Most of this work has to be done by enthusiasts at their own expense. Some have the vision of what is needful without the power to give practical effect to the vision; others control the funds who have not the vision nor the inclination to co-operate with those who have,—and thus we ravel round in a circle and get nowhere.

LABOUR AND MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES.

The Trades and Labour Council of B. C., which interests itself annually in the elections had the following questions to put to all candidates:—

1—Are you in favor of restoring the minimum wage of 37½ cents per hour, and the strict enforcement of the 44-hour week on all municipal work, this to include all day labor and contract work?

2—Are you in favor of the abolition of all contract and the substitution of day labor on all municipal work?

3—Are you in favor of the abolition of property qualifications for civic office?

4—Are you in favor of electing aldermen at large instead of by wards, and by a system of proportional representation?

With the exception of number four, the questions are old, but this one provoked a good deal of discussion.

In theory it is apparently ideal, but one cannot help wondering if, with the present ballot presenting difficulties to many electors, the new system would prove to be quite as efficient in practice.

To present the case for proportional representation two pages of the October issue of the Municipal Journal were necessary.

This goes to show that the public should be educated on the subject before the question of the adoption of the system is drawn into municipal politics. No doubt when it once catches hold it will become a craze just as the Board of Control and government by commission were popular a few years ago.

While each system has its attractions, the fact still remains that if good men do not offer their services no system can ensure good government.

J. LOUTET.

Light and Power Rates

H. A. BLAKEBOROUGH.

Much has been written upon this absorbing subject in a general manner and much can be said both for and against the owning of public utilities by municipalities.

As a rule most things are governed by local conditions and this is no exception. It will, therefore, probably be of more interest to you, gentlemen, to hear the history of one plant in particular. I have, therefore, confined this paper principally to the experiences of the corporation of the City of Vernon in the actual operation of its light and power system.

The success or failure of any undertaking whether private or municipally owned naturally depends to a great extent on its management. Unfortunately it can be stated with some degree of truth that mismanagement is often the cause of a balance being shown on the wrong side of the fence in the statement of a municipally owned utility.

The fact that a new board of control may be appointed each year does not help matters, as so much has to be gone over again and again on account of the short time one board may have available to investigate the workings and management of the utility.

Probably it is owing to the many mistakes made by newly appointed boards that the commission form of government has been instituted by several of our cities in Canada. However, just so long as our system remains as it is at the present time, it would appear that something should be done in a general way to assist new councils in dealing with such problems as they are liable to encounter upon taking office.

Something in the form of condensed data might be furnished by the Dominion or Provincial Governments, showing how the various plants in the country or province have progressed from year to year. This might appear in some scheduled form, giving the population of each town, the number of consumers each plant serves, the number of k. w. hours generated and how used, whether for commercial lighting, street lighting, motor power, or for cooking and heating.

It is a somewhat difficult matter to arrive at any decided opinion in regard to relative merits of any particular type of primary power, unless local conditions are first thoroughly investigated.

With a steam plant the price of fuel would naturally be the main factor, and where wood is used for this purpose, the question of continuous supply and to what extent the purchase of wood by the power plant would affect the price to the citizens for ordinary household use. Of course, it would hardly be expected of a private company to consider the latter effect. Nevertheless it is worthy of consideration by municipal councils, and had not the Vernon City Council taken this point into thought, our citizens in all probability would have experienced considerable trouble this coming winter, in finding sufficient wood to meet their demands.

In a water power plant the big factor to be considered is the initial cost of installing, which is often found to be so high as to prohibit the use of water as a primary mover, this applies more particularly to small towns or cities, but if the first cost is not excessive, so that the plant is not saddled too heavily with overhead charges, it naturally follows that water is the cheapest power. Should the expected developments on the Shuswap River take place, so that Vernon finds itself in a position to purchase current from the company who develops power from the Shuswap Falls cheaper than can be generated by our own Diesel engines, then the engines will still serve most admirably as auxiliaries in case the water power should at any time be unavailable.

There is no better auxiliary engine than the Diesel as it can be started up and running with a load on in a very few minutes. Whereas with a steam plant considerable time would be lost in getting up steam before it would be possible to bring the plant into operation.

When considering the installation of an oil plant, the two big factors to be taken into consideration are the initial cost and the cost of the transportation of the Fuel Oil. The cost of handling the oil after its arrival at its

destination is a trifling matter, when compared to the cost of handling wood or coal, as the method is very simple; the oil being emptied by gravity from the Railway tank cars into a storage tank and from there is pumped into the power house either by hand or power as required for consumption.

The history of the Vernon Power Plant up to the year of 1911 is much the same as that of any other small city plant. The power equipment at that time being two return tubular steam boilers, a compound Corliss steam engine and a two hundred kilowatt, three phase generator.

Cordwood was the chief fuel used and the price to the City averaged \$6 per cord, delivered in the power house. The only coal available was of poor quality costing in the neighborhood of \$10 per ton with the delivery uncertain.

In 1911 a twenty-four hour service was inaugurated with the object of providing power for such industries as might be attracted to the city, and also with a view to stimulating the public interest in the use of domestic heating and cooking appliances.

It was very evident that the problem of fuel supply would shortly become a serious one, as the price of wood was increasing rapidly owing to the supply in the immediate vicinity and surrounding districts becoming more depleted each year.

Early in 1912 it was so apparent that if the city maintained its rate of growth as experienced at that time the plant would not be large enough to handle the load in the coming winter. The problem then presented itself of increasing the generating system.

After the merits of the various means of power had been thoroughly investigated, Diesel engines were decided upon owing to their low fuel consumption.

A modern building of reinforced concrete with fire-proof doors and windows was erected at a cost of \$15,000. The building being constructed to accommodate the two Diesel engines we have in use. The building could be easily enlarged by an addition should the requirements of the city demand it.

The first unit of two hundred horse power was installed at a cost of approximately \$40,000, and was first put into use in March, 1913. So evident did the economical operation of this unit manifest itself, that the lighting rate was immediately reduced 24 per cent., and a further reduction of 16 per cent. was made within a year, bringing the lighting rate down to eight cents per K.W. hour, as charged at the present time, and a power rate varying from 4½ to 1½c. according to the quantity of current used was also brought into force; the power rates also applying to heating and cooking appliances.

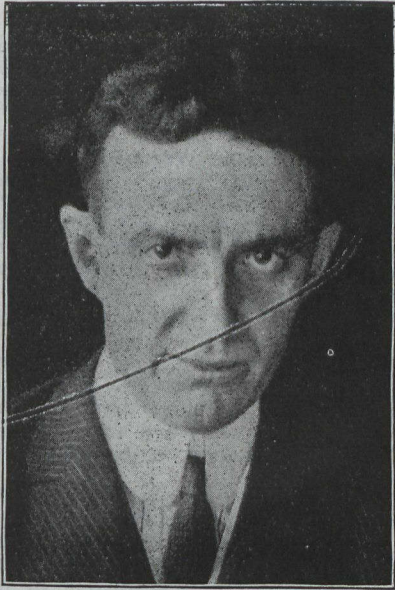
It was planned to further reduce the rates in 1914, but owing to the outbreak of war this was not deemed advisable owing to the possibility of decreased revenue, and the fact that probably everything used in the maintenance of the plant would advance to a considerable extent in price. However, at the beginning of the present year it was thought possible to reduce the rates in some manner, and in May a by-law was passed amending the rates for cooking and heating to 2¼c. per K.W. hour net, and abolishing the meter rent of 25c. per month, this reducing the revenue of the light department to the extent of \$2,000 per year.

The wisdom of reducing the rates just as soon as possible has always manifested itself by an appreciable increase in the current consumption, showing that the people will use the current extensively for lighting purposes if they can obtain it at a sufficiently low rate.

The revenue in 1912 was 17 per cent. in excess of that of 1911, notwithstanding the decreases made in the rates, and each year since there has been a big increase in consumption, due undoubtedly to the reductions made from time to time in the rates.

In 1913 the second Diesel unit of 525 H.P. was installed and brought into operation at a cost of approximately \$50,000. This unit entirely superseded the old steam plant which had been kept in use with the first Diesel engine to assist in handling the Peak loads.

