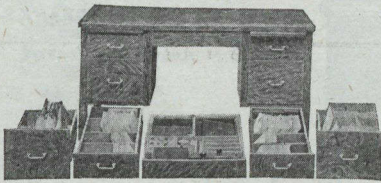


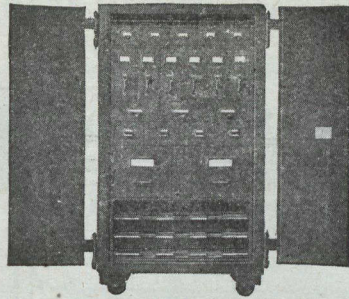
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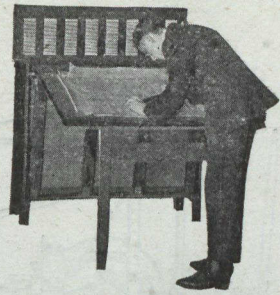
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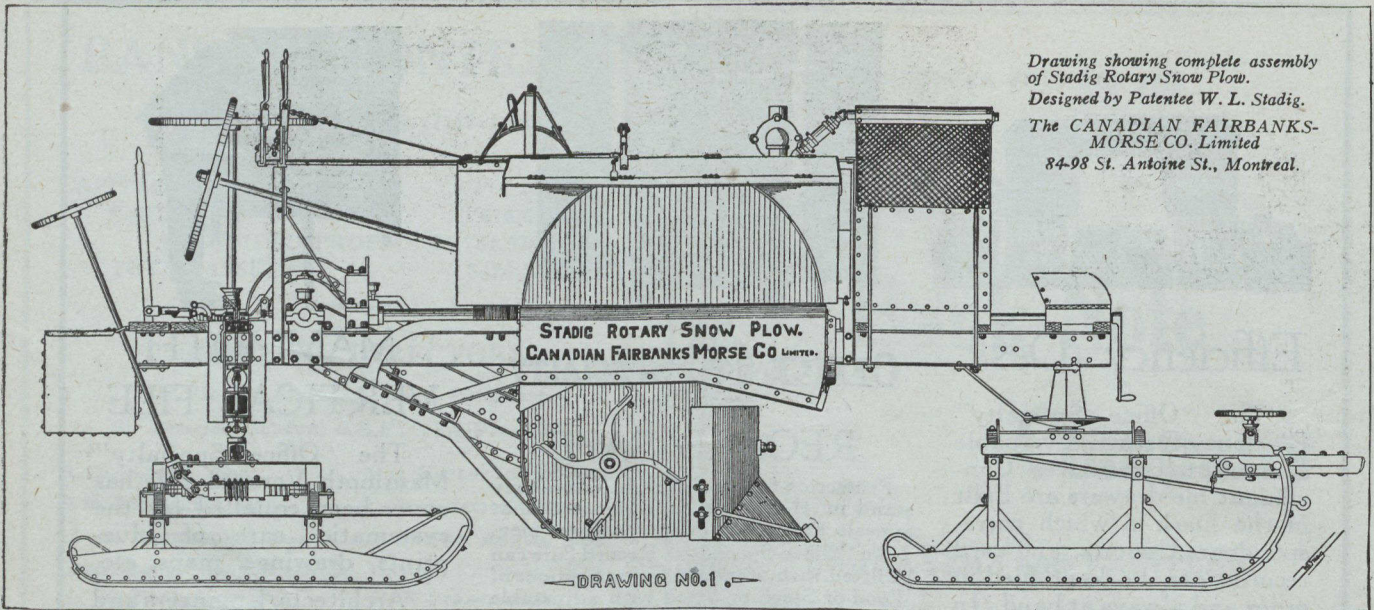
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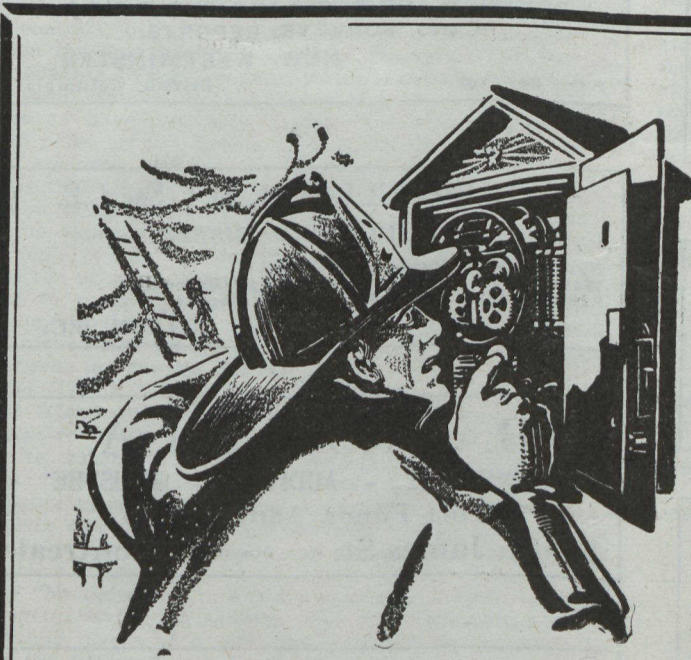
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*Municipal
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Parliamentary Report of Union of Canadian Municipalities

FRED. COOK (ex-Mayor of Ottawa.)

Partial failure; some success! These four words, from a municipal standpoint, state concisely the Parliamentary situation in 1918. Partial failure by reason of the fact that after a four years' struggle the revision and consolidation of the Railway Act is still uncompleted. Success, in that municipal interests were fully protected with regard to all private bill legislation.

The story of the Railway Bill is an interesting one. Last year, it will be recalled, the draft bill was very carefully considered by a Committee of the House of Commons, at which the municipalities, the railway companies, and all other interests affected were afforded the fullest opportunity to be heard. At several sittings of the Committee the Union of Canadian Municipalities was represented by the honorary secretary treasurer, Mr. Lighthall. As the bill left the House of Commons it was in excellent shape, but before the Railway Committee of the Upper House a strong lobby succeeded in emasculating the measure, and at the time of writing my report of last year municipal rights, which were fully protected by the Commons' bill, were in jeopardy. As everyone interested knows, the measure failed to pass the Senate before prorogation, and, therefore, had to stand over until this year.

As it was generally felt that the session of Parliament of 1918 would be short, the Railway Bill was introduced into the Senate this year, and in place of referring it to the Railway Committee the Senators decided to consider the provisions of the measure in Committee of the Whole. This, of course, gave no opportunity to municipalities or other interests to be heard. However, at the outset the bill was satisfactory from a municipal standpoint, as it was introduced into the Senate in the same form as that in which it left the Commons the previous session.

The principal discussion in the Senate centered around Sec. 374, the principle of which while applicable to Toronto, indirectly affects all municipalities. The clause deals with the right of private companies to put lines or wires along or across highways. By its arrangement with the city of Toronto, the Toronto Electric Light Company is required to sell its assets to the city on the termination of its contract in 1919. If the city does not exercise its option the Company may continue business. The Toronto and Niagara Power Company, which is practically owned by the same individuals that control the Light Company, appears to have authority, under Dominion legislation, to erect poles on the streets of Toronto for purposes of its own business, without the city's consent. The city believes that the Power Company is planning to take possession of the Light Company, and then declare that it has no expiring franchise and is under no compulsion to sell out. It was to circumvent such action and to enunciate the principle that every municipality should have the right to control its own streets—for this was the crux of the situation—that the municipal protest was made. The clause was keenly debated for some days and finally amended, to read as follows:

"374 (1) In this section,—

(a) "Company" means any person or company having legislative authority from the Parliament of Canada to acquire, construct, operate or maintain works, machinery, plant, lines, poles, tunnels, conduits, or other means for receiving generating, storing, transmitting distributing or supplying electricity or other power or energy but does not include a railway company, or a telegraph company or telephone company.

(b) "Municipality" means the municipal council or other authority having jurisdiction over the highways, squares or public places of a city, town, village or township, or over the highway, square or public place concerned.

(2) The Company shall not, except as in this section provided, acquire, construct, maintain or operate any works, machinery, plant, line, pole, tunnel, conduit or other device upon, along, across or under any highway, square or other public place within the limits of any city town, village or township, without the consent of the municipality.

(3) If the company cannot obtain the consent of the municipality or cannot obtain such consent otherwise than subject to conditions not acceptable to the company, the company may apply to the Board for leave to exercise its power upon such highways, square or public place; and all the provisions of section three hundred and seventy-three of this Act with respect to the powers and rights of

any company covered by that section, and with respect to proceedings where the company cannot obtain the consent of the municipality, shall, subject to the provisions of this section, apply to the company and to any application to the Board and to all proceedings thereon, and to the powers of the Board in the premises.

(4) Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to authorize the company to acquire, construct, maintain or operate any distribution system or to distribute light, heat, power or electricity in any city, town, village or township; or to erect, put or place in, over, along or under any highway or public place in any city, town, village or township any works, machinery, plant, pole, tunnel, conduits, or other device for the purpose of such distribution without the company first obtaining consent therefor by a by-law of the municipality.

(5) Any specific powers inconsistent with the provision of this section and conferred on any company by any Special or other Act or authority of the Parliament of Canada or of any province shall not be affected by the provisions of this section, but if any municipality complain to the Board that any company whether incorporated by Special or other Act or authority of the Parliament of Canada is exercising its powers oppressively or in bad faith the Board may hear such complaint and if it sees fit supervise the exercise of such powers.

"Provided always that whenever any company incorporated by Special Act of the Parliament of Canada acquires the assets of a company operating within a municipality which said municipality has the right by agreement to purchase any of the assets of such company, then and in every such case the municipality may enforce the rights under such agreement as fully as if such purchase had not been made and may enforce against such purchaser the provisions of such agreement as if it were the original party entering into such agreement with the municipality."

The combination amendment of Senators W. B. Ross, Beique, and Lynch-Staunton, quoted above, which was spoken of as a "compromise," was not satisfactory to Senator A. Claude Macdonell, of Toronto, who put up a gallant fight for the municipalities. His contention was that the amendment did not fully protect municipal rights. It is significant that the "power" representatives, who were constantly in attendance at the sittings of the Senate, hailed the amendment as "satisfactory," which in itself should cause the municipalities to look upon it with suspicion. As the Railway Bill has gone over until next session it will devolve upon the Union to make another effort next year to secure the redrafting of the clause in such a way that not only the interests of the city of Toronto will be protected, but those of every other municipality. A strong pronouncement upon this question at the next annual convention is urged.

Among the amendments offered by the U. C. M., as agreed upon at the Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee held at Ottawa, on April 10th, was one to the Interpretation Clause (section 2) regarding "easements." The covering letter, copy of which was sent to every Senator and Member, explains the point:

Re Railway Act.

"Montreal, April 20, 1918.

"The Union of Canadian Municipalities, especially its larger cities and towns, are very much exercised over the recent change in section 2, sub-section 15, whereby easements and servitudes are placed under the definition of "lands." This will introduce great difficulty in cities, towns, and villages, by giving the right, practically, to light and power companies to put their wires over and under private property. This is all right in the country, but will very much depreciate city and town property in any case. For this reason, easements and servitudes were originally omitted from the Act, but now are thoughtlessly put back again.

"This matter was the subject of a resolution of the executive of the Union of Canadian Municipalities on the 10th April, instant, and they would ask your

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PARLIAMENTARY REPORT.— (Continued from page 293).

good offices to have easements excluded from applications or expropriation matters in cities and towns."

To meet the point, and as Sir James Lougheed explained, 'that the public may be protected,' the following amendment to section 199 of the bill was inserted:

"Provided that no interest in land less than a fee simple interest shall be acquired without the consent of the owner except upon leave of the Board, and upon such terms and conditions as the Board may impose."

An expression of opinion from the Union upon this amendment is suggested. Other amendments were offered by the Executive of the Union, but as these will come up again next session I need not dilate upon them. In closing my references to this subject may I urge that every municipality should constitute itself a vigilance committee in the matter of legislation affecting the common weal, whether introduced into the Dominion Parliament or the Provincial legislatures. The officers of the Union do their best, but little impression can be made by two or three men unless the municipalities heartily co-operate. It is only by constant pressure exercised upon Parliamentary representatives that they can be brought to realize the significance of the principles involved. Curran's famous sentence that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," is as applicable to municipalities as to any other class in the community.

The bill to extend the charter of the **Toronto, Niagara & Western Railway Company**, a subsidiary company of the Canadian Northern Railway Company, which has been the subject of spirited discussions during the past two years, was passed. Opposition to the measure lapsed when the Minister of Railways, Hon. J. D. Reid, announced that the Railway now belongs to the people of Canada and would be subject to the control of the Dominion Parliament from now on. The cities of Toronto and Hamilton withdrew their objections on the assurance that their rights were fully protected.

The bill to increase the capital stock of the **Ottawa Gas Company** from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000 occupied the attention of the Private Bills Committee for three days. The application was keenly resisted by the Corporation of the City of Ottawa. The company is the sister corporation of the Ottawa Electric Company, the two concerns being controlled by the Ottawa Light, Heat, and Power Company. The Electric Company has to face the competition of the Municipal Electric Plant (Hydro-Electric), but the Gas Company is a monopoly, the charter, which was granted in 1865, being a perpetual one. Besides its present authorized stock issue of \$2,000,000 the Ottawa Gas Company has \$150,000 of bonds out, and it holds Parliamentary authority to issue \$850,000 more. If the new application to increase its stock to \$5,000,000 had been granted by Parliament, the company would have an authorized capitalization of six millions.

The increase of capital, it was stated by the Company's representatives, was required for the purpose of extending the plant and mains of the Company. The contention of the city authorities was that the Company had authority to raise all the additional capital it needed for the purposes named; that an increase in capitalization would sooner or later be made the pretext for increasing the price of gas to consumers, and further, that such increase would render more difficult future negotiations looking to the acquisition by the city of the franchise and properties of the Company. As the matter now stands the latter policy could only be carried out by mutual arrangement, as the Company, possessing, as already stated, a charter from the old Parliament of Canada, is exempt from the legislation of the Ontario House of Assembly, (Ontario Public Utilities Act) which provides for the expropriation of gas companies by municipalities and for the regulation of their operations and rates. At the last sitting of the Committee Mr. Fripp, M.P., for Ottawa, moved that the city be given the right to expropriate the Company under the provisions of the Ontario Statute. This amendment was carried by the casting vote of the chairman, Dr. Steele. Not being acceptable to the Company the bill was withdrawn. Should Parliament accept the recommendation of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, and insert in the Railway Act next session a proviso that all public utility companies

incorporated by federal statute must, so far as rates are concerned, be subject to the Board of Railway Commissioners, the point raised by counsel for the city of Ottawa would be met. The Company, it is admitted, does not seem to have abused its franchise, but the city simply desires to guard against the possibility of such a thing happening.

Incorporation was granted to the **Canadian Niagara Bridge Company**, the provisional directors of which are stated to be The Right Honorable Baron Shaughnessy, K.C.V.O., of Montreal; Alfred H. Smith, of Chappaqua, N.Y.; John N. Beckley, of Rochester, N.Y.; Edwin Cahill, K.C., of Hamilton, Ont., and William Torrance, of Toronto. The Company proposes to construct a new international bridge across the Niagara River at some convenient point between Chippawa and Fort Erie, on the Canadian side, to the opposite side of the river in the State of New York. The Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission did not object to the bridge, provided that it was placed two miles up stream from Chippawa Creek. The company agreed to this proposal. The new bridge is to be open to the use of all railways. After some discussion the Railway Committee decided that a way for general traffic must be provided when the bridge is built.

An amendment was inserted in the bill providing that the boulevard of the Niagara Falls Park Commission must not be interfered with except with the consent of the Park Commissioners, and failing an arrangement with the Commissioners the plans will be subject to the approval of the Dominion Railway Board. The bill further provides that the company may unite with any company or companies incorporated under the laws of Canada or the United States in building or maintaining the bridge. This was not objected to, but the joint borrowing powers of the united companies was limited to eight million dollars.

The bill contains the usual provision that the bridge must be commenced within two years, and completed within five years.

The application of **The Belleville-Prince Edward Bridge Company** for authority to increase the tolls to be charged to persons using the bridge was strenuously resisted by the municipality of Belleville and the counties of Prince Edward and Hastings. The bill was referred to a sub-committee of the Private Bills Committee, and before the measure was passed it was amended by permitting an increase of tolls of 50 per cent. instead of 100 per cent. An important amendment was inserted providing that the city of Belleville and the counties of Hastings and Prince Edward, and any other municipality interested, may upon notifying the Bridge Company, in writing, within six months from the date of the passing of the amending Act (24th May, 1918) purchase the bridge and approaches for the sum of \$72,500. This purchase must be completed within one year from the date of the passing of the Act. With this amendment the bill passed. In any event the new tariff of tolls takes effect after the 24th of August.

The bill respecting **The Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Company**, which confirms an agreement with the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway Company, was the subject of controversy last year, the agreement being objectionable to the town of Dundas. Since last session the matter had been under negotiation between the town and the company, and the agreement reached led to the insertion in the bill of a clause authorizing the corporation of Dundas, at any time after the expiration of twelve years from the date of passage of the Statute, to apply to the Board of Railway Commissioners for an order requiring the T. H. & B. Railway to operate its trains over the tracks of the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway by other motive power than steam produced from bituminous coal. In case the Board makes an order requiring a change in motive power the cost of new construction or reconstruction may be apportioned between the T. H. & B. Railway Company and the town. In the event of the corporation of Dundas considering the demands and conditions too onerous or expensive it shall be at liberty to withdraw its application, and the T. H. & B. Railway Company will then be in a position to continue to operate its trains in the same manner as if the application to the Board had not been made.

The usual municipal protection clauses were incorporated in Chap. 55, "an Act to incorporate **The Montreal, Joliette and Transcontinental Junction Railway Company**," and Chap. 75, to enable the **Western Power Company of Canada, Limited**, to own and operate the railway of the **Western Canada Power Company**.

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THE NECESSITY OF A NEW ORDER-IN-COUNCIL TO CONTROL PRICES.

The Food Board has been in existence eight months and many people have asked, What has it done? At times certain of its orders have been criticized in and by the press. Even this Journal has not always viewed with favour the orders, and no doubt the Board itself will admit some mistakes, but taking into consideration its short existence, its limited powers and its very limited staff, the work accomplished by the Canada Food Board is little short of marvellous. The nature of the work so far as it affects the municipalities through the local councils has been ably placed before our readers month by month by Mr. Ernest Roberts, but of the general propaganda, having for its object the conservation of food on the one hand and the greater production of food on the other, the general public has but a hazy idea. What the average citizen does know is that he, or she, is restricted in the use of sugar, flour, etc., and that in some way Great Britain and the Allies are getting the benefit of it, but to what extent he does not know.

Perhaps the best evidence of the Food Board's activities is in the following excerpt from a recent bulletin:

"The effect of these measures (Food Board Orders) may be noted by the increased exports to Great Britain and her Allies. In the case of beef, these exports have increased over the average exports for 1910-1914 by 75,000,000 pounds per annum, or 8,795 per cent.; in the case of pork, (including bacon and lard), the net exports have increased by 125,000,000 pounds per annum, or 571 per cent. It is estimated that Canada has exported at least 25 to 30 per cent more wheat during the last twelve months than could have been exported had it not been for conservation and organization of this country's food resources."

This is something to be proud of, and Mr. H. B. Thomson and his colleagues are to be congratulated on the results of their efforts, particularly when it is understood that their staff and their powers, as already mentioned, are limited. Take the staff. It is questionable if it reaches a hundred, whereas the Food Controller of the United States has a staff of over 4,000, which means that the Canada Food

Board has to depend largely on voluntary and local assistance, but even this does not near represent how the above results were achieved. To get to the real means of accomplishment we would have to visit the headquarters of the Board, talk with H. B. Thomson, and then we would realize what personality meant in achieving something.

But there is a part of the Food Board's work that needs developing—namely control of prices. We fully recognize that the primary object of the Board is to get foodstuffs over to Great Britain and her allies, and that to achieve this object certain regulations had to be made and carried out, concerning the consumption of food, but as yet no serious attempt has been made to regulate the prices of those foodstuffs allowed to be used in Canada, the consequence is the consumer has been exploited to such an extent that it unnecessarily hurts, and it is time this exploitation was stopped. It is true that there is in force an Order-in-Council giving the Minister of Labour certain powers to regulate, in conjunction with the municipal councils, the prices of foodstuffs, but the order for all practical purposes is a dead letter, because it is unworkable, so that if the Government is really in earnest in regulating prices it must try some other method—something more direct. Our suggestion is that the present Order-in-Council regulating prices be rescinded and that a new Order be made giving the local councils power, with summary jurisdiction, to control the prices of all foodstuffs sold within their respective municipalities, and that administration of the Order be made part of the work of the Food Board. In this way the local authorities, who are in daily touch with the people and their requirements, would be made responsible, either through a committee of the council or a local commission, for the proper administration of the Order. As it is, no one is responsible, and the profiteers are having the time of their lives.

Teaching Citizenship Via the Movies

In last month's issue of the Journal a suggestion was made in a review that educational subjects should be encouraged in the thousands of "Movie" houses that crowd our urban centres. It was even suggested that, unless a movie house shows a film of an instructive nature at least three times a week, its license should be taken away. At that time the writer had in mind the films supplied by the Municipal Reference Library of New York, that deal with such subjects as Citizenship, Child Welfare, Education Fire Protection, Municipal Government, Health, etc. We now find that in addition to the above, both the Dominion and Ontario Governments have prepared excellent films describing Canada's industries, one of which, on wheat, gives the complete story of our great national asset, from the preparing of the ground, and the sowing of the seed, to the loading of the steamer at Montreal with Manitoba No. 1 Hard; another, on our Fishing Industry, gives a stirring picture of the dangers that the fishermen of this country have to go through to get their livelihood; a third film gives the story of electricity—its development and use, and so on.

But the great mass of the people have never, and are not likely to see these inspiring pictures—possibly the greatest educational possibility in Canada to-day, unless more use is made of the "movies." Moving pictures are here to stay; of this there is no doubt. They have gripped the imaginations of the people to such an extent that they have taken, if not usurped the place of perhaps more prosaic, but more elevating forms of entertainment, principally because of the attractiveness of the pictures. This being so, there is no reason why Canadian picture theatres should not be utilized for the betterment of the people by the presentation of pictures of an instructive character, and in this the local authorities can do much by making it a condition of a "movie" license that at least one educational film be shown at each performance. If Canada would preserve her national character—her pride in her industries, her social life, and her people, she has no better chance than in the picture houses. There she can visualize nightly before the people these very characteristics in pictures.

The Credit of Western Municipalities

At the Victoria Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities a resolution was presented in which the provincial authorities were urged to see that those municipalities that were behind in the interest on their bonds be brought to time. Though the resolution was tabled after some sharp criticism from some of the western delegates, largely because a wrong inference may be drawn from the wording: "there are at present a number of municipalities who are many months behind in the payment of their interest and principal on Debentures," it is to be hoped that the hints suggested will not be lost sight of by municipal men, namely, that investors in municipals, like anything else, get very "scary" when a municipality defaults on its interest. It must be remembered that many of the holders of Canadian municipals live outside the country—Great Britain and the United States—and these investors have not always the means of finding out—even if they cared to—the underlying reason for the non-payment of interest on even a single bond that may be held by them. What is more, the default of one Canadian municipality, even in its interest charges, affects the financial credit of the whole of municipal Canada, so that it is to the duty of each municipal union to urge its members—particularly the weakest—to live up to their financial obligations. The suggestion put forward by someone at the Victoria Convention that Eastern bond dealers had over persuaded some of the smaller Western councils to put out bond issues to their undoing did not allow much credit for the intelligence of these councils, whose fault, perhaps, was over confidence in the near future, but

certainly it was not that of being easily persuaded by outsiders. The Western men of Canada are not that kind.

There is no doubt that the Western municipalities of Canada have been harder hit by the war than those in the East—though all have been affected. Coming so soon after the land boom broke, when the tax on land was the chief source of local income, the war found every municipality in the West very much unprepared, and the marvel of it all is how well they have come out, especially when it is taken into consideration that outside farming, that would benefit the rural municipalities only, there have been no war industries to help increase local revenues. For the last four years it has been one continual struggle on the part of every council to meet their municipal obligations, and the fact that they have, with one or two small exceptions, speaks volumes for their tenacity of purpose—to pay their debts. When the war is over such continuous sacrifice and determination should, and no doubt will, inspire confidence in Western municipalities, but we do suggest that the stronger municipalities do give a helping hand to their weaker neighbours and so keep up the good name of municipal Canada.

Frederick P. Gruenberg, director of the Bureau of Municipal Research of Philadelphia, has recently taken a leave of absence to accept an executive position with the Industrial Service Division of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. His new duties consist largely of organization and direction of office and field forces engaged in research work in the field of industrial relations.

Municipal Officers and Security of Tenure

In a recent issue of the *Municipal Engineering and Sanitary Record* of London (Eng.) appeared a strong indictment, by one of its readers who had had some experience in this country, of a habit some municipal councils have in Canada of summarily dismissing their officials for no reasons at all, other than political or wanting a change for the "fun" of it. Part of the indictment reads as follows:—

"In the towns and cities of Canada, whether large or small, it is important that it should be known that it is an annual occurrence to 'fire' some of the municipal officers. There would be no 'sport' in the elections if the politicians were to be deprived of this, their accustomed privilege.

"Jealousy, petty spite, and a determination to get at somebody, dominate the whole of the elections.

"A man who can hold a responsible position for two years is something of a rarity. Let me warn any municipal official in England from emigrating, if he thinks of obtaining or being able to hold a similar position in the Dominion of Canada. As to security of position, it is a complete farce. I know of a municipality—no names, hush!—where the Council 'fired,' i.e., asked to resign, the municipal Clerk, the Fire Chief, the Medical Officer of Health, the Chief of Police and the Waterworks Superintendent, all at one sitting.

"Again, I know of another case where, after the elections, every man employed by the municipality got notice to quit, even the Magistrate. Fortunately, however, for him, he was under the jurisdiction of the provincial, and not the municipal, council.

"Then these wise 'guys' went into committee, and, as each one had some one he wanted to 'fire,' they had to compromise with one another. 'You vote to 'fire' my man and then I'll vote to get your man in, or out as the case might be. This not only goes on with Municipalities, but even with the Provincial Councils. They 'fire' everyone, from the Chief Engineer to the Chinese janitor. In another province, when the election campaign began, some of the members of the party in power went the round of the offices touting for subscriptions to the party funds. Of course, if the official wanted to keep his position, why, he subscribed accordingly, of course."

While not accepting for a moment all the charges made in the letter, or the editorial that appeared in the same issue of our English contemporary as being fair comment on our system of conducting our municipal business, we do think that in certain municipalities those in power do look upon municipal positions or "jobs" as perquisites for their spe-

cial friends. It is true such municipalities are few and far between, but there should not be one of which it can be said the officials are the creatures of the whim of the aldermen or mayor. Outside any question of unfairness to those who are making their living as municipal officers, the problem of municipal government is too serious to allow of anything that will interfere with its solving; and nothing is so disastrous to good administration as the frequent changing of officials. These men are the very backbone of the administration and the more efficient they become by experience the better for the community. Every encouragement should be given to each official to give of his best to the work he is doing. He should be secured against dismissal other than from just cause and he should be paid a salary commensurate with his position. He should also be so sure of his position that he can look forward with confidence to that time when having completed his life's work, he can rest in the security of a pension. In the Old Country, where there is guaranteed security of tenure, this is exactly the vista of every municipal official, with the consequence that municipal government in Great Britain is the most efficient in the world. While we repeat that municipal Canada is not near so bad in the treatment of officials as our contemporary would have it, yet the fact that we have been open to criticism, because of the conduct of one or two councils of small municipalities towards their officers, should bring home to every council in the Dominion their responsibility to their officials.

But there is another side to the question which for obvious reasons was not mentioned in the letter—the tendency of some municipal officials to take sides in local elections, thus leaving themselves open to rightful criticism and sometimes dismissal, should the opposition be successful at the polls. Ethically such conduct is wrong, and from a common-sense point of view very foolish, and can only lead to unpleasantness that is bound to have a bad effect on their work, and consequently their usefulness to the community. Whatever the temptations might be, he is a wise municipal official who leaves civic politics severely alone.

SIXTY YEARS OF MUNICIPAL SERVICE.

Mr. William Davidson, of Stratford, recently celebrated his 81st birthday. Despite his great years, Mr. Davidson continues to enjoy good health and an alert mind, and continues to discharge the duties of his office as County Clerk, Secretary of the Public School Board and President of the Perth Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Mr. Davidson boasts a record of municipal service that probably cannot be equalled in Canada. In January next he will have completed sixty years of continuous municipal service in Perth county. He began as Clerk of Fullerton township in 1859. He has been Clerk of the county since October, 1878, succeeding to that office on the death of Mr. Stewart Campbell, who was Clerk from the organizing of Perth county in 1853. Mr. Davidson also enjoys a unique record for service in connection with Public School boards, having served continuously for fifty-eight years as Secretary-Treasurer of school boards, thirty-eight years of that time as Secretary of Stratford Public School Board.

Coming to Stratford in January, 1879, Mr. Davidson was elected to represent Hamlet Ward in the Municipal Council in 1887, and continued to represent that ward as Alderman until 1895, when he was elected Mayor of the city, defeating the late Mr. Frank Goodwin and ex-Ald. J. D. Hamil-

ton. He served for two terms as Mayor. After an absence of four years from Council, he was again elected Alderman, completing eighteen years' service as Alderman of the city.

A HIGH TEST.

"The days of political and economic reconstruction which are ahead of us no man can now definitely assess, but we know this, that every program must be shot through with utter disinterestedness, that no party must try to serve itself, but every party must try to serve humanity, and that the task is a very practical one, meaning that every program, every measure in every program, must be tested by this question only: Is it just, is it for the benefit of the average man, without influence or privilege, does it embody in the real fact the highest conception of social justice and of right dealing, without respect of person or class of particular interest? This is a high test. It can be met only by those who have genuine sympathy with the mass of men and real insight into their needs and opportunities, and a purpose which is purged alike of selfish and of partizan intentions. The party which rises to this test will receive the support of the people, because it deserves it."

President Wilson.

A National Debt

A. H. D. HAIR.

"If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies blow,
In Flanders Fields."

—Lt.-Col. John McRae.)