The new power plant which represents a total outlay of \$105,000, is one which any city might just be proud of and certainly showed good judgment and foresight on the



MAYOR T. L. CHURCH, K.C.,

Who is re-elected Mayor of Toronto by acclamation. This is the third time Mayor Church has served as Chief Magistrate. Previous to that he had served as Controller.

LIGHT AND POWER RATES. (Continued.)

part of the Council holding office at the time of its inception.

In connection with the cost of fuel oil it is well to bear in mind that approximately one-third of the cost of the oil laid down here is for freight charges. So that a plant more accessible to oil supply would have a decided advantage over our plant. The main conclusion arrived at is that a water power plant must have a very low cost of installation to compare at all favourably with such equipment as the City of Vernon now possesses on account of its low cost for fuel to operate it.

One of the greatest problems in the operation of a plant is the keeping up of the load factor as high as possible. That is to keep all the machinery working as nearly as possible at full load. An increase in our annual load factor from twenty (which is approximately what prevails at the present time) to one of thirty per cent. (which we hope to realize), would enable us to make a further reduction in our rate per K.W. hour of at least 25 per cent. That is the present rate of eight cents per K. W. hour for lighting could be made six cents, and the power and heating rates could be made correspondingly less.

In every city the summer load is much smaller than the load carried in the winter.

As the aim in all power plants is to obtain an even load factor throughout the year the city has therefore encouraged the use of any electrical appliance used principally during the summer months. The special low rates for cooking and heating now in force being adopted with this end in view.

Electric ranges and water heaters are coming more extensively into use, as also are other small electrical appliances. Wood and coal are no longer in the running from an economical standpoint as a means of supplying heat for cooking. There are also many good radiators on the market, which are found to be a great comfort when used during the chilly evenings on fall and spring.

This record of efficient development has been accomplished only by the constant co-operation of the Council with its officials. Unless this co-operative feeling exists between public bodies and their officials, the desired results cannot be expected, no matter how much organization or system may be in existence.

It would be remiss to close this paper without adding that a great deal of credit is due the Vernon City Council and its Light and Power Committee during the last four years for their keen and untiring efforts in making this a successfully operated municipal plant.

PRINCIPLES OF COMMERCE.

A very interesting and valuable book from the pen of Mr. Harry G. Brown under the general title of Principles of Commerce has just been published by the Macmillan Co., of Canada. The author has divided the work into three parts, viz.: The Exchange Mechanism of Commerce; (2) The Economic Advantages, and (3) The Transportation Arts of Commerce. While each part is complete in itself the whole is so built up as to create a continuity of thought in the mind of the reader.

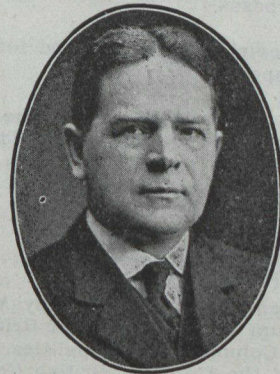
Now that Canada is taking a larger part in the commerce of the world such a volume at this moment is opportune and should be a real text book not only to the student but to the average commercial man.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

B. M. STEWART, Department of Labour.

Unemployment insurance goes hand in hand with labor exchanges. In the first place a scheme of unemployment insurance cannot be established until the risk can be calculated with some accuracy, and for this we are largely dependent on statistics of unemployment such as are furnished by labor exchanges.

Moreover, labor exchanges are necessary in this connection as a work test. Some workers are not eager to hunt for jobs when they are receiving unemployment insurance. By the British system, the name of the unemployed workman is on file at the labor exchange and when employment is available, it is offered to him. A well-managed system of unemployment insurance will do much to diminish suffering on account of unemployment resulting from whatever degree of mal-adjustment between labor and employment may remain when we have done our best with the other measures outlined. It is hardly necessary to add that our plan takes for granted a well-thought-out immigration policy.



LIEUT.-COL. GRAHAM,
Late Mayor of London, Ont.

WANTED, AN INTERNE

The appointment for Interne is for one year. The Board of Directors will pay \$100.00 per month, but will hold \$25.00 per month until the end of the year, when the amount withheld will be handed to the Interne on the termination of his engagement.

Application to be made to
The Superintendent

PROVINCIAL ROYAL JUBILEE HOSPITAL,
VICTORIA, B. C.

December 21st, 1916.

Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).

debt is incurred for money borrowed (c) any other taxes on land or real property or improvements, the taxes on which for any previous year are unpaid."

Referred to Special Committee.

Duncan.

"Municipal Elections Act, Section 79. Suggested that a new subsection be added, to be numbered 3, and reading as follow: (3) Voting for less candidates than there are vacancies"; the present subsections 3, 4, and 5 to be re-numbered 4, 5 and 6.

Adopted.

"Municipal Act" Section 290, sub-section 30. Suggested that the following be added to this sub-section:

"Any person following his profession once in a municipality shall be deemed to be "following his profession, occupation, or calling, in that municipality within the meaning of this sub-section.

Referred back to Resolution Committee.

It is suggested that the "Municipal Act" be amended so as to abolish the present system of giving a rebate for prompt payment of taxes and that in lieu thereof municipalities be authorized to make a straight levy of the actual amount of taxes required and that all persons who do not pay their taxes in full by the due date given in the tax by-law be penalized by a surcharge of ten per cent on the total levy and that the gross amount remaining unpaid on the 31st December each year be charged interest at eight per cent per annum.

Referred to Special Committee.

Also to suggest that the Union pass a resolution urging the Governor-General to establish labour bureaus throughout the Dominion.

Strongly recommended.—Carried.

Burnaby.

Municipal Auditing—should be subject to supervision of auditors from the Municipal Inspector's department. That Municipal Inspector and new Executive bring in a report.

Assessment. (a) Power should be given to Municipalities to grant relief, by way of rebate on the assessed value, to lands held and used solely for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

Adopted.

Tax Sales. Provision for prescribed forms to be issued by Municipal Inspector.

Adopted.

War Relief Act. Discussion as to the onus on municipalities to furnish to Registrar of Titles, proof that lands sold at tax sale are not held by soldiers or that soldiers have no interest in such lands.

Referred to Special Committee.

Hospital Act Amendment Act, 1916.

Referred to Special Committee.

Committee on Hospital Act appointed.

Resolution From The Burnaby Womens Forum To The Union Of British Columbia Municipalities.

Resolved: That the Union of British Columbia Municipalities should urge upon the Legislature of British Columbia, the immediate enactment of necessary legislation, by way of amendment to the "Municipal Clauses Act" or otherwise, to allow to vote at the Municipal elections, the wives of all such soldiers, who being on the municipal voters list, may be deprived at any municipal election from exercising their franchise at said election through military duties.

Resolved furthermore: That the President of the Burnaby Women's Forum forward this resolution to his Worship the Reeve, and the Council, of the Municipality of Burnaby with the earnest request that they do present this resolution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and give it their support.

Your Committee Recommends:

That the principles of suggestion made to this Convention by the Women's Forum of Burnaby be adopted and further we recommend that this principle be widened so as to provide that all soldiers and sailors qualified to vote in municipal matters may exercise their franchise by appointing a substitute.

North Cowichan.

(1) That all provisions effecting municipalities and enacted in other acts than the "Municipal Act" be incorporated in the "Municipal Act" or failing that, that the Municipal Department of the Provincial Government be

requested to notify all municipalities of such legislation from year to year.

Adopted.

(2) That the Government be urged to give a strict definition of the operative interests of members of syndicates under the War Relief Act in order to prevent a syndicate sheltering themselves behind the war service of one or two persons.

Referred to Committee on War Relief Act.

(3) That an amendment be made to Section 49 of the Insane Asylum Act, Chapter III of 1911, whereby the cost and expenses of committing and conveying to the Hospital for the Insane any free patient from an incorporated municipality, shall be limited to the first committal.

Adopted.

Grand Forks.