A noble comment from a noble son of the Empire, urging us to a full appreciation of our citizenship, our responsibilities, our tremendous debt to those who have, to those who are now doing so, and to those who for the next fifty years will pay the supreme price of Empire building. That challenge comes direct from the battlefield of Flanders, from the lips of one whose poetical inspiration, life, and death, were consistently Imperial and ennobling. It comes to us as a waft from the "Melting Pot" of nations now being moulded into a new code of international ethics, and it binds and points us to an irrefutable truth, that each nation that claims for its present condition of belligerency the fundamental principles of the human race, owes an incomprehensible debt of gratitude to those who have sacrificed the one thing most dear to all, **the life they offered in humanity's interests**, and for the welfare of generations yet unborn. **How can we repay this debt?**

As the purpose of this article is to direct and arouse public attention to one phase of the many answers to that complex question, we intend to confine our remarks to **that one in particular**, while not forgetting the other and **more material phases**, for our subject, if less material, is of incalculably more importance from a fundamental standpoint to the nation, it forms the basis on which the **Laws of Nations** have been founded from time immemorial, it is **sentiment — national sentiment** — that which launches us into war, or frames our codes of conditions of peace—that which above all other things should be **consistent**, if necessarily more or less complex and mythical.

Our standard of national ethics is based upon **Sentiment**, in times of trouble we appeal to **National Sentiment** to 'stand to arms' in defence of what we as a nation consider to be **Justice**, and in times of peace **we trust to the nation**, that made the appeal, to see that justice is done towards those who answered the appeal, and in so far only, as the nation responds to its self-imposed responsibility, is it worthy of the name of a **Nation**.

Let us pause for a few moments and consider the consistency, or otherwise, of our past and present code of national ethics, as applicable to those of our fellow citizens who having answered the national call of duty, subsequently fall on evil times and in the extremity of death become a **public charge**. What is the nation's gratitude in return for their services? Is it possible, citizen, that as a "**Christian nation**," as an empire on which the sun never sets, we have no other answer than **A Pauper's Grave**? Yes, it is not only possible, but it is **true**. That is the phase of our national indebtedness we desire to arouse your interest in the one phase that, in the words of a distinguished Canadian—"should take precedence of all others. **Let us give you his version:—**

"The indifference with which the peoples of all times have accepted the services of those who fight for our liberties, and permit them to sink into oblivion, reflects very gravely on the ingratitude of humanity. To provide honourable burial for a soldier or sailor who has faithfully served his country should not be left to the chance generosity of the individual, it is a **duty that should take precedence of all others**. To honour and protect in death, seems but a small return to him who **has protected the nation's honour in life**.

Your movement is one having my heartiest endorsement, and I consider it worthy of the best and highest support."

A famous British General expressed himself as follows:

"From the dead, no return, not even gratitude or thanks, can be expected, and it is this that in my humble opinion, ennobles your aim, and puts it on a higher, if less material basis than any ordinary charity."

What is the "movement" and "aim" that these two distinguished men refer to in such eloquent and forceful terms? It is the primary "aim" of an association known as the "Last Post" Imperial Naval and Military Contin-

gency Fund, which justifies its existence under the three following "aims and objects":—

The Primary Object—is to prevent the ignominy and ingratitude of the abandonment to a pauper's grave at death, of any man of whom it can be proved that he had served his country honourably, either in the Army, Navy or Auxiliary Forces.

For the past ten years, within the Province of Quebec, it has been made absolutely unnecessary for any friendless ex-service man to reach a pauper's grave, through the existence of this organization, and by legislation obtained and put into execution by this Fund, though the fact is not fully realized by the general public.

The Fund receives no Federal, Provincial, or Civic grants, and, has no salaried officials, nor does it pay any gratuities for work accomplished, and its work is unique throughout the whole of the British Empire.

This national obligation, of respectful interment of our defenders, the Association seeks to eventually place — where it rightly belongs—with the government.

The Secondary Object—provides the privilege of interment in its burial plots, of any honourably discharged deceased soldier or sailor for whom request may be made, —not through pecuniary, but for military and sentimental reasons—on condition that those applying, contribute to the funds of the Association and abide by the regulations governing the burial plots; thus the Fund renders a public service of which ample evidence of appreciation has already been given.

It will be noted in the last paragraph of the primary object, that it is desired to place this national obligation where it rightly belongs—with the Government—but it has been very truthfully said by someone, that "Governments and Corporations, have no "soul," and realizing the veracity of that remark from experience, it is desired to remove the stigma and ingratitude of "charity" by placing the financial responsibility there—where it rightly belongs—while retaining a measure of executive supervision and control.

Citizen, if you are worthy of that appellation, stop for a few moments and give this matter your consideration and support consider the inconsistency of our profession of gratitude to those of our fellow men who through loss of life, limb, and health have made the nation what it is.

Next to the Creator of the Universe—whose incarnation is reflected in the sacrifice of humanity on the altar of war—we owe all that is of any value or importance in this world to those who have participated on the battlefield in the world's purification, and yet should death overtake one of these in the hour of adversity, we abandon them, we don't know them, we cast them aside, we relegate them to an unknown pauper's grave, we deny them six feet of the soil they proffered their lives in defence of—and we call ourselves a **Christian nation**.

Where is the consistency of our national ethics? where is the national sentiment we boast of? Where is the national gratitude? Are we justified, as an idealistic nation? Is there one logical argument in support of such ingratitude? We most emphatically say **NO**, and nothing short of national financial parsimony is the cause, or else our philosophies and theories of national grandiloquence, are an empty hypocritical farce.

Then, citizen, where do we stand to-day on this subject? It is for you to study the subsequent explanatory articles, and by your expression of opinion, your influence with your fellow citizens, and your united support of your supplication with the Government to assist in bringing about the desired end.

Our immediate policy is to test the sincerity and consistency of the Government's pledge of loyalty to the rights of our Empire builders.

During the ten years of existence of that worthy association known as the "Last Post" Fund they have on six different occasions definitely approached the Federal and Provincial Governments by deputation, to take the subject up—officials of the very highest rank in the land, from the Prime Minister down, have committed themselves to the justice and worthiness of the cause, but as yet no definite action has been taken, and the matter remains one of "consideration."

Food Board Orders

By ERNEST B. ROBERTS, Canada Food Board, Ottawa.

Sixty Food Board Orders had been issued up to August 31st. Taking into consideration the large amount of work involved by the control of foods within so vast a Dominion, this is a very small number of restrictive or definitive orders. Up to April 30th last, over 360 orders had been issued by the British Food Controller, and in the first three months of this year as many as 130 were published by him. It is true that there is a very highly developed individual rationing system in force in Great Britain, making it necessary for everything to be regulated down to the string on the grocery parcel. In Canada, however, the enormous expense of rationing has been avoided by a firm policy of control "from the top." It is worth while noting—and it might be put as an answer to those who without knowledge ask for rationing in Canada—that it required nearly four months to ration Great Britain for sugar alone. Over 15,000,000 instruction cards had to be printed and issued. How many should we require for a rationing scheme in Canada? It has been calculated that the cost of individual rationing in the United States would involve, for bureaucratic expenses only, between \$40,000,000 and \$45,000,000. Canada, on the same footing, would probably need to spend \$8,000,000 to \$12,000,000.

Other means have, therefore, been wisely thought out to attain the end required by our food effort within the Dominion. It has, however, not been the simple task of waving a wand which some good people seem to fancy was the be all and end all of the Food Controller's office. The mere list of the main subjects to which the orders have reference is itself interesting. It includes, of course, all the food trades, such as bakers and confectioners, butchers, fish dealers of all kinds, grocers, millers, flour and feed dealers, fruit and vegetable dealers, canners, packers and produce merchants; and it runs to all the food-producing and food handling concerns from the farm to the kitchen, and even to the table, for restaurants are included in the activities of the Board.

"Order-in-Council No. 1460, creating the post of Food Controller and defining his duties and powers, is a document of wide scope, which a municipal student could profitably spend half an hour in studying. It is an example of the "much in little" of the good old Latin motto. Section 4 is especially broad in its terms, yet especially definite as to what it excludes. It runs: "All powers conferred and all duties imposed on the Food Controller by these orders or by any subsequent order of the Governor in Council may be exercised and performed by him either independently or in co-operation with any department of the Government of Canada or any Provincial Government, or with any Department or officer of the Government of Great Britain or of any Allied country vested with similar powers." That order was passed on June 16th, 1917, and food measures in the Dominion have gone a long way forward since that first step was taken. On February 11th of this year a change in the designation of the form of authority was made. The name of "Food Controller" was officially discontinued. It was not simply a concession to the popular dislike of anything approaching dictatorship. The adoption of the form "Canada Food Board" was a closer approach to a truer definition of its activities. So long as voluntarism was still the principle upon which food direction had to depend, it was a misnomer to speak of a "Controller." eYt there could be no

escaping the logical force of the first clause of the Order-in-Council which read: "The Board shall generally direct the production, conservation and distribution of food-stuffs in the interests of Canada and of the other British Dominions as well as the Allied nations."

By June 12th, 1918, when Order No. 46 was signed, empowering the Board to take over the direction of many new forms of the food trade, it was felt that food control in the sense necessary to attain that end in Canada had been secured. Practically all the food existent in Canada from that time has been subject to the order of the Food Board. The object aimed at is that this food within the Dominion should go in as direct a line as possible to the consumer; and for the allocation of that which is to go outside the Dominion, that it should go as directly as possible from the farmer-producer to the eastern seaboard with as few handlings as is consistent with efficiency.

So far as home-produced foods are concerned, the future aim of the Board will be towards the use of our own substitutes rather than those imported. To this end, millers are encouraged to grind rye, barley, buckwheat and oats in larger and larger quantities. The importation of rice and corn is being discouraged so far as it can be done without diminishing the supply of our genuine substitutes for wheat flour. No statement of what is being done to supply substitutes should overlook the all-important matter of fish. The Food Board aim is to raise the average consumption in Canada from, roughly, 32 pounds a head a year to 52 pounds. Several orders have been issued on this matter, but they have no feature outstanding which would interest a municipal officer not closely in touch with the fish trade, except, indeed, the general obligation on every citizen to encourage its use.

The most acute, and in some sense, the most difficult problem that has yet cropped up for the Food Board to solve is patent to all, that of the sugar supply. Order No. 60 has restricted the use of sugar to, roughly, 50 per cent. for all manufacturers, and the Board urges every person throughout the Dominion strictly to cut down the supply to 1½ pounds a person a month. Control of the sugar trade has been secured by the issue of certificates to manufacturers. These make a set allowance based upon the average monthly consumption of the applicant in 1917. It is illegal for anyone to supply sugar in bulk to manufacturers without such certificate. In addition, retailers must not sell to manufacturers without the production of a written permit, specially issued from the Canada Food Board. This is a still further step in the system of control now being exercised over our foods. It goes to show that, as it were unconsciously, we have in sugar at least come down to a rationing basis. Even three months ago such a step was not thought within the limits of possibility, but a dozen causes have made it compulsory. How much further it may be necessary to go in order to secure a fair distribution of the supplies of sugar cannot be guessed. So far as can be seen, existing machinery will supply all required. A little reflection on these matters will show with striking clarity that no other form of our war activities in Canada has ever given such ample scope for a study in the "government of the people by the people" as has our method of directing food production and food saving.

A NATIONAL DEBT—(Continued).

The cause of the Fund's inception was to meet a crying need, and prevent the repetition of a national disgrace in the abandonment at death of those who have faithfully served the nation and their fellow citizens, it has of necessity been maintained by public subscription and a system of financial co-operation; but it was specifically agreed at the beginning that it should be maintained as far removed as possible, from the category of "Public Charities" therefore, after Dominion wide propagation of the principle and appeal to the nation to assume its debt, the association has faithfully completed its object, and at least will leave an indelible testimony to its existence in Mount Royal, and Cote des Nieges cemeteries.—Montreal.

(This is the first of five articles on the same subject.)

WHAT WAR GARDENS HAVE PRODUCED.

In response to the call for increased production the people of the cities, towns and villages of Canada have vastly increased the garden acreage in this country. Last year it was estimated by the Agricultural Gazette that the value of the war gardens' produce amounted to somewhere between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000. This year Mr. Frederick Abraham, Hon. Chairman of the War Garden and Vacant Lot Section of the Canada Food Board, after a survey of Canada's war garden reports from coast to coast estimates that this year's production will be two or three times greater than last. On this basis the war gardens of Canada this year have produced anywhere from \$40,000,000 to \$90,000,000 worth of fruit and vegetables. Taking a conservative view of these figures, the war garden production in Canada for 1918 should be worth about \$50,000,000.

17th Annual Convention of Union of Canadian Municipalities, Victoria, B.C.

JULY 9th, 10th and 11th.

The Convention opened with the President, Mayor W. D. Hardie, of Lethbridge (Alberta), in the chair.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

MAYOR TODD (Victoria): Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: On behalf of the citizens of Victoria, it gives me a great deal of pleasure indeed to welcome all of you to our City. The City of Victoria is, with one exception, the farthest west city in the whole of Canada, it is the farthest west capital of the whole of Canada, and it is one of the older cities, that is of the older settlements of almost the whole of Canada. Of course, in Ontario and Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, there are cities which are much older than Victoria, but taken on an average Victoria is one of the older of the Canadian cities, and I might also say that Victoria, on the Pacific Coast, speaking in an international way is the oldest.

Now, Mr. Chairman, perhaps it would not be out of place if I explain to you just what Victoria and Vancouver Island and British Columbia are. We here often feel that our friends in the East do not know so much about us, and we feel it would be better generally if there was a better knowledge. We, on different occasions, make visits for different purposes to Ottawa, and there is a general tendency on the part of the western public to travel east, but the same tendency does not exist with the people of the Middle West. We notice that there is a disposition to go on trips to California instead of coming to the Pacific Coast, now these are things that we think should be rectified. So, Mr. Chairman, to substantiate these remarks a little I am going to give you a little idea of the West and country in which you now are. I might say generally that up to a few years ago, British Columbia was the largest Province in Canada. The expansion that took place a few years ago, placed Quebec in the first and British Columbia in the third position as to population, but notwithstanding this fact it is probably correct to say that here in British Columbia we have a larger area of land suitable for a dense population than in any other province in Canada, for example, we have no trouble in our harbors, in fact, you can go half way up the Coast to Alaska before you can get any of the harbors that are troubled with ice. That is a very great advantage, and we feel that with the settlement of British Columbia, the advantages the Pacific offers will be more and more felt, and there will be a greater disposition to ship freight not only to Europe and South America but elsewhere.

Vancouver Island is almost 300 miles in length, and at its widest width 90 miles. It is as large as Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. All of us are aware of the very great population of these States. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that here on Vancouver Island we have natural resources and climatic conditions, and everything to support a large population. We here at the present time have the largest coal fields, and the largest mines of the entire International Pacific Coast. We have enormous tracts of timber, much of it uncut, of the finest spruce, cedar and other woods. We also have a large amount of minerals. In that respect it is stated that fifty per cent of the iron ore of the entire Pacific Coast, is upon Vancouver Island and adjacent islands. Now, my authority is an American authority. I am quoting from an official report from the State of Washington. We had at least 50 per cent of the entire iron ore of the whole coast. We also have very great resources for fisheries. We have the largest whaling industries in the world. Our other resources in the way of climatic conditions, etc., are well known to all of you who come from the Prairie Provinces because every citizen there looks forward to the time when he can come to Vancouver Island to spend his days. A great many people make their fortunes and come here to spend the rest of their life.