Whereas, municipal tax sales are usually a failure in British Columbia for the following reasons: (1) Because the rate of interest allowed to the tax purchaser is too low to furnish any inducement, and (2) because the sale is at most once a year, and any person who does not happen to have the money on that date cannot buy at all;

And whereas the failure of tax sales is causing the cities of the Province to get deep in debt and to borrow for temporary periods at exorbitant rates of interest;

And whereas in the State of Washington and elsewhere in the United States there is a system in force which gets over the above difficulty by making the interest 15 per cent instead of 8 per cent and enables all intending tax purchasers to go to the City Office any day in the year and buy lots for delinquent taxes instead of waiting for a tax sale once a year;

And whereas this system always brings an abundant stream of money into the City Treasury and thus enables it to impose lower taxes than are possible in a country like British Columbia where taxes are, at the present, very difficult to collect;

Therefore, the Municipal Council of the City of Grand Forks requests the Provincial Government to introduce and pass a law similar to the Washington law above described.

Adopted.

Enderby.

1. Break between terms of office of out-going and incoming Councils. This difficulty was brought to the attention of the Council in a report received from the city's legal advisers, whom they had consulted in connection with investigations made with a view of improving the annual routine of civic business. Following is an extract from said report:

"You are in error when you state that the existence of the Corporation is continuous, and a weakness of the "Municipal Act" lies in this fact. Why legislation has never been enacted making this so, we do not know. For many years the same condition prevailed in Ontario, but this was altered, and the Ontario act now has the following clause: "The municipal council shall be deemed and considered as always continuous and existing notwithstanding any annual or other election of the members composing the same, and after any such election and the organization of the council for the current year, may take up and carry to completion all proceedings commenced and not completed prior thereto. Without this enactment, each council is a distinct legislative body, and like a newly elected parliament, is incapable of carrying on proceedings initiated but not completed by its predecessor, but obliged to commence de novo. Our own courts have held that a by-law brought in by one council and preceded by advertising for a certain period, and completed in the life of a new council, was invalid."

My council suggests that the Union should recommend the municipal committee of the legislature to have a clause similar to that above quoted added to the "Municipal Act" of this Province.

Referred to solicitor for report.

2. Special Surveys—It is provided in Section 3 (8) of the "Special Surveys Act" that notice shall be given to all assessed owners of property, notifying them that a special survey is about to be made, etc., and then in Section 4 (2) it is further provided that another notice shall be given letting them know that said survey has been made. In the case of each notice it is enacted that it shall be served personally by the Municipal Clerk, or sent by registered mail with return receipt. My Council suggest that the Act should be so amended as to make

Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).

it possible for these notices to be served by any duly authorized person, or official of the municipality.

Laid over so that Clerk Rosoman speak to Resolution Committee.

City of North Vancouver.

That the "Municipal Act" be so amended in respect to the sale of lands for taxes, so that in cases where taxes are in arrears on more than one lot and owned by the same party, or upon acreage, only such number of lots or such portion of the acreage shall be sold as shall be sufficient to satisfy all taxes due upon the whole of such lots or the whole of such acreage, and that the purchase price of such lots or acreage so sold shall be payment in full for taxes on all such lots and all such acreage.

That the "Municipal Act" be amended so that Section 158 be made to include the cutting down and removal of undergrowth and brush situate or growing upon vacant lots, and in default of the owner failing to comply with the order of the Council to that effect that the Council be authorized to do so, and that the costs and expenses thereof may be either collected by suit or be added to and collected along with the taxes against such lots.

Carried.

Adopting Municipal System in Fire Departments.

That whereas the system of operating and maintaining fire departments in operation for several years past in Australia, whereby such departments are equipped and maintained by fire insurance companies, which to a very large extent reap the financial benefit of the maintenance of such departments, has been brought to the attention of this Council.

Be it Resolved: That the principle by which fire departments are maintained in Australia be referred to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, with a recommendation that the matter be referred to a committee to obtain all facts, data and information in relation thereto, and report the same back to the Union with a recommendation as to whether such a system could be brought into effect in this province, and the procedure necessary to be followed in respect thereof.

Adopted and New Executive appoint Committee.

SOUTH VANCOUVER.

1. That the Reeves and Council be elected on a recall system. Carried.

2. Power to allow ten per cent discount for prompt payment of taxes off full tax levy. Carried.

3. That it be compulsory to open a poll in each Ward and that each voter be restricted to vote in his own Ward. Carried.

4. The adoption of a civil service system for municipal officials. Carried.

5. Power to fix a standard weight of bread. Carried.

6. That trunk roads be taken over and kept up by the Provincial Government.

Dealt with by Special Committee.

7. That municipal councils be given more power governing the expenditure of school monies.

See Special Committee report.

Claim of Government to a Reversion of one-fourth of the lots upon sub-division of certain lands. In the form of Crown Grant issued under the Land Act of 1896, the following proviso was contained: "Provided also that in the event of any of the lands hereby granted being divided into town lots, one-fourth of all the blocks of lots, containing not less than one-fourth in number and area of such lots, shall be re-conveyed to us, our heirs and successors." This provision was contained in all grants of land from the Crown until 1910, and large tracts of land in this and other municipalities were Crown Granted during this period. No definition was ever given of the expression "town lots" and it was always assumed that this proviso applied only to lands in unorganized districts which might subsequently become part of a railway town-site and be sub-divided into town lots, the development of which would involve the Government in considerable expense for road-building, etc. That this is the view adopted by the Government for fourteen years is evidenced by the fact that during the period between 1896 and 1910 sub-divisions of lands in municipalities, to which lands the above proviso was attached, were freely made and registered, innumerable sales effected and indefeasible titles issued without any claim by the Government to a revisionary interest. In 1910 the above proviso was repealed and the following substituted therefor:

"Provided also, that in the event of any of the lands hereby granted being divided into lots containing one acre or less, one-fourth of all the blocks of lots, or one-fourth of all the lots where the lots are not divided into blocks, to be selected as provided in the "Land Act" shall be re-conveyed to us and our successors," and Sub-section 1 of Section 37 of the "Land Act" is amended so as to provide for the method of selection of the lots to be reconveyed to the Crown, and also to direct the Registrar of Titles not to accept the registration of any sub-division until he is satisfied that the said lots have been so reconveyed.

Since the Act of 1910, the Government has sought to attach the definition of "lots containing one acre or less" to the words "town lots" contained in the Act of 1896. Consequently all business in connection with the lands in question (comprising a large part of the settled portion of this municipality) is held up unless the owners consent to submit to what is considered to be an unjust imposition and one upon which the Government has no legal or moral right to insist. Many owners have been forced to comply with the Government's claims whilst others have had to make large cash payments to the Government in order to be able to register plans. The municipality loses the taxation on the lands taken by the Government, who disclaim liability even for local improvement frontage taxes or other special taxes already imposed.

This matter should be taken up strongly with a view to legislation providing that the provisos contained in Crown Grant issued both before and after 1910 shall not apply to lands situate in organized municipalities at the time the Crown Grant was issued. Adopted.

VICTORIA.**(a) "Municipal Act."**

Section 54, sub-section (116) of the "Municipal Act" should be amended so as to give the Council power to prescribe or regulate the weight of bread. The power is now possessed by the City of Vancouver and by every municipal council in Ontario. The municipal committee of the Legislature was urged by the City of Victoria at the last session to grant this amendment, but the municipal committee decided not to act until the question had been brought before the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

Section 54, sub-section (116a) as enacted by Section 11, of the 1916 Municipal Amendment Act, power is given to compel bakers to label their bread with its actual weight and the name and address of the baker. This power should be further extended by amendment so as to authorize the Council to prohibit any vendor of bread from selling bread not properly labelled or of less weight than shown on the label.

Sub-section (116a) should be further amended so as to give power to compel bakers to wrap bread. Adopted.

Amend Section 54, sub-section (117) as follows:

"For preventing persons in streets or public places from importuning others to travel in or employ any vehicle or to go to any tavern, hotel, inn or boarding house; and for regulating and governing persons so employed."

Amend Section 54, sub-section (146) so as to give the power to prevent the spread not only of smoke, dust or effluvia (as at present provided) but also of cinders, soot, charred sawdust and chemical fumes.

Amend Section 54, sub-sections (154) and (206) so as to give power to remove snow from sidewalks and roofs at the cost of abutting owner and also to charge any street railway company with one-half of the cost of such removal on any street traversed by its railway. Adopted.

A sub-section should be placed at the end of Section 54, giving the councils a general power to pass by-laws "for the good rule and government of the municipality." This power is given to the City of Vancouver and also to all municipalities in Ontario and in England. There are almost innumerable cases in which by-laws or portions of by-laws which would otherwise be held invalid for want of express legislative sanction, have held to be valid as coming within the general purview of this general power. We see no reason why municipalities in British Columbia should not be placed in as advantageous a position in this regard as the City of Vancouver and municipalities in Ontario and England. Adopted.

Under Section 97 of the "Municipal Act" (as re-enacted by Section 20 of the 1916 Amendment) debentures or other obligations given to secure a municipal debt are required to be made payable on or before fifty years from the day

Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).

on which the underlying by-law takes effect. We think that the maturity term should date from the time of issue of the debentures and not from the time when the by-law takes effect. Adopted.

Amend Section 148 so as to give power to convert or re-convert stock into debentures. Adopted.

A Sub-Section should be added to section 180 of the "Municipal Act" by which any proceedings attacking a by-law or resolution (particularly an assessment by-law) should be confined to an application to quash the same. Adopted.

Amend Section 192 of the "Municipal Act" so as to empower municipalities to invest long-term sinking funds in the purchase of their own local improvement debentures. The object of this amendment has already been explained to the City Council by the Comptroller, and will be by him explained to the Union of Municipalities at the approaching convention. The power to use sinking funds to redeem or cancel debentures is already given by Section 192. Adopted.

Section 227 of the "Municipal Act" should be amended so as to empower the Board of Equalization to exercise its function and equalize assessments after appeals to the Court from the Court of Revision have been dealt with by the Court. This amendment was also urged before the Municipal Committee by the City of Victoria at its last sitting, but was referred by the Committee to the Union of Municipalities before taking action thereon. Carried.

Amend Section 228 so as to provide that in municipalities having a resident Supreme Court judge, appeals from the Court of Revision shall be only to the Supreme Court and not to a County Court Judge. Carried.

Re Transient Traders and Transient Real Estate Agents, Section 290, Sub-section (21) and (27); By Sections 47 and 48 of the 1916 Amendment, the definitions of transient trader and transient real estate agent were altered so as to afford a more workable basis than the former section, but still further amendment is required as follows:

(a) The sub-sections do not specify any officer who has power to approve or disapprove of the required security, and we suggest that this discretion should be vested in the municipal treasurer or other officer appointed by the Council. Adopted.

(b) While the condition of the security is that a transient trader or transient real estate agent shall carry on business in the municipality for one year, the amount of the security is limited by the sub-section to the license fee for six months, and we suggest that the section should be amended so as to provide that the security shall be double the twelve months' license fee, so as to cure this anomaly in the section and make the security effective throughout the year. Adopted.

Re Abandonment of Expropriations: The City of Victoria urgently recommends the insertion of a sub-section to 367 by which municipalities which have expropriated land which they have not actually entered upon or used, shall have the right to abandon such expropriation and re-vest such land in the original owner, upon paying any actual damage occasioned to such owner by reason of such expropriation. Adopted.

(b) "Local Improvement Act."

Section 33 of the "Local Improvement Act" should be amended so as to require owners intending to complain to the Court of Revision to give thirty days notice by Municipality and ten days notice by property owner to the Municipality. Adopted.

(c) "Municipal Elections Act."

Amend section 38 of the "Municipal Elections Act" by providing that no nomination shall be received by the Returning Officer unless the same shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Land Registrar of the district in question and by the Municipal Assessor, showing that such candidate was up to the day for nomination, duly possessed (according to the records of the Land Registry Office and assessor respectively) of the proper qualification for mayor or alderman, as the case may be.

Committee recommends it be made compulsory for the candidate to take a declaration.

1. That Section 22 of the "Municipal Elections Act" be amended so as to fix the last Thursday in December for nominations, and the first Thursday in January for

the election of mayor and aldermen, respectively.

Referred to Executive to give Cities one week between nomination and election and that Districts stand as at present, but that elections be one month earlier than at present.

2. That Section 342 of the "Municipal Act" as amended in 1915, be further amended so as to absolutely exempt public parks and recreation grounds from taxation. Carried.

3. That the "Municipal Act" be amended so as to give power to the councils of adjoining municipalities to enter into agreements for the joint control and management of parks and beaches within either municipality, and to extend municipal funds thereon. Carried.

TUBERCULOSIS.

4. That urgent representations be made to the Union of B. C. Municipalities to the Provincial Government for a more complete effective and systematic provision for the care and treatment of tuberculosis throughout the Province.

Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Mayor McBeath, Resolved:

1. That the Union of B. C. Municipalities recommend to the Provincial Government that provision be made in estimates of years 1917-1918 for a sum sufficient to construct and equip a building at Tranquille for the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis.

2. That this Union of B. C. Municipalities further recommend that the Provincial Government be urged to take over the Tranquille Sanitarium and operate same as a Provincial Institution.

3. That this Union recommend that the Dominion Government be requested to pay for treatment of all cases of tuberculosis of patients who have not resided in this Province at least one year previous to their admission to Tranquille Sanitarium.

Further moved that a copy of this Resolution be sent to all women's organizations throughout the Province.

"Municipal Act," Sect. 487 A.

(1) No action, suit or other proceeding shall be commenced, brought or taken in the Supreme Court or County Court, by or in the name of any Municipality or Municipal Corporation, without the sanction of a resolution of the Council in that behalf.

(2) The Attorney-General of British Columbia shall not be a necessary party plaintiff to any civil action, suit or other proceeding commenced, brought or taken by or in the name of a Municipality or Municipal Corporation; provided, however,

(a) That it shall be competent for the Court in which any such civil action, suit or proceeding is pending, to add or substitute the Attorney-General as a party plaintiff on his application;

(b) That nothing herein contained shall limit or affect any right of the Crown or of the Attorney-General of Canada or the Attorney-General of British Columbia under the "Constitutional Determination Act." Adopted. Carried.

SAANICH.

That the Union of British Columbia Municipalities at their Convention to be held in October, be requested to ask the Provincial Government to adopt the policy of contributing towards the cost of main trunk roads through district municipalities on the same basis as the Ontario provincial government contributes, i. e., 40 per cent of the initial cost of building roads and 20 per cent of all maintenance charged.

Executive to take up with the Government. Carried.

Various sums of money are now held in trust by municipalities as a result of tax sale surplus being unclaimed, and probably through other causes. We are advised that there is no liability upon the municipality to endeavor to find the owners of such sums and as a consequence, it is probable that a number of the said sums may never be claimed. It is felt that this matter is one of sufficient importance to be discussed at the convention with a view to making recommendations for amendments to the "Municipal Act" directing the eventual disposal of such trust monies without incurring any expense upon municipalities. Carried.

PENTICTON.

That a resolution be submitted to the U. B. C. M. urging that the "Municipal Act" be so amended that two councillors shall be elected for each ward in a municipality

Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).

divided into wards; and all councillors be elected for a two-year term, one in each ward retiring in alternate years. The reeve to be elected annually as at present. Carried.

That a resolution be submitted to the U. B. C. M. urging that Section 496 of the Municipal Act be so amended that persons seeking relief must have a thirty days resident qualification. Carried.

POINT GREY.

1. An alteration in the law by which deeds issued to tax sale purchasers may be registered without the present difficulty which is experienced. Carried.

2. The other matter is that of providing a larger rebate on payment of taxes, that a rebate of one-sixth of all taxes be urged. Carried.

NEW WESTMINSTER ACT.

With reference to our Solicitor, Mr. McDiarmid's report, this Committee would recommend to the Convention that the following resolution be forwarded to the Provincial Government:

Whereas the Municipal and Local Improvement Acts have been found both cumbersome, difficult to interrupt, and lacking in reference to other Acts affecting municipal administration, this Convention would most strongly urge upon the Provincial Government the advisability of empowering a Commission to take evidence from all quarters for the purpose of drafting a new Municipal Act, in which will be incorporated all matters affecting Municipal Government, and that further, after three years close touch and experience with Municipal Solicitor McDiarmid and Municipal Inspector Baird — whose knowledge and experience we believe would be invaluable — would respectfully urge that they be placed in charge of this work and that copies of our solicitors report be forwarded to the Premier and Attorney-General.