On this Island we feel that Canada has two entrances: not only is there an entrance on the Pacific Coast, but also we would like to think that the two entrances are of equal importance.

There are some sections of British Columbia which are very highly developed, and that was one of the arguments which we were met with at Ottawa: you have to treat the whole country identically, but if on every occasion

when Government assistance is granted, we out here on the Pacific Coast are absolutely unable to take advantage of these offers because at the time when we are ready to take advantage of them, the assistance is taken away. Now, we claim that matters of this kind are of National importance, and that some assistance should be granted to the Pacific Coast. I might perhaps refer to other instances of the same character. There is the assistance that the National Government grants from time to time to agriculture. We think that it should be divided up. If there are districts which are very densely populated, we do not see why they should need all this assistance.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I merely throw these suggestions out as little hints, and really to bring out one point that we here on the Coast would like to feel from time to time, that when we go to the East or to Ottawa, with any matters of this sort, that we will have the strong support of the Union in anything we undertake, and in that connection I would like to say that we have on more than one occasion received very valuable assistance indeed from the Executive of the Union of Canadian Municipalities. We all here on the Pacific Coast know the charter that was applied for, by the Telephone Company and the activity of Mr. Lighthall in that connection and in the consolidation of the Railway Act, and I am glad to say that through his assistance, there was at least one amendment that was changed so that it would apply to the City of Victoria. I am not sure that even Mr. Lighthall saw all the details, but he saw the justice of what we were asking for and with the assistance of our members the change that we wished was made. Now there is a little instance, if the Union does not accomplish anything else for us. I think that one instance before us, paid double fold for any little expense we may have had to contribute to this organization. I am pleased to say that each of these Municipalities of Oak Bay, Saanich and Esquimalt, with ourselves take equal delight in entertaining you. Perhaps my address has departed from the usual addresses of welcome, but this is the first occasion when a representative gathering of this sort has met in Victoria. These remarks that I have made apply not only to Victoria and vicinity, but also to the mainland cities of the Pacific Coast.

Hon. Wilfred Gariepy Replied to Mayor Todd's Address of Welcome.

The President stated he had received letter regretting their inability to attend the Convention from the following: Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec; Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician; Mr. T. Bradshaw, Finance Commissioner, Toronto; Mr. S. Baker, City Clerk, London.

The President and Secretary appointed the following Committee on Resolutions:

Mayor Hardie, Hon. Secretary, W. D. Lighthall, Dep. Secretary, E. T. Sampson, Mayor H. Fisher (Ottawa); Mayor Grey (New Westminster); Mayor Hawkins (Halifax); Dr. Bedard (Quebec); Mayor Costello (Calgary); Mr. Johnston (Halifax); Mayor Cater (Brandon); Commissioner Mackie (Moose Jaw).

Presidential Address.

The President, Mayor Hardie, of Lethbridge, then delivered his Presidential address:—

"The Union of Canadian Municipalities" has never, in my estimation, been the great force and influence in our land that it should be. This for many reasons, but principally two.

1. The various Municipalities have not seen to it that they had representation.
2. Those in charge of it (especially the President) have not been as energetic as they should have been in impressing upon the various municipalities the great importance of such an organization. I include myself among the delinquents.

It has been argued that the great distance from Victoria to Halifax has militated against getting large meetings. This is true to a certain extent, but it is not an insuperable barrier. Indeed, it is not necessary that a delegation should go from all municipalities, but it is of prime importance that the larger ones should send at least one delegate to even the farthest away point at which the Annual Convention may be held and the contact of the smaller municipi-

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

palities might, at periods, participate, the Convention should move about from Province to Province almost in regular cycles. In this way the smaller municipalities' representatives with the delegations that would appear from the larger municipalities, would guarantee the success of the Convention each year.

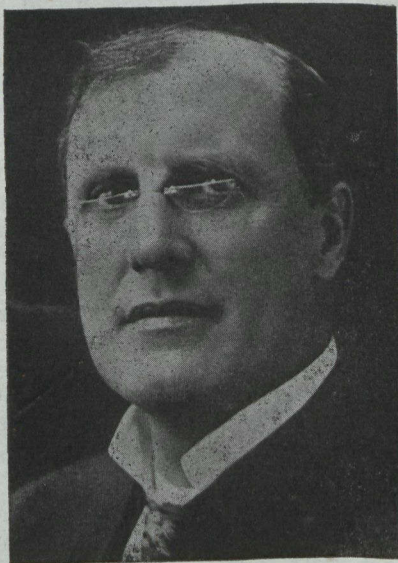
Each Province in this way would be stimulated to make the Convention held within its boundaries, a complete success. Also the smaller Municipalities in this way would aid the Union by way of funds to take care of municipal interest in Ottawa and at the various Provincial Capitals, which is neglected at the present time for lack of funds.

I am fully convinced if the great importance of the convention were properly and urgently laid before these municipal bodies that they would take a hearty interest and be represented. Also it is very important to have the Minister of each Provincial Government who has charge of Municipal affairs, present at our annual meetings.

The functions of this body are two in number:

1. To promote social intercourse and exchange of opinions between the men who for the time being are guiding the various municipalities of our wonderful Canada.
2. To publicly discuss the various problems that confront those who guide municipal affairs.

The proper and intelligent government of Municipalities is of far greater importance to the building up of Canada than either the Provincial or Federal Government. Those bodies are closer to the people and reflect more truly than any other government the calibre of the citizens which make up the population of a great state. As the



**MAYOR HARDIE, of Lethbridge,
President of Convention.**

Municipalities are so must be, through reflection, the whole body politic of our country. If they are good, clean and virile so will be Provincial and Federal Governments. I am often told that the talent that engages itself in local government is never of a high order because there is not sufficient scope to develop or attain the prominence that men of talent desire. If this is at all true, which I doubt, it is the fault of the Municipalities or the Communities in not paying sufficient respect and honor to those they elect. There is only too much truth in this last phase, because immediately the electors have put the men of their choice into office, they turn round and abuse their servants in very unmeasured language. They seem to think this a duty and necessary to keep their servants up to the mark. If we will encourage earnest, capable men and overlook the minor mistakes, there will be no question about drawing the very best men in any community into civic life. They are vitally interested. There is, however, one viewpoint which I must present with all the force I know how. It is the lack of continuity in offices and the consequent lack of direct responsibility in municipal government. We have patterned our form of Civic Government after that in effect in Great Britain, but we have not followed it to its logical conclusion by having well posted and capable permanent servants. Indeed I doubt if we are ripe or ever will be for the old country system of training permanent employees.

In the old country men grow up from boys into these jobs. The more capable ones taking the lead and attaining the higher position.

Again there is in the old country an army of highly trained experts on financial matters, provided by Imperial authorities, who guide and direct the financing of the Municipalities. We are trying to imitate this in some of our Provinces through Public Utility Boards, but unfortunately so far as I have been able to discern, the members are selected for political services rendered. If these Boards were composed of men of known ability for municipal management and financing, and were given the necessary and proper authority, then they would be trusted by the various municipalities and would be of incalculable value to the state and the municipalities.

The foregoing may be regarded as a departure from the real object of my address and in a measure that is true. I have, however, introduced it here to show how this body, if it were exercising its proper influence could accomplish untold good by impressing on the public mind and through it on the members of our Legislature, the very great necessity of legislation along lines that would help to build up municipalities instead of making laws that hang mill stones on the necks of those guiding civic affairs. With complete Home Rule and the assistance of a highly trained Board of Public Utilities in each Province, I am fully convinced that municipalities would soon find themselves in a better position, which would be a great credit to the Provincial Government that made it possible. Haste would necessarily be made slowly, so that reform would be laid on a solid foundation. But progress is slow enough at the best and the stimulating influence of a body like this, if it were fulfilling its functions, is necessary to make progress even slowly, possible.

Another point I wish to make is that no individual or section should impress itself too strongly on this organization. All must take a reasonable part and be encouraged strongly to do so in order that the interest will be general and almost consuming. Great earnestness is one of the most important principles of success in any line of endeavor. I want it to be distinctly understood that what I have said is no reflection on any persons or groups. Whatever criticism I have offered is on the system or systems that have been or are in vogue.

I am fully aware that destructive criticism is one of the easiest things in this world. My position of Mayor of the City of Lethbridge, for the past nearly six years, would have brought this home to me very vividly even if I were devoid of imagination, and it has not been my object, but rather constructive criticism has been my aim. In constructive criticism it is necessary to point out the weak places and the omissions in order that constructive work may replace the weaknesses that are apparent. I have taken a very wide view of the object of this convention and have invited delegates from all the Provincial Governments, from all the sister municipal governments and from Boards of Public Utilities. In this way I hoped to create an interest that has been lacking and I fondly express the opinion that it is the will of this convention that these invited guests will have the full liberty of the floor of the Convention to discuss any subject or phase of a subject which they may think will be of interest to this Country and Municipal Government in particular.

Financial Report.

The financial report of the assistant secretary, Mr. G. S. Wilson, was read:

Montreal, July 2nd., 1918.

To the President, Officers and Members
of the Union of Canadian Municipalities.
Dear Sirs:—

Herewith I beg to submit my financial report, with Statements in detail, and vouchers of receipts and expenditures for the year ending December 31st, 1917. Also is attached the auditors report.

Statement of Receipts:

Cash balance on hand January 1st.....	\$ 56.94
Bank interest	2.24
Fees from Municipalities	5,231.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,290.18

Expenditures	\$4,802.82
Cash balance	487.36
	<hr/>
	\$5,290.18

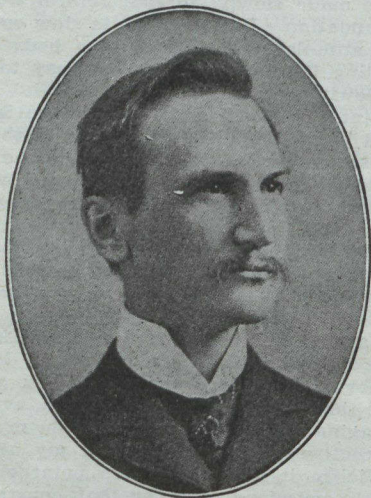
H. J. ROSS, L.I.A., Auditor. G. S. WILSON, Assistant Secretary.

This report was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

Hon. Secretary's Report.

It seems almost incredible that this should be our fifth War Convention. It is needless to speak of the general facts of the War itself, but in so far as it has affected us Canadian Municipalities, we have had grave and considerable problems thrust upon us, and the end is not yet. We should, first of all, be thankful that our problems have never been those of the ancient City of Ypres, nor of Peronne, ruined, destroyed and captured, nor like those of Lille, with her inhabitants largely carried into slavery; nor like those of Brussels and Antwerp, robbed of immense sums, and ground under the heel of the oppressor; but that our brave men—with others of the civilized nations—have kept such horrors, indignities and losses far from us all these years. Still, we have had much to think about in loss of population, stagnation of industries, partial paralysis of our financing, and above all the necessity of co-operating with every effort vital to the needs of the Empire and of civilization. Our



W. D. Lighthall, K.C., Hon. Sec., U.C.M.

Mayors have turned recruiting agents on a large scale, many of our municipal leaders have donned khaki and some of them have paid the penalty of courage on the field of battle. When the first news of the War fell upon us at our Convention in August, 1914, at Sherbrooke, we did not know where we were nor where we would be. The first problem that confronted us was how to deal with the universal panic on the stock markets. In 1915 we were obliged to postpone the kind invitation of the City of Victoria, and even to forego holding a Convention of any kind, and could only substitute for it an unsatisfactory General Executive Meeting at Niagara Falls. In 1916, we had grown to see our way more clearly, and took up satisfactorily many current question of finance and organization at the Montreal Convention. In 1917, we had begun to get on our feet, and the London Convention was, on the whole, a good one, and produced several effective measures, of which perhaps the principal was our resolution pledging all the municipal machinery of the country to support the Government in all its measures, which it might consider that our assistance would be of value. Perhaps the best element in our action was the feeling in Government circles that we were with them, and loyally behind

them, in their strenuous labors to support our soldiers at the front and prosecute the War. This year we ought to be able to take vigorous action on preparation for After-the-War problems. These preparations ought emphatically to be made now, and not left to drift. They should include a plan of financing, a programme of town planning and a definite outline of action, founded resolutely on the determination that we must enter upon a new career of energetic progress and enterprise. This unquestionably should be the spirit of Canada after the War. A large place must be given to the Returned Soldier question in its widest aspects, and also to selected immigration. The cities' and towns' must take a more businesslike and systematic interest in all that pertains to the development of their tributary regions. Agricultural banks and agricultural institutes, and the rendering of farm life attractive, should all be elements in the programme. May I be permitted to again urge the appointment by the Dominion Government of a Cost of Living Tribunal, similar to the Dominion Railway Board, which is every day more necessary if the citizen is to cope with the heavy burdens that will rest upon him arising out of the cost of the War.

The spirit of our last Convention was worthy of the immense and vital interests which are in the hands of our municipal governors and will, I am sure, be carried on into this. We owe our apologies, or rather explanations, to the City of Victoria for having postponed from year to year, from 1914 to the present, the acceptance of its hospitable invitation, but the difficulties in organizing a Convention at one end or the other of Canada during the War can only be appreciated by the Central Office of the Union, and for this reason we have been continually hoping for the end of the struggle; we feel glad that we have at last seen our way clear to stand once more within this beautiful city and to give ourselves up to its hospitalities and all its charms, as well as to meet the special present problems of the West face to face. There is one element of our work which is sometimes overlooked, which we consider very important; namely, the annual and other Executive Meetings of the Union in Ottawa during the Parliamentary Session. These always bring us in close contact with questions in which legislation touches closely the interest, either of the whole of the municipalities, or of several of them singly. We are enabled there to meet with the Dominion Cabinet and the most active Members of Parliament representing all parts of Canada, and to bring to their attention the views and interests of places as widely scattered as the Dominion. One of the most important resolutions of the last Convention, as stated above, was our resolution offering the Government the general support of all the municipal machinery of Canada, for War purposes. This was taken advantage of by the Dominion Government in several ways, of which we might specify as an example, that the Fish Committee of the Canada Food Board was put into communication with active municipal men everywhere, with highly satisfactory results. We also circularized the municipal authorities in a manner which we think considerably lightened the immense task of the Canada Registration Board. One of the most important matters of the year at Ottawa has been the continued consolidation of the Railway Act. This is of the utmost importance to all our

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

municipalities. Many years ago we had obtained, after bitter fights before Parliament against all kinds of franchise companies and all kinds of charter sharks, the adoption of certain "standard clauses" which are inserted in every new charter of electric light and telephone companies, and which are carefully worded to impose the necessity of municipal consent before the erection of poles or wires in, under over, or along any highway, square or public place, and the consent must be imposed by by-law and be upon the terms and conditions stated in the by-law.

We have had the greatest trouble with the Senate during the past Session over the question, a strong group of Senators having insisted on striking out the expression of municipal consent by by-law. If this deletion were permitted it would bring us back to the days of which we once had experience, when any kind of a nod or a wink by anybody around the City Hall, or even a silence, was interpreted as a sufficient consent. Our municipal delegations during the year, have, however, revived their old fighting spirit, and by appeals to the Government and the House of Commons have so far prevented the will of these Senators from prevailing, and the House of Commons seems disposed, as a whole, to stand by us and by popular rights in the matter. Similar action was attempted by the same Senators in changing the definition of "Lands" in the Act to include in it "easements", the effect of which would be very troublesome and injurious in expropriations in cities' and towns', and to some extent in villages. The action of the Executive in combatively opposing these changes ought to be now supported by an emphatic resolution of the present convention, so that when the Railway Act comes up again next Session we may be able to renew the fight with the support of such an unqualified backing, and if during the year, the cities' and towns' and Provincial Unions are called upon by telegram or letter from the Union Executive for special action, they will understand how serious the call is. Another leading item connected with the Railway Act is the matter of the Toronto and Niagara Power Company, regarding which the City of Toronto has found it necessary to ask for a special clause in the Railway Act, and as the principle concerns all municipalities, it is to be hoped unanimous support will be equally accorded that great and public-spirited municipality. It might also be noted that during the month of June of this year the new Municipal Commission of Montreal has vigorously taken up the numerous breaches by the utility companies' of the laws and by-laws and municipal rights relating to the cutting up and encumbering of the streets, and bids fair to soon evolve law and order out of company anarchy in the matter of pavements. The central Union has always derived much comfort from the constant loyalty of the Provincial Unions. They are ready to support every measure of municipal protection and progress, and one of the pleasant elements of this Western Meeting is the opportunity to meet and confer with the officers of these Unions and of the Departments of Municipal Affairs. The constant preaching of the Union that each Province ought to have a Department of Municipal Affairs has borne fruit in the Province of Quebec, which has at last added to such a Department, with a Minister at its head and it has

begun to produce beneficial results in the finances of the Quebec municipalities. We hope that the suspended promise of Ontario in the same direction may ripen without further delay. During the year the Union was represented at most of the Conventions of the principal Unions, as well as of the National Municipal League of the United States and of the League of Minnesota Municipalities, and has kept in touch with all international municipal associations in so far as permitted by the War. We are glad to feel that the present Convention meets in conjunction with the City Improvement League of Canada, and to have with us that eminent authority on Town Planning, Mr. Thomas Adams, of the Commission of Conservation of Canada. We feel that Mr. Adams and his work will be valued in our West in the full measure of his knowledge and fame, and we hope that his views will be everywhere sought after and leave their beneficial mark in our institutions. Our organ, the Canadian Municipal Journal, will make a separate report. I scarcely need to testify of the good work it has done during the year under the able editorship of Mr. Frederick Wright. The finances of the Union have been somewhat slender, but in War times one must be satisfied with a little less money than usual, as well as a little less food.

On the whole we ought to feel satisfied that the municipal situation is as good as it is, and that the ability of our municipal authorities and the good sense of our citizens have been able to meet all necessary demands. Whatever we do, we must keep the fires of our patriotism burning in their full heat and brightness, and our hearts and energies turned up to the heroic spirit of our unconquerable army in the field,—the glory and the hope of Canada.

The Parliamentary Report, which appears on page 293, was then presented.

This closed the morning session.

AFTERNOON SESSION.**Address by Premier of British Columbia.**

The Premier of British Columbia was introduced by President Hardie:

HON. JOHN OLIVER: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Delegates:—I feel very highly honored at being asked to formally declare this Convention open. One remark was made to me on coming into this room, was that the Provincial Legislature have the habit of hanging a milestone around the neck of the Municipalities. I have a good deal of sympathy with that statement because I have had the experience of serving a number of years on a Municipal Council, both as Alderman and Reeve, and I have often wondered what was the reason of your conventions, and now I take it that it was largely because of this hampering of your movements and because of the imperfections of the Legislature. You have certainly my heartiest sympathy and my best wishes, and possibly it might not be amiss to indicate some of the ways in which I think improvements could be made. Legislators have made a mistake in hampering municipal action and I think when they are groping around for improvements, a tendency exists to put something into their laws that they think is necessary to prevent Municipal Councils making a mistake. I think that better results could be obtained by the enactment of what I would say skeleton legislation, which would say that the Municipality may do certain things, and leave it to the intelligence of each Municipality itself to work out the details so as to fit its special circumstances. I think that a great deal of improvement might be made in the establishing of a Municipal Advisory Council Board and a legal expert adviser and provincial municipal administrator. The Provincial administration would then be at the call of the Municipalities at a moment's notice, with expert advice on all problems which arise. All the troubles of the Province would be concentrated in that one officer, and that executive officer would be the most competent man to advise the Government in

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

connection with any difficulty which might arise from time to time. In taking this view we have a double matter to fix. When you come to consider means for the purpose of collecting taxes which are assessed against property you will find that after a tax sale has been held at a large expense the whole thing has been taken into court. That experience is common to all Municipalities. In my mind, there is a simple and easy way of getting away from this. If you make your legislation so that when property is in arrears of taxes that this property passes to the Municipality, and you get away from all the expense for advertising tax sales, etc., and you get away from taking it into Court, and all these difficulties which attach to a tax sale.

I want to assure you that I firmly believe that the best, most economical and most efficient administration can be brought about by the decentralization of power. By giving each Municipality power to handle its own affairs. I do not believe for a moment that all the intellectual wealth of the people is concentrated in the Parliament. I believe that you have men in your Councils just as competent to enact legislation, as well as any man in the House of Commons. We are trying to work out our problems along democratic lines. That the people must govern and learn to govern themselves, and getting the people to do their duty by the State. I speak for the members of the Government as well. We are desirous of helping you to this end.

MAYOR HAWKINS, Halifax: We are favored with having the Premier with us this afternoon, and appreciate the broad-minded view he has taken on civic matters. The fact is that we were prepared to go down within the precincts of the Provincial building. The Premier has taken the broad-minded view that there should be a certain amount of home rule in regard to civic matters. He has touched upon the matter of taxation, and of collecting civic taxes. I am pleased to see the Premier of the Province open this Convention to-day, and I say we have heard the Hon. Mr. Oliver with extreme pleasure.

President of B. C. Municipalities.

REEVE BRIDGEMAN, President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, was then introduced.

Gentlemen:—It is with more than ordinary pleasure that, as President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, I extend to you on their behalf a most hearty welcome to British Columbia on this annual convention, now being held in our capital city, and also through you, to the Dominion Civic Improvement League.

It has been our earnest wish for many years that you, the parent municipal organization in Canada, should visit us. We realize the time and expense that you will be put to, but are sure that seeing the western outposts of our Dominion will well repay you, and hope that this visit will be the forerunner of others, as we have more of interest for you to see than could possibly be covered during the period of one convention. I know that the City of Victoria will entertain you royally, as their hospitality is well known throughout Canada, and feel sure that all matters that properly come before this convention will receive every consideration, and that all interested in municipal affairs throughout the Dominion will derive both benefit and pleasure by attending.

I am also glad that your presence here gives me the opportunity of thanking you publicly, on behalf of the Provincial Union, for the splendid assistance your Union rendered at Ottawa two years ago in protecting our interests when the charter of the Western Canada Telephone was before the House.

There is one question of local interest I would like to bring forward, viz., that of representation on your Executive for our Union. I hope you will not think that we in British Columbia are asking too much in seeking to have three representatives from this Province. Our idea is that the President for the time being should be a member, and that at our annual convention two other members would be appointed to act. I believe it would be our purpose to select two men, members of the Federal House, who had had municipal experience, so that you could have the active co-operation during the sitting of the legislature of at least two men who would be thoroughly conversant with municipal conditions in British Columbia.

There are a few matters I would like to touch upon, concerning special administration throughout Canada, need

for which has arisen through the war, on which some action might well be taken.

One is the expense the country is put to at present in connection with the conservation of food. Both the Federal and Provincial Governments appear to have many persons employed in preparing and distributing literature regarding this grave question, printing and paper alone costing many thousands. To save national expense, is it not possible that municipal officials already employed should handle the food situation, under direct authority from Ottawa, without its having to go through so many channels?

Further it appears to me that too much is left to the voluntary system in the conservation of food. When commodities are offered for sale, it is human nature that if people have the money they are going to buy them. In view of the national crisis could we not petition Ottawa that they should prohibit the sale of certain commodities, which in their opinion are deemed necessary for the prosecution of the war, providing they have accommodation for storage until transportation can be effected.

Another matter which appeals to us very strongly is the treatment of interned alien enemies. At our convention held in Vernon in 1916, after visiting the internment camp there, our Union passed a strong resolution which was forwarded to Ottawa asking that the interned men should be employed on some national work; for instance, on national highways or food production, that they should receive a small allowance, and the value of the balance of their work to go either to assist returned soldiers or to be used by the Government in some national work. It appeared to us then, and I believe our views are unchanged, that the treatment of these interned aliens is both costly and unprofitable, as they are very well fed, do nothing, and a large number of men are required to guard them. These guards could be equally well employed in watching the aliens doing some useful work.

Further, there are numbers of alien enemies, German and Austrian, who I know are not interned, employed in this Province, and I believe in other Provinces of our Dominion, drawing equal pay with our own citizens. They are exempt from military duty, and their only penalty is to report at stated intervals to the police. Some of these men are actually working under Munition Board Contracts. Such a condition, gentlemen, is unfair in the extreme. Even if the removal of these privileges should work some hardship on any well-intentioned alien enemies, we are at war, and it is not unreasonable that they should feel the result of the guilt of their countries. Could not these men, as suggested before for those already interned, be employed for the benefit of the country?

Then, again, we find many positions filled by aliens, not enemies, who can barely speak our language, but who to-day are drawing good wages, and are exempt under the Military Service Act through not being citizens of this country. This condition is not logical. Why should our own people have to fight and die for the betterment of humanity at large, while within our land others are exempt, and risk nothing to help this great object, which benefits them as much as it does us. Our Province is hard hit in this respect, because such a magnificent proportion of our men have gone overseas of whom we are very proud, and in their name, and the name of all who have gone from Canada, let us do everything in our power to help bring about a better state of affairs. Would it not be possible to press for legislation to be enacted whereby those of alien birth, who are enjoying all the privileges and protection of our country, should at least pay some special tax for the privilege of being exempted?

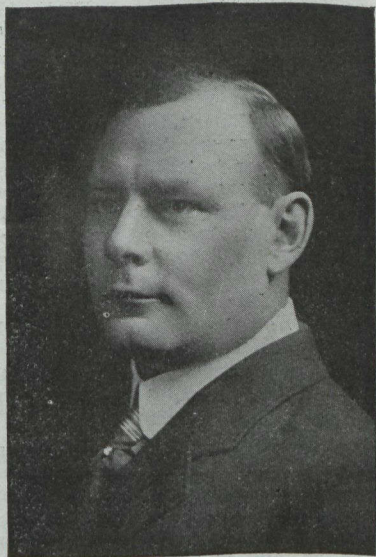
I believe in National Service in its entirety. It has become necessary to conscript life, and such being the case, there can be no honest reason why every man in the country, other than alien enemies, should not bear the burden equally. Profiteering must go; excess profits made through war conditions are nothing more or less than blood money. Everything that the country has should be put in the melting pot. No amount of difficulties, real or alleged, should be allowed to interfere with the attainment of the one great object, namely, the winning of the war. Surely if Canada is good enough for people to make their home in, the burden of protecting that home should be shared by all alike, thus making good our boast, "Equal rights for all, and special privilege for none."

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).**HOW IS THE WEST AFFECTED BY THE WAR.**

MAYOR COSTELLO (Calgary): When one considers how the world war has fundamentally altered the whole economic and social fabric of our time, it is only natural that this influence should be profoundly felt in the sphere of municipal government. It is my privilege to deal briefly with this phase of the problem with particular reference to Western Canada. In so doing I shall confine my attention principally to the cities and towns of my own province of Alberta. While each province has its own special problems and peculiar conditions, I think that you will agree that in the main what is true of Alberta is true of the three prairie provinces and to a less extent also of British Columbia. Doubtless, the discussion will bring out special features relating to these other provinces.

When the Storm of War Broke.

In the opinion of many the West was saved from severe economic distress, if not disaster, by the outbreak of the war in 1914. For seven years the country had enjoyed unprecedented prosperity, the source of which was undoubtedly the double stream of wealth brought in by a multitude of immigrants, and supplied in copious amounts by the British investor to finance various private and public undertakings. But productivity had not increased sufficiently to warrant a continuance of this state of affairs, and the cities which shared in the mad race and to a certain extent were guilty of stimulating development beyond legitimate needs had begun to mark time and wait for the rural development to catch up. The real estate boom had spent itself and the reaction had begun. Unemployment was rife and altogether things were in a bad way, when the storm of war broke upon us.



Dr. Costello, Mayor of Calgary.

How the War Saved the Situation.

While it is undoubtedly true that the war in an economic sense saved the day for both individuals and municipalities, still it remains also true that the most of our financial difficulties have for their tap root the pre-war conditions just enumerated, and to a very large extent the day of reckoning has been merely postponed and threatens when it comes to be just so much more dire.

The Financial Problem.

Undoubtedly our most serious problem is that of uncollected back taxes. These amount in my own city of Calgary to \$4,006,232 up to December 31st, 1917; in Edmonton, for the same period, to \$6,157,075, and a similar condition exists in many Western municipalities. The situation is most anomalous in this respect that though the past three years have been years of unparalleled prosperity throughout the whole of Canada, there has been but slight, if any, increase in the proportion of the tax levy collected each year. This is due in part to the moratorium, but in very large measure to the huge areas of vacant land on which little or no taxes are being paid. The steady decrease in the assessment values has been accompanied by a steady rise in the mill rate.

Just how far these taxation difficulties are due to the war it is very difficult to say. But it appears probable that had the war not occurred these difficulties would have been well on the way to solution ere now.

One thing which the war has demonstrated is the need of a more scientific method of taxation. Western Canada before the war had adopted the principle of single tax to a considerable extent. With the slump in land values, the tendency at present is to revert to taxing improved property more heavily.

Municipalities Find it Difficult to Borrow.

The coming of the war put an end to municipal borrowing in Great Britain. When one considers the extent to which Canadian municipalities had been dependent on the British money market the marvel is that we were able to carry on at all. But for two years we were able to turn to the United States for help though we had to pay higher interest rates. When the U. S. entered the war a little over a year ago, that avenue also was closed to us. We had at last to depend upon ourselves and Canadian municipal securities have been absorbed by the Canadian money market in a steadily increasing degree which is another evidence of the general prosperity of the country and its ability to ride out future financial storms.

But here again the municipalities feel the pinch. Both the Dominion and Provincial Governments have been looking around for new sources of revenue. They take the pickings and restrict the borrowing powers of the municipalities. Patriotic Fund, Red Cross and various war funds still further deplete the source of all municipal revenue, the people's pockets.

Compensatory Features.

But these conditions are not entirely discouraging. Municipalities have had to put their houses in order. Retrenchment has been the order of the day and better business methods are being everywhere introduced. The result is that we have probably better municipal administration in Western Canada than we ever had before as well as a keener interest on the part of our citizens in municipal government.

This latter feature is a great gain. We can never expect efficient municipal government in the face of an apathetic electorate.

The War and Municipal Ownership.

Undoubtedly the war has put municipal ownership to a very severe test. The end is not yet, but the whole municipal ownership is standing the test well.

In the early days of the war it found itself facing decreased revenues shrinkage in population and increased cost in wages and materials. In the last two years most Western cities have increased considerably in population due largely, no doubt, to the fresh influx of settlers from the United States.