BURNABY.

Moved by Mr. A. G. Moore, seconded by Mr. Coldecott that the process of returning sub-divisions to acreage by means of cancellation be simplified and made as inexpensive as possible for the owners." "Plans Cancellation Act." Carried.

Moved by Ald. Gale, seconded by Mayor Gray, that this Association recognizing the absolute necessity of such a measure for the proper protection of life and limb, strongly urge the Provincial Government to so amend the Provincial Highway Act as to require all vehicles, other than motor cars, throughout the Province to carry at least one white light on the front and one red light on the rear while using any road or highway throughout the Province between dusk and dawn. Carried.

Moved by Ald. Gale, seconded by Mayor Gray, that this Association place itself on record as favoring the internment of all alien enemies in British Columbia and that we strongly urge the Dominion Government to take immediate steps toward that end. Carried.

POWER TO BUY AND SELL WATER.

Re Section 545, Sub-section 104: "It appears to me that it would contribute very materially toward clearing up the water situation in a number of municipalities if this sub-section were extended to include water. The municipalities have power to purchase, construct, operate and maintain works for supplying water. In very many cases it is much more convenient to carry out this undertaking by the purchase of water than by going to a new source of supply, and in a number of cases in the Province this has been done. In the case of Oak Bay and Saanich the Oak Bay Act, 1910, by its amendment, 1911, confers power upon the municipality of Oak Bay to sell water to the municipality of Saanich.

The same Act in an extremely indirect way confers a sort of power upon the municipality of Saanich to buy water from Oak Bay. It seems to me it would simplify matters all around if the power were clearly set out in the Municipal Act."

R. BAIRD,

Inspector of Municipalities.

Recommend that the powers be adopted.—Carrier.

"Alberni, B. C.

I have been requested by the Council of the City of Alberni to lay before your body the interpretation of Sub-section 82, Section 54, of the Municipal Act.

The Council consider that this section should so read that it is made plain that any responsibility for demoli-

tion of property for the prevention of the spread of fires shall not lay with the Cities of British Columbia." Carried.

That clause (b) of Section II. of the Constitution be amended by striking out the words "or solicitor, engineer, health officer, clerk or electrician," and substituting therefor the words: or any official that the Council may appoint." Carried.

SUGGEST WOMEN COUNCILLORS.

Moved by Ald. Wright, seconded by Ald. Foreman, that Whereas at the Provincial Elections held in this Province on September 14th last the vote entitling women to the franchise was passed by a large majority; therefore be it resolved, and it is hereby resolved, that this convention of representatives of British Columbia Municipalities held at Vernon, October 11th, 12th and 13th, 1916, press upon the Provincial Government to pass the necessary legislation to allow women to sit and act as councillors, etc., under the municipal clauses act providing they possess the usual qualifications.

Referred to incoming executive to see what the next Government will do in the matter.

Moved by Mayor McBeath, seconded by Mayor Smith, That this Convention endorse the principle of the exemption from taxation other than local improvement taxes of the actual ground upon which churches are erected and used exclusively for the public worship of God, and would earnestly recommend to the Provincial Government that it place the necessary legislation to this end upon the Statute books of this Province. Carried.

Mayor Barber brought in Report of Taxation Committee. Your Committee beg to report as follows:

11. That the School Board estimates be submitted to the Municipal Council within thirty days after the School Board take office instead of on the 1st February as now. Adopted. Carried.

2. Resolved that Municipal Councils be permitted to add to the School estimates a sufficient sum to allow for a rebate, the same as may be given on the general rate in order to encourage prompt payment of school taxes within the rebate period that such surplus be carried forward for school purposes in the following year. Adopted. Carried.

3. That all monies due from the Provincial Government grants for school purposes be paid monthly. Carried.

WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Special Committee on War Relief brought in the following report:—

We, your Special Committee on War Relief Act, beg to report as follows:—

That while we are in full sympathy with the aims of the War Relief Act, and the protection which it has afforded to those who have volunteered their services for King and Country, we are satisfied that very serious difficulties have been encountered by many of the Municipalities in the carrying out of the provisions of the said Act. We would therefore respectfully recommend that the said Act be amended as follows:

(1) The provisions of the War Relief Act shall not apply to the assessment or levying of taxes by any municipality, and all assessments and levies heretofore made shall be accepted as valid notwithstanding the fact that the persons affected come within the provisions of Sections 2 or 3 of the said Act.

(2) In any action or other proceedings by any municipality for the collection of taxes, the onus of proof that any person comes within the provisions of sections 2 or 3 of the said Act shall be upon the person claiming or entitled to the benefit thereof, unless a statutory declaration proving the fact, shall be filed by or on behalf of such person in the office of the municipal clerk of the municipality where the land affected by such action or other proceeding is situate. A copy of this section shall be printed on all assessment and tax notices.

(3) Within one month after the passage of this Act, on or before the first day of February in each subsequent year during the continuance of the said war, each municipality may compile a statement of arrears of taxes owing by any person coming within the provisions of Section 2 or 3 of the said Act, and forward same to the Provincial Secretary, and the Minister of Finance shall, out of the Provincial Treasury, advance to the municipalities 75 per cent. of said arrears. Such municipalities shall hypothecate to the said Minister of Finance the said ar-

Convention of B. C. Municipalities—(Continued).

rears of taxes, to secure payment of such advances, and all monies collected on account of such arrears by the municipality, shall within thirty days from date of collection be paid into the Provincial Treasury.

(4) All municipalities receiving advances from the Provincial Treasurer under the last preceding section shall forthwith, after the expiration of one year after the conclusion of the said war, hold a tax sale to recover said arrears of taxes, and out of the proceeds thereof shall pay to the said Provincial Treasurer all such advances together with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

All of which is respectfully submitted."

M. McBEATH, Chairman.

Further, that in the opinion of this Convention the War Relief Act should be amended so as to provide that in the case of land being owned by two or more persons, one of whom is entitled to the benefit of the said Act, and the other not, the collector may accept the proportion of taxes due by such other persons, and all remedies for collection of taxes may be enforced against such other persons or their interests in the land.

Report of Auditors.

"We have the honour to report that we have examined the books and vouchers of the Union for the current year, and find them to be in order and have signed the balance sheet accordingly.

We beg to call particular attention to the small amount of expense incurred by your Executive in comparison to the large and important volume of work accomplished by that body during the current year.

We further recommend that every effort continue to be made to induce every municipality in British Columbia to become active members of this Union."

J. W. DICKINSON,

ARTHUR G. MOORE, J.P.

The Resolutions Committee brought in the following:

"That Section 2 of Chapter 242, of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1911, being the Deserted Wife Maintenance Act, be amended to read as follows:—

2. For the purpose of this Act—

A wife shall be deemed to be deserted by her husband,

- (a) Because of his assaults or other acts of cruelty.
- (b) Because of his refusal or neglect without sufficient cause to supply his wife and their infant children (if any) with food, clothing, or other necessaries:

"Magistrate" means a Stipendiary Magistrate, Police Magistrate, or any two Justices of the Peace, having jurisdiction in the locality in which a deserted wife resides, or where a deserted wife has been deserted. Carried.

Report from Committee on Hospitals.

Moved, that in the matter of the Hospital Act, your committee would recommend that no amendment be offered from this Convention, but would recommend that the incoming executive give the matter earnest consideration, and endeavor to find solutions for such problems as may existed at the time of our next Convention.—Carried.

MAYOR McBEATH, Chairman.

Amendment was suggested as follows:

(a) That no hospital shall receive a patient from any other municipality than that in which it is situate, when such other municipality is already supporting or operating a hospital, and has notified the hospital to that effect.

(b) That every municipality have power by by-law to determine the hospital to which patients from that municipality requiring hospital accommodation shall be sent.

(c) Exceptions to be made for cases of accidents occurring outside the boundaries of the municipality interested.