In Calgary the electric light connections now number 15,337 as compared with 12,317 in 1913, and 14,149 in 1915, water connections number 13,500 compared with 9,066 in 1913, and 11,030 in 1915. The street railway revenue for 1917, and this in spite of very slight increase in rates, was \$582,553.97, as compared with \$767,891.14 in 1913, and \$561,683.18 in 1915. But operating costs in all utilities are rising more rapidly than the revenues.

I think it can be confidently stated that municipal ownership has in the main been a source of financial strength to our western cities. There has been no case as yet of a Western city abandoning the principle of municipal ownership.

The War and Agriculture.

The war has brought home to us in the West the extent to which agriculture is our basic industry and the folly of urban development outstripping rural development. It has also brought the farmer and the city man into closer contact and into a better understanding of each other. This means a great deal in the building up of the West.

The war has also compelled the city dweller to become a producer and food produced in city gardens is proving no small factor in solving the food scarcity.

Municipal Activities Enlarged by the War.

If the war continues, it is altogether likely that the municipalities will have to enlarge their activities and still further assist the federal authorities in the matter of food regulation and distribution as well as in other special war activities.

To meet these problems arising from the war in the municipal sphere, will call for the best energies of the nation. But it is not the province of this paper to deal with solution, but merely to indicate the problem.

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

WAR CONDITIONS IN THE EAST.

DR. A. C. HAWKINS (Mayor of Halifax): The outbreak of hostilities found the Maritime Provinces enjoying a full measure of prosperity. This was particularly so in my own province of Nova Scotia. Here the coal mines were working to full capacity, the fisheries were yielding an abundant harvest, the various industries, with possibly a few exceptions, were all doing well. The farmers and apple growers rejoiced in phenomenal crops and the city of Halifax, the capital of the province, owing to its great shipping facilities and the fact that the Dominion Government was spending at the rate of a million dollars a year on one enterprise, the Ocean Terminals, was looked upon as the busiest and perhaps the most prosperous city for its size in Canada.

When war was declared and the cry to retrench went forth, the Maritime Provinces kept on the even tenor of their way. The industrial concerns did not reduce the number of their employees. Housekeepers did not discharge their servants. Shopkeepers did not dispose of their help. "Business as usual," was the slogan. People did not stop buying. In fact, they were told to buy, to stimulate business and the merchants made greater use of printer's ink than ever before. The first Christmas season after the declaration of war was looked upon as the busiest and best in the history of the lower provinces.

Recruiting came and with it the mobilization of men, meaning the distribution of much money. Thousands of men were mobilized at St. John, Halifax and Charlottetown and those cities profited directly by the vast sums spent by the men, while the farmer realized a ready market and big prices for all he could furnish.

Enlistments made vacancies in the various trades and callings. In the Island of Cape Breton thousands of coal miners rallied to the colors. Steel and other industrial workers followed. The ports of Halifax and St. John suddenly became alive with the world's shipping. Then came the demand for labor. The miner and the industrial worker must be replaced. The great ocean-going ships must be loaded. Wages began to soar and even to this day there is no let up. The stevedores of Halifax and St. John practically get what they ask. Let me cite an incident which came under my notice a few days before leaving Halifax. One hundred Jamaicans who were returning home from France, where they had been engaged in reconstruction work, were asked to give one day's labor at discharging a sugar steamer. They worked from seven in the morning until five in the evening, and the day being Sunday they received double pay, which is the custom. Each man earned for the one day \$11.40. This will give some idea of the pay secured by stevedores who work week in and week out, sometimes night and day and on Sundays. Men are making big money to-day and they are spending it, and in this manner trade is kept booming. Indeed, it may be said that from the very day war was declared the maritime provinces began to prosper as never before. All lines of business have felt the result. The manufacturing towns, particularly New Glasgow and Sydney, turned their plants into munition works and wages soared. To-day the scarcity of men is the one drawback, both in the manufacturing, mining and farming industries and even in the fishing business. But money is plentiful.

The war has also lent a stimulus to the shipbuilding industry. Two fine steel steamers have already been turned out from the New Glasgow yards, while wooden vessels of various sizes are being constructed in various parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and it is now announced that both St. John and Halifax are to have modern steel shipbuilding plants in the very near future. This will further add to the prosperity of the east.

The explosion of December 6, in which so many persons were killed or injured and much valuable property destroyed in the city of Halifax, will not be without its compensations, thanks to a generous people. The relief committee will have the spending of no less a sum than twenty millions of dollars, the greater portion of which will go to reconstructing the devastated district. This is an enormous sum of money to add to the vast sums now being disbursed in that city, and ensures the outlook of the city for the next ten years.

Summoning up the situation, I am safe in saying that, from a monetary standpoint, the Maritime Province have greatly benefited by the war. Our people, as a rule, are prosperous. Even after the war is ended we look for a

continuance of good times. Owing to our nearness to Europe we confidently look for a great demand for those things which we can provide. Our forests are inexhaustible. Our factories are prepared to furnish structural steel and all that goes into the reconstruction of a city, a railway, a mine or a factory. We have millions of tons of coal as yet undisturbed, and we have a race of people whose faces are always turned toward the sun. Therefore we look to the future with all confidence and at the same time are prepared to do our part in the restoration of the ruined cities of Europe and the general uplift of the human race.

CITY CLERK E. T. SAMPSON (Outremont):—It is my opinion that the time has now come when "ways and means" of broadening the basis of municipal taxation should be considered. The single tax method of assessing only on land has proved a failure in those municipalities wherever it has been adopted. Many proprietors of the more remote vacant lots are considering abandoning same for the taxes due upon them, municipalities are found with increased expenditure (principally higher interest charges) and depleted tax revenues. Many of the municipalities will have to write off in varying proportions, some of their assets in the way of sundry debtors for taxes. Why not change the basis of Municipal Taxation to **occupation jointly with ownership**, and assess an "Annual" not "Actual" value. It is admittedly more scientific and the revenue therefrom is better assured. An Increment Tax could also be considered, being a tax on profits by sales, this would do much to restrain land speculation. This is a great question and well worthy of thorough discussion.

MR. W. D. LIDTHALL (Hon. Secretary):—I ought to say something of how the larger cities are affected by the war. The City of Montreal is a very large manufacturing centre, the principal in Canada, and the manufacturers there have simply shifted from their regular work, to munition and Government, and we have, as you have here, considerable ship building. In the Port of Montreal no such quantities of goods have left the port at any previous time. We are experiencing the results of a splendid port equipment. Our elevator system has been enlarged and improved until it is sufficient for our requirements. Our carriers and piers are so good that the result has been that we are the best war freight port in America, and the quickest. There is a sort of division for war work between New York and Montreal by agreement of the different governments. New York in general sends over the passenger traffic. One would scarcely expect it, but Montreal send over a very much greater amount of freight than New York does. Montreal is a great war freight port at the present time, and the reason is that in Montreal we are able to load a ship twice as fast as they are in New York. The lesson is that it is a great advantage to have the best possible port equipment—and I recommend that lesson to Vancouver and Victoria.

I might go into other questions, as to how we are affected in revenue, in taxation, and in matters connected with out-of-town lots such as you in the West have been affected by. We are not quite so badly affected. On the whole the city of Montreal is pretty prosperous, and expects to remain so, and is growing at almost as great a rate as ever.

MR. DAVIS (New South Wales):—It is quite by accident that I happened to be present to-day. I came to the hotel and found that you are having this Convention, and being interested in municipal matters, and general public works, road making, the generation of power, etc., I thought possibly that I might get a few wrinkles if I was present.

Speaking of how the war affects us in Australia generally, I think we have the same tale to tell as some of the gentlemen who spoke this afternoon. The prosperity is unquestionable. The rate of wages has increased. The price of commodities has also increased, so that one is keeping pace with the other. The difficulties we have met with are in two directions. First of all we have been in the habit of spending a good deal of loaned money, and that has gradually been withdrawn owing to the exigencies of the war, the funds have to go to help the war, so that that source of money has been cut off entirely in Australia, but that has not affected the community at large to such a degree as before the war. The price of wool and the price of butter, which are the principal articles we export with the exception of grain. Meat has gone up by leaps and bounds. We have been greatly handicapped by the want of ships, and the result has been that we have very large accumulations of wheat which cannot be got

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away. The question is "How we shall be affected after the War?" when we are left to our normal resources, and we have to face the fact of getting the men back again to their ordinary life. I think that this is a very serious problem. There is no doubt the resources will rise to the occasion. We are living in abnormal times. The war has restricted our operations. The time will come when we shall have to live not on war work, that will be a problem which will be very much more serious than what we have to face now.

MAYOR HARDIE:—I think there is no question in the minds of any one as to how the war is affecting some of us; some are growing rich, others are doing well, but the question in my mind is not just how we are getting on now, but are we not spending money faster than we are making it. Can we extend our credit, or will our credit be extended long enough. Will we be up against a condition which will be almost impossible. I was told that one hundred million dollars would be our annual burden for military pensions and compensation. We, situated in Alberta, work on charters, we can do so and so and no more. We can levy a certain tax. We are not allowed to levy any other. When we get these kind of privileges we have to adhere to them. I think at the present time with our great municipalities, such as Calgary, and Vancouver and Victoria, I think it is necessary that the men who are connected with those affairs should be allowed to exercise their judgment. In my imagination there would be no doubt as to the result of the cities gaining thereby.

MR. HAMILTON (Vancouver):—Now as to the question of the larger cities and how the war affects them, this is very interesting and profitable all round. The Mayor of Halifax said that in the eastern cities the problem was very much the same, but not quite to such an extent. Twelve months prior to the war our shipping was nearly double, the shipping of Montreal went up and ours went down after the declaration of war. That situation was brought about first of all because we were on the wrong side of the Continent. Notwithstanding this fact, British Columbia has gone through it with great courage and compares favourably with Eastern Canada. Another thing so far as the Mayor of Halifax and Mr. Lighthall touch these two matters, that is something that we asked for hearty assistance in, and I believe we will have it. Now you know Eastern Canada needs Western Canada as much as Western Canada needs Eastern. We have had a little help in the past in connection with our ports. Mr. Lighthall and His Worship the Mayor from Halifax knows that the same applies to Prince Rupert and Victoria.

I have an appeal to make to you, Gentlemen. You will find us ready to work together in this matter, and when any one from British Columbia goes to Ottawa to ask for anything, support it with open hands.

How Are the Larger Cities Affected by the War.

MAYOR CATER (Brandon):—I feel sure that, had the Legislators of the different Provinces exercised the same discretion ten years' ago there would be very few problems in Western Canada. I feel that it is because they have been lax in that respect, by buying things we did not need, and could not pay for until years to come, is the reason for our difficulties in the West at the present time of the boom previous to the war, values rose very culty we have is the question of the unpaid taxes. At the time of the boom previous to the war, values raised very rapidly, and now the property that the owner was quite willing to have highly assessed, he now feels that he cannot pay the taxes on the increased rates, and as a result a large amount of outside property is reverting back to the owners. It seems to me we are perhaps open for discussion of remedies, although I might suggest that one piece of legislation which would remedy this to some extent is this, that taxes should not be allowed to get in arrear for more than one year. I think legislation had been too wide in that respect until the owner had come to the conclusion that it was better to let the property go than to pay the taxes. There are several institutions at the present time who are profiting very largely by the war. Why should not the municipalities derive some revenue from these institutions as well as the Dominion Government. The Dominion Government did take a great deal of profit from these. I feel that there ought to be some way by which the municipalities could share in these profits to help them at this time. Nobody needs it more than the municipalities. Another thing, it seems to me that the railways who

are profiting, perhaps they would agree with me, it seems to me that they ought to make some contribution in these times.

Another matter that should be discussed would be the question of an income tax to the municipality. There are a good many people in every municipality who contribute nothing to the municipality. As a general rule it has been a hard tax to collect. That is the way in the Prairie Provinces at least. After all, the municipality is the basis of the Government. We are the Government of the people; we are closest to the people, and I feel that at a convention such as this we ought to discuss the different methods, in other words, we as municipal men, have got to bring our expenses closer to our revenue. For every one hundred thousand dollars we levy we only collect from 60 to 70 per cent. The profiteer should contribute to the municipality as well as to the Provincial Treasury. The railways should also contribute to the municipal as well as to the Dominion treasury, and in that way help us to overcome some of the difficulties we are experiencing.

MAYOR CATER then moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the rate of interest prevailing at the present time on Municipal securities imposes a heavy burden on the ratepayers of the municipalities, who are compelled to appeal to the financial market for funds, and that the tendency is that still heavier rates will be imposed,

WHEREAS the Dominion Government has been able to secure from the people of Canada at reasonable interest and flotation charges, the vast sums required to carry on the business of the Dominion and active participation in the prosecution of the war,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED—That this Convention is of the opinion that if deemed practicable by the Dominion Government, there should be one borrowing body in the Dominion of Canada for Federal, Provincial, and Municipal purposes till after the war, and that Body to be the Dominion Government. They in turn to make advances to the other governing bodies (above referred to) at cost, for duly authorized capital expenditures and refunding of maturing issues, upon satisfactory securities being provided by the Body seeking accommodation.—Referred to Executive.

COMMISSIONER YORATH (Saskatoon):—Practically every city throughout the Dominion at the present time has a great amount of arrears of taxes, in fact, the situation is one which is really critical. The condition throughout Canada to-day is very threatening. There has recently been an issue placed on the market of one of our large municipalities a ten-year issue bearing interest at 7 per cent, and when a request was made to a Government body it was told by that Government body that that security was not sufficiently secure. Now it is no good making ourselves believe that everything is all right. The situation requires the most drastic attention and will also require a commission of experts. We have been told by some speakers this afternoon that after the war is over there will probably be considerable depression. Now, if we cannot under the conditions which exist to-day, collect our taxes how can we when the war is over, and the depression which everybody anticipates, comes.

Now, we realize and know perfectly well when we are discussing municipal problems outside of the Government, there is a general feeling that Municipal Government has broken down, and broken down badly. Business men say that the most unbusinesslike branch of business is the way the municipality is conducted. **What business would be a success if that business selected a committee of men with no experience at all in that particular kind of business to conduct the work.** There is no one of you going to say that that business would be a success. Yet our municipalities are conducted by men who have other business of their own to look after, and they have not the time to carry out their municipal duties, as they should be

HON. WILFRID GAREPY, K.C. (Edmonton):—In rising to remark to this important gathering, noticing among the audience at least one member of the British Columbia Government, I deem it a very pleasant duty to convey on behalf of the Province of Alberta, a most sincere wish to the Province of British Columbia.

The organization that we have is rapidly disappearing, so that sooner or later, owing to the number of men that we will lose, owing to the heavy liability which will be incurred, we will have to start almost all over again as a nation, as Provinces, as Municipalities in so far as the financial aspect is concerned. More money is flowing in this

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part and that part, but this is not normal. You must realize that money is getting harder and harder to get. It will be so until after the war. That being the case, it is necessary for us to think of what will have to be done to bridge over the difficulty. Let me remind you, Mr. Chairman, that as a nation, although we may have the same troubles there is a very hopeful sign in the future that we are more united than ever. An opinion that I express personally, and on my own responsibility, is that owing to new conditions, property as property will lose some of its importance. Not so many years ago in Eastern Canada every man had to own property in order to be anything in the community. I think to-day the man who toils, the man who uses his brain to do something in the world is the man. One of the great troubles that we have to face, is that from now on we will have to secure our best men and best women for municipal functions. Why should it not be the privilege appreciated by all to serve as Mayor and as Aldermen. I have said women as well as men. In some parts of Canada there is a discussion going on as to whether equal franchise should be granted. Nobody has any time to waste on this problem. Rightly or wrongly, we have to admit that there cannot be any difference of success. Women as well as men must be elected.

Much has been said along the line of economy. The avoidance of waste and extravagance is essential. Owing to the enormous expenditure in connection with the war, and possibly owing to the increase of the debt of this country, taxation will become enormous, and I think it will be well for us to keep down what is called indirect taxation.

The banking system of this war has stood the test. There is enough wealth throughout the length and breadth of Canada to carry us along. Take the War Loan; it is true that there was an incentive for every one of us to go down in his pocket and give as much as he could. But should not there be some way found whereby the money could be used for the benefit of Municipalities, the Provincial Government and cities. Speaking of bond issues, the expenses connected with them are too large. Middlemen stand at every turn. You have to pay somebody in your own town or city, and you have no choice in the matter. There is only one road to follow; that expense you must meet, otherwise you cannot get the money. It seems to me there is something that requires investigation and remedy. Mr. Lighthall spoke of banks. In the States they have a large number of small banks. In Canada we should have something similar. My conviction is that something has to be done, and the sooner we do it the better for ourselves.

After the war we will have to face problems connected with trade, with transportation, with labor, etc. We have too many commissions working from the centre of the country. I think that the smaller units already constituted should be utilized to bring to the Dominion Government all the information connected with the matters that I am speaking of. When we were discussing trade, free trade would be the better for the Western farmer. Protection would be the request of the Eastern manufacturers. Why should we not try and develop a trade basis for Canada. This can be done if stock is taken, if we know what resources are in the different Municipalities; there are too many wheels within wheels, and in my opinion the time is come when it is the duty of the Dominion Parliament to avail itself of the help of the Municipalities. Now, we in towns and cities in order to meet the requirements of the case, we have to make sure that we are working under proper laws. Some opinions have been expressed as to the necessity of Home Rule. I am very glad to see that these opinions were conflicted. Any person placed in my position will know that when it comes to giving Home Rule to cities, you cannot expect any number to agree on the kind that will be satisfactory. At our last session, ladies and gentlemen, it was stated that the arrears of taxes had to be disposed of. I want to mention that the City of Victoria appears to me to have found the best solution that I know of. It was stated on behalf of that city that on payment of one-tenth of the arrears of taxes, they would give an extension for the balance in nine years. There are two conditions. Firstly: 10 years' extension. Secondly: Payment of current taxes from year to year. Calgary followed in the footsteps of this scheme, and came to the Legislature. We have yet to deal with the case of another city. The plan of Calgary and the plan of Victoria suit me; they are along the same lines. We are giving away for

Red Cross work and for patriotic purposes. Money is being taken from our cities, but if there is any trouble in connection with the arrears of taxes, why should not the country itself come to the rescue of the Municipality and give a guarantee of some kind. If we go on with the present process of forcing the sale of real estate for arrears of taxes the only result will be, in the majority of cases, to depreciate values to an unlimited extent. I would make a fresh start, and it seems to me that this body of practical men should not adjourn this afternoon until they arrive at some views on the lines I suggest.

In conclusion, the cities of the respective Provinces should make up their mind that the time has arrived when, whether you call it Home Rule or not, we should get away from individual charters. **One charter should be sufficient. There is a certain undertaking on the part of all the cities to work for the common good.**

With a general act for each Province we would have to have some expert in each city. We should endeavour to accord a provision to Municipal employees; we should encourage men to make a separate study of Municipal life. I think I know public opinion, and let me tell you that I do not believe that the people at the present time want elections. We have to be content with the next best thing, and the next best thing is to have a certain number of employees who will love their work. Let us have men; let us have women. Let these employees meet in convention once a year, and compare their views.

Convention Banquet.

At the Banquet on Tuesday evening, Mayor Gale, of Vancouver, addressed the Union as follows:—

Closer Relations Between the Western and Eastern Municipalities.

MAYOR GALE (Vancouver):—"Unity and Co-operation" was a doctrine that could be well preached from one end of the continent to the other, from the rock-bound city of Quebec, to beautiful Vancouver—we are Canadians. No matter what Municipal trials and tribulations might be, there was one thing upon which every man and woman in the room could take a united stand—the winning of the war. "I am a Canadian, and I stand for a closer co-operation between the East and the West" said His Worship: Many parts of Canada, it has to be admitted differed on points, but with unity of action and co-operation of spirit, Canada will go far. Unless the great businessmen of Canada reach out for the development of her great potentialities there can be little or nothing to hand down to the generations of Canadians as yet unborn. The one great blot on the commercial life of the Dominion is politics. If Canada falls short of unity it is on account of the many political footballs converted from the great issues of the day as a means to the selfish ends of those who lack the greater vision. It has now become necessary that the problem of each Province should be regarded more in the light of interest to the whole of Canada. I am glad to tell you that the British Columbia Government is making a bounty on the manufacture of iron and steel in this Province—this is a great precedent, pointing the way to other sections of the Dominion towards the development of Canada's natural wealth. Here is a start worthy of emulation and a means towards the reversal of the trade balance of the Dominion. If, then, there was a feeling that there should be a closer relationship between East and West that spirit exists in the West.

MAYOR BOUCHARD, M.L.A., of St. Hyacinthe, P.Q., spoke for the East as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen—When I have been asked to represent the views of the older provinces on the question of the common benefit our cities and the country at large would derive from having closer relations between the eastern and the western municipalities my first impression was one of surprise. I could not see at first glance how it came that our wide-awake secretary had requested the young mayor of a small city to be the spokesman of the section of Canada in which we find our largest, if not our most ambitious, municipalities. There were sure to be many clever men amongst the delegates of the eastern cities, men fully qualified not only by their intimate knowledge of the English language but also by their deep knowledge of the science of municipal economics and by their clear vision of the national needs to address such an important assembly as this, that I never had thought that this honor and at the same time this heavy task would fall on the shoulders of the delegate of a French-Canadian city of only some twelve thousand people.

Our civic union has always shown itself in favour of

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

the bonne entente between the people of different races and creeds and it may have been to give a practical demonstration of this noble sentiment that the French delegate of a Quebec city has been offered to speak in the name of the municipalities of the East.

I boast of being of the most genuine French-Canadian descent. My father was a shoemaker and my grandfather a water-carrier, two trades that have been considered almost as national. This is the reason why I have been on the water-waggon long before there was any question of prohibition in British Columbia; my first joy-rides were gained in selling water at the "six sous la tonne" or five cents the barrel.

These happy, but somewhat slow, rides I enjoyed some thirty-two years ago in the streets of the same city of which I now happen to be the chief magistrate. This fact may be cited as a peculiar instance of the accuracy of the old saying: "Slow but sure."

My grandfather has disappeared; so has his trade of peddling water by the barrel. But his grandson, being a true French-Canadian, is a traditionalist, and he is still selling water to his fellow-citizens as head of one of the finest municipal water-works plant of the country. As I wanted to be consistent with my family mission, I had to find a position in which I could have something to say in the quenching of the public thirst. My fellow-citizens found my motive so imperative that they twice elected me by acclamation, mayor, in which capacity, as I have said before, having the supreme authority over the water-works department I can consider myself as the great municipal cup-bearer.

I am thus fulfilling my mission; I have proven a good traditionalist. I say good, because to my mind there is a great difference between a good traditionalist and a simple one.

A good traditionalist is a man that has kept from the past, only what has been found consistent with modern thought; the simple traditionalist will, in his blind love of past uses, completely set aside the findings of new speculation.

The good traditionalist is, in fact, the progressive; the simple traditionalist is nothing but the reactionary. If my grandfather had not been a traditionalist of the right kind he would have left the town swearing that the modern pumping systems were designed only to take from the mouth of the poor water-carrier his daily bread. He would have receded before progress and gone back toward the wilderness where the diabolical steam pumps would not have disturbed him in his primitive work, consisting in the perpetual filling of his tub-cart at the river and monotonous carting of it to the vat standing on the back porch of his customer's house. And his grandson would not have been here to-night to tell you about the national necessity of having closer relations between the eastern and western municipalities. In my efforts to speak a tongue which is far from being familiar to me, I show that mentality of the good traditionalist. Of the past I keep the thoughts that are from French tradition but, thank God, thoughts that have followed the evolution of modern times are not stained by narrow provincialism or bigoted nationalism, these corruptions of patriotism, these two curses of the nations of which every cheap politician has made use, to promote his selfish interests at the cost of public peace and welfare. For the present, I take the form of expressing them in the language that every Canadian should know, and will eventually know in some years, as its teaching has been recently made a part of the program of all our Quebec schools. For the future I will try to grasp the spirit that will tend to make this Dominion worthy of the two great races whose sturdy sons have conquered from wilderness, brought to civilization and kept to democracy a land large and rich enough to be a self-sustaining empire.

I am glad to have seen my city chosen to deliver the message of the eastern municipalities to the western ones. I say glad, because the events of the recent years have shown to me that we could not hope to have a truly prosperous Canada unless the same spirit with which the founders and builders of St.-Hyacinthe have impregnated our civic life would spread itself over all the municipalities of the Dominion.

Our city is to some extent a minute replica of our great country. It is a half-manufacturing town and a half-agricultural centre; we have, in small, the conflicting economic interests of the east and the west. We have

also a very restricted number of Protestant and English-speaking citizens; the same religious and lingual cleavages exist, but on a much vaster proportion and in opposite direction in our country.

How have we succeeded in solving the problems in which those conflicting interests were concerned? We succeeded in solving them to the satisfaction of the great majority of the French Catholic population and of the English Protestant minority by adhering to the golden rule: Do unto others as you would be done unto you. We remembered that our neighbour has a right, as we have in this free country, to his own opinions on religious matters as long as these opinions were not a restriction to our own liberty. We remembered that everybody had a right to speak his mother tongue as we ourselves, and that there was no law to prevent anybody from receiving a piece of bread, even if he could not ask for it in French. We also remembered that he who wants to be understood, by both English and French-speaking Canadians had only to learn both languages as there was and there should be no law in a free country to force a man to speak a particular language if he does not want to. If a man is satisfied that he has enough of the English language that is his business; if a man thinks that he needs nothing but the French language in Quebec that is also his business. For my part I am convinced that the English language is a necessity on this continent on which there are more than one hundred millions of English-speaking people, but that is a matter of individual opinion and it does not necessarily follow that I would be right in blaming any one of those one hundred million English people for not going into the trouble of learning the French language if his personal calling is not to put him some day in close contact with the three million French-speaking population of this continent or if he has no literary taste. Both languages are official, but the speaking of either the one or the other is not compulsory and in our city we do not quarrel with those that have not the opportunity, even the wish of having received a bi-lingual education. We leave these petty quarrels to those who find in them personal advantages rather than public interest, satisfaction of their individual pride rather than national glory, food for their stomach rather than for their brains.

We, the French-Canadians and Catholics, a minority in this country have always asked to be treated as regards our civil or political rights on the same level with the English and the Protestants. We do not want to suffer any "capitis diminutio" or restriction of prerogatives because of our religious beliefs or of our different language. But, sirs, in St. Hyacinthe, the city of true French mentality, we do not confine ourselves in asking the other to be governed by those principles when they have to deal with us, but we have them enshrined in our hearts and at every page of our municipal history for these last thirty years are related events that show that we have ourselves always been cheerfully guided by them. This French city has always been animated by the sentiment in the minds of the leaders of public opinion. This sentiment is nobler than one of tolerance; it is good-will towards those that do not believe and do not speak as we do.

Tolerance is a right idea, but it is as dry as the season that approves of it; good-will is a sentiment proceeding the heart and warm enough to generate that sympathy we need so badly in new countries where people of different races and different customs have congregated to build new nations. In St. Hyacinthe this good-will has been the cause of the fact that if a stranger would go over the municipal records of the last thirty years at any meeting he would find the name of one or two Protestants representing as aldermen a city in which ninety-five per cent. of the electors are French-Catholics. He would even see the report of an election in which the mayor elected by one of the largest majorities ever given a candidate was a Protestant. What we are demanding for ourselves we are cheerfully granting to others.

And how did we come to find out that the Protestant and the English were no worse than ourselves? It is by the close relations we had with them. Close relations are the best breeder of good understanding, good-will and sympathy. By them quarrels that seem to have the character of eternity are settled in no time; barriers of insuperable appearance between groups of men are thrown down, and facts that have been grossly distorted are brought back to their proper shape.

There is nothing like the actual meeting of men to set things to their proper level. I have had this experience

CONVENTION OF U. C. M.—(Continued).

myself quite often. There is no public men in the Province of Quebec that has been more grossly abused than myself in the last fifteen years, by the politico-clerical press. My great crime to the eyes of the pious editors of the ultra-religious papers has been to suggest reforms in our public education concerning which, to their minds, the only privilege should be left to the layman, that of paying its costs, but even not before having been properly blind-folded. I have been so roughly handled under their caustic pen that very often after having read one of their editorials I found myself repeating unconsciously the classical quotation of Virgil's Aeneid: "Tantaene animis caelestibus irae" or the verse of the French poet, Boileau:

"Tant de fiel, entre-t-il dans l'ame des devots!"

Can so much gall enter the bosom of the pious! The bitterness of this war against a lone enemy has had a peculiar effect. Every time the electoral necessities had brought me to a new parish of Quebec to address a meeting I could see the farmers starting to look at my feet, then rising their eyes slowly up to at least one foot over my head to lower them a few moments after to the proper level of my face when the most demonstrative of them would say with amazement: *y est bien p'tit, how small he is.* And I have had this very same experience the first time I met the principal of one of our largest seminary..

The number of poisoned arrows that had been thrown at me had put the people, who never had met me, under the impression that I was some kind of a giant. Closer relations had brought me back to my proper physical height and had also most probably corrected in the minds of my hearers some misapprehensions with which they had been inspired against my educational activity.

Close relations eradicate the roots of misunderstanding. Misunderstanding is generally caused by misinformatons and misinformations cannot withstand the test of close relations. By close relations we have not only solved in our city the religious and the racial questions, but we have also found ways to settle the disagreement between the producing farmer and the consuming laborer. The farmer always wants to sell at the highest price, the consumer to buy at the lowest. The conflict was settled as far as our municipal activity was concerned in drafting our by-laws so that the price would be neither low nor high but fair to both parties, insuring an honest return to the producer and a decent basketful to the consumer for his hard-earned five-dollar bill.

The municipal men of the East know that there are very big and momentous problems to be solved in which there are strong conflicts of opinion between the producing West and the manufacturing East. But they think that there is no one of them that could not be solved to the satisfaction of both sections if they were approached in that spirit of good-will of which I have spoken as the great leveller of social and economic asperities. This good-will can only be brought about by having closer relations between the people of both ends of the country.

And by what more convenient bodies can they get together than the municipal councils. In most local governments are found representatives of every class, every creed, every trade and every calling of life in constant and close contact with their constituents. There is no elected assembly more representative of the electors and nobody would dare contradict that, if all the municipal men would assemble in one parliament, no electoral scheme of any description could give us a better proportion of representation. Every class would be fairly represented according to its numerical and national importance.