(4) Claim of Government to a reversion of one-fourth of the lots upon subdivision of certain lands.

In the form of Crown Grant issued under the Land Act of 1896 the following proviso was contained: "Provided also that in the event of any of the lands hereby granted being divided into town lots one-fourth of all the blocks of lots, containing not less than one-fourth in number and area of such lots, shall be reconveyed to us, our heirs and successors. This provision was continued in all grants of land from the Crown until 1910, and large tracts of land in this and other municipalities were Crown-granted during this period.

No definition was ever given of the expression "town lots."

Resolved, that the incoming Premier and Executive Council of the Province be asked in consideration of the fact that the Canadian Northern Pacific, and Pacific Great Eastern and all other railways having agreements with the Government, and not having lived up to the obligations contracted to be done by them under their various agreements with the Province, that, if any application be made for an extension of time on their behalf or a renewal of their charters, or either of them, or if any other matter is suggested whereby such a measure may become possible, or for any grant, concession, subsidy or other indulgence, that as a partial consideration for the concession asked for, the railway company be compelled to forego any claim for exemption from taxation, lands which are not actually used in the construction or operation of the railway.—Carried.

An invitation was received and accepted from the City of Duncan that the Convention assemble there next year.

An invitation was received from the City of Penticton that the Convention meet there in 1918.

Nomination for President, 1917.

Moved by Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Ald. Fletcher, that Mayor Smith, of Vernon, be elected President. — Carried.

Nomination for Vice-President.

Moved by Reeve McGregor, seconded by Ald. Gale, that Reeve Bridgman be elected Vice-President.—Carried.

Nomination for Secretary Treasurer.

Moved by Councillor Loutet, seconded by Ald. Grant, that Sec.-Treas. H. Bose stand again for the office. — Carried.

Moved by Ald. Wright, North Vancouver, seconded by Reeve Fraser, that Solicitor F. F. McDiarmid stand again for the office of solicitor to the convention.—Carried.

The following were elected as the Executive for the following year: Reeve Fraser, Mayor Gray, Mayor Smithe, Mayor McBeath, Reeve Sullivan, Reeve McGregor, Mayor Barber.—Carried.

Resolved, that the honorarium fees to the secretary-treasurer for 1917 be the same as for 1916 with expenses:—\$500 and expenses to the solicitor, Mr. McDiarmid, and \$300 and expenses to the sec.-treas., Mr. H. Bose.

It is only fair to state there that the honorarium awarded to the solicitor is but small compensation for the valuable service which he has rendered the Union of B. C. Municipalities.—Carried.

Moved by J. J. Johnston, New Westminster, that the thanks of this Convention are due to the City of Vernon for the courtesies they have extended to us.—Carried.

Mayor Smith replied that the City of Vernon felt amply repaid and would always consider it a great pleasure to see that the delegates to the Convention would have no reason whatever to regret their visit to the city.

Moved by Reeve McGregor, seconded by Ald. Wright, that a hearty vote of thanks be extended to Mr. W. D. Lighthall, K.C., hon. sec.-treas. of the Canadian Union, for services in connection with the Western Canada Telephone Bill.—Carried.

Moved by Ald. Gale, seconded by Ald. Fletcher, that the success of this Convention is due to the untiring efforts that Mr. Bridgman has put forth, and that a vote of thanks be tendered to him for the good work he has accomplished.—Carried.

Moved by Ald. Gale, seconded by Ald. Caldecott, that the thanks of the Convention are due to the retiring Executive.—Carried.

Moved by Ald. Johnston, seconded by Reeve Fraser, that a vote of thanks be tendered Municipal Inspector Baird, who has so willingly given the Union such great assistance.—Carried.

Moved by Reeve Bridgman, seconded by Mayor McBeath, that a very hearty vote of thanks be given to Miss Binnington, stenographer, for her services.—Carried.

Mayor Smith suggested the ex-President Stewart act as representative of the Union of B. C. Municipalities at the Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities to be held at Victoria next year.—Carried.

Mr. F. F. McDiarmid, solicitor, suggested that a committee be appointed to go into details and data with regard to B. C. Telephone Company (now the Western Canada Telephone Co.).—Carried.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Municipal Finance

JAMES MURRAY.

THREE YEARS' ADMINISTRATION IN SASKATOON.

Commissioner Yorath, in his annual report to the City Council of Saskatoon, gives some remarkable illustrations of what efficiency can do, in the administration of a city's affairs. In part the report reads:—

At the commencement of the financial depression in 1913, which swept over Western Canada following the exceptional prosperity of 1912, it was realized that Saskatoon, like many other cities which have experienced an extraordinary and rapid development, had overestimated its legitimate expansion, and in consequence a new perspective had to be drawn, and the city's civic administration and finances had to be adjusted upon sound economic principles.

The citizens of Saskatoon then became as zealously in favor of efficient civic government and development as they had previously been careless of indiscriminate and wasteful expenditure.

The following principles were recognized and acted upon:—

- (a) Concentration of responsibility and management of administration.
- (b) The control of expenditures by the preparation of detailed estimates of:
 - I. Current expenditures.
 - II. Capital expenditures.
- (c) The submission to the Council of the estimates referred to in paragraph (b) at the first meeting of the financial year, and their final scrutiny and adjustment within 30 days.
- (d) The monthly preparation of expenditures in respect of each appropriation.
- (e) The necessity of Heads of Departments obtaining the approval of the Commissioner to any proposed expenditure before same was incurred.
- (f) The internal audit of all accounts before being passed for payment.

It is often a comparatively simple matter to decide upon a system of organization, but its success or failure is judged by results.

The chief problem of the city was to reduce the assessment from high speculative values, created by the land boom, to sound economic values, without unduly increasing the tax rate.

This could only be done in the best interests of the citizens by a reduction in the tax levies, if, at the same time, efficiency of the civic service and a high standard of public health could be maintained.

The comparative diagram of rates, assessments, and tax levies shows that the city's assessed value has been reduced from \$56,679,426 in 1914 to \$37,646,827 in 1916; a reduction of \$19,032,599 or 33 per cent.; a reduction in the tax levy of \$405,799 from \$1,227,547 to \$821,759, or 33 per cent.; while during the same interval the public school supporters' rate was only increased from 17.55 mills to 18.35 mills.

Reduction of 52 per cent. in Controllable Expenditure.

It will also be seen that the portion of the tax levy for which the City Council is responsible, i.e., general and local improvement, has been reduced from a total of \$890,153 to \$562,296; a reduction of \$327,857, or 36 per cent. As a result of this large reduction in the tax levy the general rate (not including schools) has been reduced from 12 mills in 1914 to 11.50 mills in 1916, although the assessment has been reduced during the same period by 33 per cent.

If the fixed charges are deducted from the general tax levy of 1914 and 1916 it will be found that a total reduction of 52 per cent. has been made in controllable expenditure.

A very common remark of all civic reformers is "economy with efficiency," whereas the one is impossible without the other: if efficient civic government is obtained then it must naturally follow that economy is also obtained.

To have made the reductions in expenditure before referred to at the sacrifice of efficiency would be waste as equally negligent as the wasteful expenditure of large sums of money. The reductions, however, have been made in endeavoring to obtain efficiency.

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FIXED ASSESSMENT.

Commissioner T. Bradshaw, of Toronto, in a report to his Council on an application made by a large departmental store in Toronto for a fixed assessment, gave some well reasoned out advice. The report partially reads as follows:—

Entertaining, as I do, the greatest admiration for the enterprise and those associated with it, I greatly regret that, while favoring all of the other concessions sought, I cannot see any justification or warrant for the assessment exemption desired. There is a vital principle involved in it, so far as the city and the citizens are concerned, and I am convinced that, if granted, it would open up a situation which would lead to most serious consequences.

The present business, has been established in the city for a number of years, and has been uniformly successful. The application for a concession or bonus from the city, therefore, comes as a great surprise.

No claim is made for it on the grounds that it is a new enterprise coming into the city, that the business is in the experimental stage, that its conduct has not been highly profitable, or that the remarkable financial success achieved has been due in whole or in part to any special assistance or bonus having been heretofore granted by the city.

One of the underlying principles of taxation is that there shall be as nearly as possible equality in contribution among those taxed.

Assuming that the fixed assessment sought were granted, would it not mean that every other merchant in the city would have to bear a share of the concessions granted to his most powerful and energetic competitor? Surely it cannot be seriously intended that the smaller merchants throughout the city shall be compelled to pay tribute to their wealthiest peer. The proposal appears to be both inequitable and unfair.

I cannot but believe that the question of a fixed assessment is a minor one to the applicants, compared with the other larger and more important matters entering into the whole scheme. If it were a deciding factor, it surely would have been brought up for consideration before an investment of several millions of dollars had been made, and before plans had been laid for the construction of the building, instead of at the "eleventh hour."

A former application, that of a large hotel company, for a fixed assessment, was under entirely different circumstances, "as it involved a new enterprise coming to the city, a considerable investment in a business which had heretofore proved entirely risky, the building up of a business by a concern which had no established record in the city, and an enterprise which the city needed, but for which it had always been more or less difficult to interest capital."

The request was withdrawn.

HYDRO COMMISSION TO BUILD PLANT.

The Ontario Hydro-electric Commission is constructing itself the Chippewa Canal power project in the spring.

The commission will have to make an investment of about \$800,000 in motors, excavating machinery, railway tracks, etc., to dig the twelve-mile canal through which water will be taken from the Chippewa Creek to Queenston—the outlet below the falls where the development plant will be built.

It is estimated that the work of excavating the twelve-mile canal will cost between \$8,000,000 and \$9,000,000, and the commission anticipates being able to complete the work at less cost than if done by contract.

Municipally Guaranteeing Industrial Bonds.

At the last election the citizens of Port Moody voted to guarantee the bonds of a steel plant, to the extent of \$100,000.

Land was purchased and a plant erected and now after a few months the venture is apparently a failure.

Port Moody may have to take over the plants, from which it is said the machinery has been removed, and the city is liable to lose heavily over the scheme. It seems regrettable that the Municipal Department at Victoria has no power to investigate such schemes, and thus give some measure of protection.

**MUNICIPAL CONVENTIONS IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

Inspector Baird has prepared some special data showing the financial standing of the municipalities in British Columbia, which denotes the fine work done by municipal executives to put that house in order. This data shows that in only 9 out of the total of 35 town and city, and 28 rural municipalities has there been an increase in the general tax rate this year, while in the balance the great majority show decreases, and this in the face of the fact that in nearly all the latter cases there has also been a reduction in the assessment. The increases are in Chilliwack, Alberni, Duncan, Enderby, Fernie, Merrit, North Vancouver, Burnaby and North Cowichan.

The experience gained during the past two years of financial depression is also shown by the fact that in the entire province this year there has been expended on new enterprises launched by municipalities an aggregate of but about \$50,000, compared with over \$23,000,000 in that banner year of expenditures—1913. While the debenture flotations have been much in excess of the \$50,000, they were for the purposes of taking up short term loans which various municipalities had previously issued, such as the case of Burnaby, which floated bonds to the amount of \$1,000,000 to retire previous indebtedness, and Prince Rupert, which has floated half of the million and one-half of bonds, power to issue which that city secured at the last session of the legislature to take up existing outstanding debts.

Much improvement is shown in the tax payments, compared with the two previous years, and this is indicated in the improved relations between the municipalities and the banks. For some time past municipal authorities found it hard to secure advances from the banks which had taken the attitude that it was imperative to force municipalities to a policy of economy and, too, there may have been a feeling of want of confidence in municipal methods. In any event, bank loans were curtailed to a very considerable extent. But this year it would appear, the banks have appreciated the efforts it would appear, the banks have appreciated the efforts made by the municipalities to meet the requirements of the situation, and they are showing a disposition to come to the assistance of the municipal bodies in all cases of legitimate need.

There is still another favorable feature from the standpoint of the municipalities. In boom times many districts incurred large outlays on public utilities, such as water-works plants, etc. In 1914 and 1915 these utilities, owing to decreased population and other causes consequent upon depressed conditions, did not earn sufficient to meet requirements. But this year better results have been obtained, and with a return of improved conditions public utilities are showing increased earning powers. Much property, too, is held by Eastern people, who, feeling the better conditions there, are better able to meet their tax payments on their British Columbia holdings.

The aggregate assessments of the 35 towns and city municipalities and of the 28 rural districts for 1916 compared with 1915 were as follows:

	1915.	1916.
Town and city	\$403,090,558	\$448,719,605
Rural	228,247,693	204,782,285
Totals	\$631,338,251	\$653,501,890

DID NOT KNOW WAR WAS ON.

Last week one of our veterinary dairy farm inspectors found a farmer living in York County, within thirty-five miles of the City Hall, Toronto, who did not know that a war was in progress. As would be expected, this man does not know a great deal about the precautions that are necessary for producing clean safe milk. The ignorance of this milk-producer, although far from typical, indicates the necessity of periodical inspection of dairy farms, and also the necessity of requiring all milk sold in Toronto to be pasteurized. The twenty-five hundred farmers that ship milk to Toronto, are of all kinds. Many of them are careful, clean, well-informed men, and some of them are as ignorant as you could well imagine.

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WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO PURCHASE ENTIRE ISSUES OF MUNICIPALITIES WHOSE AFFAIRS ARE KEPT IN SOUND CONDITION. WE ARE GLAD TO PLACE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS.

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ROYAL SECURITIES CORPORATION Limited

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SOME MUNICIPAL AWARDS.

THOROLD, ONT.

\$36,000 6 per cent. 30-year bonds sold to Bank of Commerce, price 106.

NIAGARA FALLS.

An issue of \$5,000, 5 per cent., 10-instalment bonds, issued to finance grant to the British Red Cross Fund, was sold last week by the city of Niagara Falls, Ont., to Wood, Gundy and Co.

NEW HAMBURG, ONT.

The village of New Hamburg, Ont., has placed with C. H. Burgess and Company, an issue of \$14,000, 5 per cent., 15-instalment debentures.

MANITOBA SCHOOL DISTRICT.

H. O'Hara and Co. report the purchase of another small Manitoba school district issue, Riga S.D., \$1,300, 7 per cent., 15-instalment.

Halifax, N.S.—The issue of debentures or stock, sufficient to produce at the price offered the sum of \$130,000, to be used by the city for the following purpose:—

To redeem consolidated fund debentures, 1880,	
due January 1st, 1917	\$183,000.00
Under chap. 51, acts 1905; chap. 84, acts 1909	
Less provided by general sinking fund	53,000.00

\$130,000.00

were sold by the City of Halifax to R. M. Grant and Company, Boston. Price, 98.59.

LINDSAY, ONT.

\$95,000 5 per cent. 10-year instalment bonds were awarded to R. C. Matthews and Company, Toronto. Price, 101.24.

BRUCE COUNTY, ONT.

\$42,000 5½ per cent. 10-year bonds were awarded to Messrs. Mulholland, Bird and Graham, Toronto. Price, 100.99.

ALBERTA.

The following school district bonds have been awarded: (1) Kern S.D., \$1,200, 6-years 7 per cent.; Waterloo S.D., \$600, 6-years 7 per cent.; Poplar Ridge S.D., \$600, 6-years 7 per cent.; Poplar Ridge S.D., \$300, 6-years 7 per cent., to Messrs. W. Ross Alger and Company, Edmonton, at 102.25.

(2) Fox Coulee S.D., \$1,000, 10-years 7 per cent., to Messrs. Kerr, Fleming and Company, Toronto, at 103.468.

(3) Cold Lake S.D., \$1,400, 10-years 7 per cent.; Chip Lake S.D., \$1,200, 10-years 7 per cent., to Messrs. Kerr, Fleming and Company, Toronto, at 103.116.

(4) Lyncot S.D., \$1,400, 20-years 7 per cent., to Messrs. Kerr, Fleming and Company, Toronto, at 106.333.

The \$1,600 issue of the St. Paul S.D., which was not taken up by the Alberta School Supply Company, was awarded to Messrs. Kerr and Company, who were the second highest bidders.

SASKATCHEWAN.

The following is a list of bonds reported sold by the local government board:—

Towns.—Oxbow, \$16,000. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto; Radville, \$6,500. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto.

School Districts—Eston, \$2,000, Peronne, \$1,800, Sich, \$400, to Messrs. Kerr, Fleming and Company, Toronto; Hat Creek, \$700, Messrs. H. O'Hara and Company, Toronto; and Lipton, Messrs. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto; Oriole, \$1,300, Western School Supply Company, Regina; Springbrook, \$2,500. Regina Sinking Fund Trustees.

Rural Telephone Companies—Lacpeltier, \$10,000, \$10,000, Melaval, \$12,000, Goldman and Company, Toronto; Kandahar, \$2,000, Iola, \$1,200, Messrs. Wood, Gundy and Company, Toronto; Keedive, \$5,600, North, \$4,000, Village of Meadlyn, \$1,500, Messrs. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto; Rush Lake, \$10,500, Geo. Foley and Sons, Saskatoon; Superb, \$13,000, H. C. O'Hara and Company, Toronto; Balgonie, \$5,400, Kerr, Fleming and Company, Toronto; Sovereign, \$12,000, J. R. Thompson, Winnipeg; Camberley, \$14,000, Wood, Gundy and Company, Toronto; Kerrobert-Northern, \$11,000. Nay and James, Regina;

South Melaval, \$8,700. J. A. Thompson, Winnipeg; Lake Johnston, \$3,500. Regina Public School Sinking Fund; Dandy Rose, \$4,000. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto; Garnock, \$3,300, W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto; Hubbard, \$2,000. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto.

School Districts.—Wabash, \$1,600. Town of Biggar sinking funds; Meusatz, \$1,000. J. A. Thompson, Winnipeg; Moose Plains, \$1,200. J. Duff, Regina; Gnadenua, \$900. H. O'Hara and Company, Toronto; Wauchope, \$2,000. H. O'Hara and Company, Toronto; Okla, \$1,400. H. O'Hara and Company, Toronto; Eyre, \$1,700. Western School Supply Company, Regina; Leamington, \$800. Tomenson, Forward and Company, Toronto; Speers, \$2,000. Nay and James, Regina; Sunnyside, \$1,500. Goldman and Company, Toronto.

Rural Telephone Companies—Richard, \$2,200. Town of Biggar sinking funds; Richard, \$12,800. Regina public school sinking funds; Verdun, \$4,600. S. P. Bingley, Kipling; Clover Hill, \$1,000. H. O'Hara and Company, Toronto; Eclipse, \$14,000. Goldman and Company, Toronto; Denholm, \$2,500. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto.

Village.—Speers, \$1,250. W. L. McKinnon and Company, Toronto.

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The total assessment of the cities of British Columbia is \$410,512,724. This compares with \$460,724,889 in 1915, a reduction of nearly 19 per cent. Compared with 1915 the principal reductions are:—

	1915.	1916.
Vancouver	\$224,202,883	\$214,358,910
Victoria	109,627,987	88,041,294
New Westminster	24,532,094	18,833,355
Prince Rupert	22,026,018	14,427,761
North Vancouver	19,016,035	15,787,090

Total assessments of the districts of the province have been cut from \$222,162,061 in 1915 to \$199,727,749. The principal reductions have been made in the following municipalities:—

	1915.	1916.
Burnaby	\$24,288,970	\$28,991,030
North Vancouver	12,927,390	10,866,971
Oak Bay	11,401,800	10,206,326
Point Grey	36,323,944	32,922,843
Saanich	24,100,169	22,075,989
South Vancouver	37,203,936	31,048,732

Mr. Fred. W. Evans, has recently been appointed manager of the Toronto Touse of the Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Company, Limited, 26-28 Front Street.

Mr. Evans has been Acting Manager of the Toronto House for the past year, and his appointment to the managership of the office is in recognition of the excellent work which Mr. Evans has been doing.

Mr. Evans has been with the Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Company for a great many years, and has had excellent experience, particularly in the machine tool end of the business.

No publication issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway is better known all over the world than the "Annotated Guide," describing every station along the line. Issued originally at the suggestion of Sir William Van Horne, it has passed through many editions, and is now a fair-sized book owing to the great increase. It is interesting to look over the early issues to see how Canada has progressed. In 1888, for instance, Winnipeg had a population of only 25,000, Fort William 1,400, Regina 800, Calgary 2,400, Lake Louise had not been discovered, and Vancouver was proud of its 5,200. Indian Head was famous for the Bell Farm, of which the "Annotated Guide" remarks: "The furrows on this farm are usually ploughed four miles long, and to plough one furrow outward and another returning is a half day's work for a man and team. The work is done with an almost military organization, ploughing by brigades and reaping by divisions." Toronto is described as "distinctly Western in its activity and energy."

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Toronto

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Boston

MURRAY, MATHER & CO.

THE MUNICIPAL CLERK AND THE OFFICE HE FILLS.

(Continued from page 13).

and active; and, lastly, some provision for old age or disability.

And, gentlemen, I would go further. I have referred to the importance of standardization in the individual office. But, beyond that, let us take a lesson from the standardization which we have of recent years seen developed in certain industries. Take, for instance, the case of a certain motor car industry; almost wherever you go throughout Canada, as well as in some other countries, you will be able to avail yourself of the services offered by that industry, to obtain standard renewals of any part of the car made by them. In fact, you might take half-a-dozen cars to pieces, mix up the parts, and then build six cars out of them without regard to which piece came out of which car. Now, I would suggest, not only the standardization of the individual office, but a uniform standardization of all municipal offices. Uniform accounting is only part of what is required. Have standardized forms for all purposes, a uniform office equipment, uniform record system, uniform methods of filing and correspondence.

Then, standardize your men. Give each clerk a rating, according to the ability, intelligent interest in his work, and spirit of service shown by him. Let all offices be under periodical inspection, and the rating confirmed, raised or lowered, as the case might be, at every inspection. Then let your men be like the interchangeable parts of a motor car; if for any reason a man is not doing as well as he might in one place, or desires a change, send him to another. If a man is ill, or away on vacation, send a man from another office to take his place. Wherever a man went, he would find the same equipment, the same system, and would be able at once, and without difficulty, to take hold of the work. Indeed, it would be well, for the sake of maintaining alertness and interest, not as a rule to allow men to stay too long in one place—not to let them, as it were, take root, but to move them about as the banks and the railways do so many of their men. There would then be kept up a buoyancy and ability which could not fail to be very much to the advantage of the public.

It may seem to some that I have mingled two dissimilar subjects in this address. In reality, however, it is not so. Every phase of life has its two sides, the ideal and the practical. The practical has its root in, and draws its life from, the ideal; and the ideal is aborted and lost if it does not find expression in the practical. And the time has come when these twain shall no more be put asunder. In the past the sources of knowledge have been obscured, and much of our social and governmental structure has been of an artificial kind, based on mistaken premises.

But the age has changed. There is a presence in the world to-day which is consuming these buildings of "wood, hay and stubble." And the time has come for us, in the clear vision of that universal light which shineth from the east even unto the west, to be the builders of the new age.

Gentlemen, I beg to move the following resolution:

"That a Special Committee be appointed to confer with the Provincial authorities and with the Municipal Unions of other Provinces, also with the Union of Canadian Municipalities, with regard to the standardization of the work of all municipal offices, and the organization and regulation of a municipal civil service, with a view to the more efficient working of municipal government throughout Canada."

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Rosoman for his excellent paper.

Any investor or manufacturer who wants the

FACTS

about any CANADIAN CITY or TOWN with the view of investing or establishing an industrial enterprise, may have full information — *without one cent of cost* — by applying to the

Bureau of Information
CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL
 221 Coristine Bldg., Montreal, P.Q.

BANK OF MONTREAL

Established 1817

CAPITAL (PAID UP)	- - -	\$16,000,000
RESERVE FUND	-	\$16,000,000
UNDIVIDED PROFITS	\$1,414,423	
TOTAL ASSETS	- -	\$365,215,541

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Capital Authorized.....	\$ 25,000,000
Capital Paid Up.....	11,820,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits.....	13,236,000
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