It has been written that the French revolution, the dawn of the world social liberty, was brought about by the municipalities and it is true. The French people in the hour when the royal troops could have dissolved any parliament sympathetic to their cause turned their eyes and not in vain towards their municipal assemblies. And the fall of the Bastille event, which the French people will commemorate Sunday next for the one hundred and twenty-ninth time, it was by their heroic municipal guards that it was accomplished.

If the French municipalities were powerful enough to overthrow the stronghold of so many centuries of tyranny why should not the united Canadian municipalities succeed in stamping out from this country the host of religious, racial and economic prejudices that are handicapping the welfare of Canada.

After the war the period of reconstruction will claim all our efforts and no one should be lost to keep on the strife we had before 1914 and that was not even silenced by the clashing of the arms of our boys from the East and the West fighting side by side for the defence of Britain, France and democracy; of those brave boys who seem to have responded to the commands of the hero of Scotland, of whom Thomas Carlyle said: "A Heroic Wallace, quartered on the scaffold, cannot hinder that his Scotland become, one day, a part of England; but he does hinder that it become, on tyrannous, unfair terms, a part of it; commands still, as with a god's voice, from his old Valhalla and Temple of the Brave, that there be a just and real union as of brother and brother, not a false and merely semblant one as of slave and master." Let us follow their example. Let us get close together to find out how we can best serve the particular interests of each of our own municipality and at the same time instill into our constituents that same spirit of loved Canadianism that will make of our country a peaceful rival of our great American ally.

Kipling has written:

East is East and West is West,
And never the twain shall meet,

but before him it had been said that the American Republic would not last because of the conflicting interests of the producing Southern States and the manufacturing Northern ones. Duruy, in his General History of the World, writes that most of the Foreign Powers, at least their governing classes, had never believed in the stability of the American Union. Time has shown that these prophesies were preposterous. The petty claim of geographical or racial character have been stifled under the blanket of general interest and each State is today more prosperous than it would have been if the voice of the separatists had been heeded to and if each section had been left the easy prey of the manufacturing trusts or of the plantation kings.

It is the same with the Canadian provinces, but, sirs, our nation has been convulsed in its undermost strata by the spasmodic perturbation of the war and, as the dregs always try to rise to the surface of the wine when the cup has been tossed violently by an awkward hand, as the scum tries to force its way to the surface of the clear water of the lake when it is swollen by the raging storm so the reactionary elements of every class are trying to use the unsteadiness of laws, the uneasiness of spirits and the perplexity of minds caused by this great war to promote the revival of their old social or political doctrines that had been buried by an enlightened and cogent democracy.

We are now in the throes of a fearful war. Our sons, our brothers, our friends are on the other side fighting the battles of right against might. There is not one of us that has not a part of his heart over there. And we know that it is for preserving the sanctity of our homes from the desecration of the Hun that they have hastily crossed the ocean. To show that we are in union of sentiments with them we often say: Hands across the sea.

Yes, hands across the sea for the liberation of self-sacrificed Belgium; hands across the sea for the evacuation of the part of my dear old France whose soil has been profaned by the foot of the Prussian; hands across the sea for the safety of valliant Great Britain; hands across the sea for the crushing of German autocracy. And for helping the cause of the Allies by making our country more and more powerful, we, the municipal men of the East, do say to the municipal men of the West: For the elimination of religious and racial strife, for the triumph of progress over reaction, for national peace and plenty, Hands Across the Land!

The balance of the report will appear in the November issue.

PENALTIES FOR BREAKING FOOD LAWS.

"Any person violating any provision or any order or regulation of the Canada Food Board now or hereafter made in pursuance of the power invested upon it, is guilty of an offence, and shall be liable upon summary conviction before a Police Magistrate or a Justice of the Peace to a penalty not exceeding \$1,000, and not less than \$100.00; or to imprisonment not exceeding three months, or to both fine and imprisonment." By Order-in-Council P. C. (1542), of June 22nd, 1918. The enforcement of the orders and regulations of the Canada Food Board depends principally upon the patriotic co-operation of the municipal authorities.

The Forum

Edited by HOWARD S. ROSS, K.C.

SINGLE TAX.

We would simply take for the community what belongs to the community—the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community; leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual.—Henry George.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE.

The movement to have the Single Tax idea voted on in California is going with a swing. As California voters have the right to say what their laws shall be through the initiative and referendum, there is a strong probability that the taxing of the products of labor will be ended in that State before many years. The advocates of the taxation of land values make the following claims:—

What Single Tax Will Do for California

- Open 20,000,000 idle acres, mines and oil wells, to immediate use.
- Increase the quantity and lower the price of food.
- Break up the big idle estates and end land monopoly.
- Bring millions of settlers to build homes and produce supplies—on land that can be paid for by crops grown on it.
- Halt the alarming increase of tenant farming; abolish city slums.
- End high interest, usury, mortgage foreclosing and land speculation.
- Lower rent and make it easy for everybody to have his own home without a mortgage.
- Untax labor products, crops, stock, furniture, autos, homes, buildings and all useful business.
- Tax the idle acres and the big down-town values—throw the tax burden on privilege, monopoly, and speculation.
- Invite factories and new business enterprises; discourage idleness and reward useful work.
- Give the returning soldier the choice of a city job at good wages or a farm close to town.
- Speed up production to feed and equip the Allies and win the war!
- Make California first in Patriotism, Population and Prosperity!
- Develop the State's inexhaustible idle resources by the People and for the People.

SYDNEY PLAN OF TAXATION.

The following interesting letter to the Editor of "The Forum," from the Town Clerk of Sydney, Australia, (which now has a population of about seven hundred thousand) should prove interesting and suggestive:—

"I have been requested by the Lord Mayor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th June last, wherein you seek information regarding the 'Sydney' plan of taxation. In reply I have pleasure in supplying you with the following particulars:—

First of all, the so-called "Sydney" plan of municipal taxation is known in this city under its usual designation, i.e., the unimproved capital value system of rating. That system involves the simple method of taxing ratepayers upon one direct basis of valuation, viz., the value of the land without any regard whatever to the value of any improvement thereon.

I may say that the unimproved capital value system was inaugurated in this city in 1909. At that time, however, only a portion of the rate revenue was derived from the system, the balance coming from the form of rating originally in operation (viz., the assessed annual value or fair rental value. Seven years later, i.e., in 1916—this latter basis was discarded by the Council, and the Council decided to adopt the U.C.V. method for the raising of the whole of its taxation revenue.

Under the dual system, rates were struck as follows:—

(a) On the assessed annual value up to 2s. in the pound on nine-tenths of the gross annual value; (b) on the U.C.V. up to 3d. in the pound. The rating at the time the rental value system was dropped were: A.A.V. 1s 9d; U.C.V. 1½d; total, 1s 10½d in the pound. In the Act of Parliament which authorized the Council to levy the whole of its rate

on the land values system, it was stipulated that the new rate must not produce a revenue in excess of the amount which the Council had received the preceding year from the dual method, which was roughly half a million pounds sterling. This condition was met by the striking of a rate of 4d in the pound. The assessment for the current year is a little over £31,100,000.

It might be explained that prior to 1909 the U.C.V. rate was received by the State Government, and was known as the Land Tax; a fixed charge or rate of one penny in the pound was the recognized levy thereunder. As the result of certain representations made to the Government at that time, this source of revenue was transferred to the Council.

In the matter of the properties exempt from municipal rating, the following are those included in the Act:—

(a) Land forming portion of the University and affiliated Colleges within the University grounds: "provided such land is used for the purposes of education, or for purposes incidental thereto or connected therewith, and is not under lease from such University or any such College."

(b) Land vested in the Railway Commissioners, in the Sydney Harbor Trust Commissioners, and in the Board of Water Supply and Sewerage.

(c) Land vested in trustees for purposes of public recreation, health, or enjoyment; hospitals, charitable asylums; buildings used solely for public worship; and schools operating under the Public Instruction Act.

(d) The property of the Federal Government, comprising post and telegraph offices, the Customs house, the Commonwealth Bank, the establishments of the Military and Naval Departments, etc.

It may be added that, in addition to keeping a record of the unimproved capital values, one is also kept of the individual rentals paid throughout the city.

With regard to the taxation of Public Service Corporations, there are four bodies of a civil character in this city which are self-administered, viz.:—The Government Railways and Tramways, the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, the Sydney Harbor Trust, and the Fire Brigades Board. As mentioned above, the first three of these are exempt from municipal taxation; the fire stations are, however, ratable. The electric light and power supply of this city is in the hands of the Council. Up to the end of 1917 the amount of capital expended on the undertaking was nearly £2,855,000.

I am forwarding by this mail, for your information, a copy of my last annual report, i.e., on the operations of the Council during the year ended 31st December last. The assessment and associated subjects are dealt with on pp. 380 to 400, and electric supply matters on pp. 224 to 293.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS H. NESBITT,

Town Clerk.

A recent issue of The Standard, a single tax monthly, published in Australia, refers to the "Sydney Plan" as follows:—

CITY RATING.

"The position in the City of Sydney requires watching. We are now in the third year of the land values system. Unable to touch the principle the reactionary element in the Council, aided by friends outside, set up a demand for a reduction in the rate. As there was a good surplus in the first year under the land values rating a concession was made, and the rate reduced a ½d. in the pound. No such demand would have been made with the old method of rating. The result was that in the second year the Council failed to pay its way. Its credit balance was largely reduced. Although the mistake was evident, the Council has risked another year with the low rate. A huge deficit is estimated by the end of the year. It would appear that the so-called business men in the City Council are striving to mess up the city finances. The aldermen go up for reelection in December. We should, therefore, pay some attention to the elections. It is high time to shift a few more of them."

THE FORUM.—(Continued.)**PROGRESSIVE NEW JERSEY.**

Chapter 53, Laws 1918, authorizes municipalities to buy and sell food and fuel for the period of the war and six months thereafter.

The Secretary of the State Department of Agriculture has issued a statement urging the municipalities to take advantage of it. He said in part: "The bill was made an administrative measure because the road between producers and consumers of food should be made as short and inexpensive as possible. The provision requiring daily publicity respecting purchases and prices paid at points of production or supply will be a great help in securing success. While the municipality would supply distributors at cost it would also sell at retail to all those who were willing to pay cash and carry their purchases home."

A TRAVELLER IN WAR TIME.

With an Essay on The American Contribution and the Democratic Idea, by Winston Churchill, author of "The Inside of the Cup," etc., is published by The Macmillan Company, of Toronto and New York. The book, which is illustrated, sells for \$1.25 net.

Mr. Churchill, who has recently returned from abroad, tells the story of France and England in war time.

Numerous privileges were extended to the distinguished American novelist on his trip, so he has much to say that is very interesting as to conditions in the warring countries.

He writes of well known battlefields which he visited, of distinguished people with whom he conversed and of the spirit and temper of the times. The essay of nearly one hundred pages will be to many not the least interesting part of this volume.

The author thinks Britain has learned more from this war than any other nation, and will probably gain more by that knowledge. "But the necessity for national organization socializes the nation capable of it; or, to put the matter more truly, if the socializing process had anticipated the war—as it had in Great Britain—the ability to complete it under stress is the test of a democratic nation; and hence the test of democracy, since the socializing process becomes international. Britain has stood the test, even from the old-fashioned militaristic point of view, since it is apparent that no democracy can wage a sustained great war unless it is socialized." Mr. Churchill is evidently a close student of economics, as a few quotations from his brilliant essay will show.

"In America we succeeded in eliminating hereditary power, in obtaining a large measure of political liberty, only to see the rise of an economic power, and the consequent loss of economic liberty. An individualistic economic philosophy worked admirably while there was ample land for the pioneer; equality of opportunity to satisfy the individual initiative of the enterprising. But what is known as industrialism brought in its train fear and favor, privilege and poverty; slums, disease, and municipal vice, fostered a too rapid immigration, established in America a tenant system alien to our tradition. Today, less than two-thirds of our farmers own their land, while vast numbers of our working men and women possess nothing but the labor of their hands. . . . And it is coming to be recognized that material prosperity, up to a certain point, is the foundation of mental and spiritual welfare: clean and comfortable surroundings, beauty, rational amusements, opportunity for a rational satisfaction of the human instincts are essential to contentment and progress."

Speaking of the plan of national finance outlined in the program of the British Labor Party, he says:—

The older school denounces the program as Utopian. On the other hand, economists of the modern school who have been consulted have declared it practical. It is certain that before the war began it would not have been thought possible to raise the billions which in four years have been expended on sheer destruction; and one of our saddest reflections today must be of regret that a small portion of these billions which have gone to waste could not have been expended for the very purposes outlined—education, public health, the advancement of science and art, public buildings, roads and parks, and the proper housing of populations!" He pleads for more and more education

and thinks the British Labor Party rightly lays stress on education, on "freedom of mental opportunity," and says the vast sums it proposes to spend for this purpose are justified.

He says: "For freedom without education is a myth. By degrees men and women are making ready to take their places in an emulative rather than a materialistically competitive order. But the experimental aspect of this system should always be borne in mind, with the fact that its introduction and progress, like that of other elements in the democratic program, must be gradual, though always proceeding along sound lines. For we have arrived at that stage of enlightenment when we realize that the only mundane perfection lies in progress rather than achievement. The millennium is always a lap ahead. There would be no satisfaction in overtaking it, for then we should have nothing more to do, nothing more to work for."

It is quite evident the author is that rare combination—a novelist and publicist. We hope President Wilson will find a place for him in his Cabinet. Such minds are needed in public life.

NOVEL SYSTEM FOR GARBAGE.

Miami, Fla., has added municipal ownership and care of garbage cans to the gathering and disposal by incineration of the material. Electric trucks are used to collect the garbage. The city provides, at no direct cost to the householder, metal cans of standard size. These have been purchased at wholesale by the city at a cost of \$2.00 per can. The population is 28,000 and the service provides for the collection of one full can a week from each family. When the garbage is received at the incineration plant the cans after being emptied are cleaned by hot water and a brush and then thoroughly sterilized by steam. The cleansed cans are returned and full ones gathered on the same trip.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE RAILWAYS.

The experience of the English Government in railway control is of prime interest at this juncture. The following summary of the railway control by the English Government is taken from a speech delivered in the Senate, January 4, by Senator Henry F. Hollis, of New Hampshire:

"The English Government took entire control of all railways in Great Britain on August 14, 1914, agreeing to pay the stockholders the same earnings as they received in the year 1913.

"As traffic demands increased while facilities decreased, due to wear and tear, and the enlistment of thousands of railway workers, recourse was had to reduction of service and the employment of women and men not capable of bearing arms, the number of women employed increasing in three years from 15,000 to 100,000. Freight cars were pooled without regard to ownership, and the loading and unloading of cars were expedited under heavy penalties, fines and imprisonment; it was made a criminal offense to fail to load or unload in accordance with the rules. Passenger trains were annulled, reservation of seats abolished, traffic diverted, and passenger rates advanced 50 per cent., not so much to increase revenue, as to discourage travel.

"The Government control in England was exercised through a railway executive committee of ten appointed by the Government from the general managers of certain important roads, this board having as its official chairman a member of the Cabinet, the president of the Board of Trade. The staff of each railway remained undisturbed.

"Wages, hours of work, and other labour questions have been settled by conciliation and arbitration; and it is stated that both the management and the workers have worked in harmony, realizing that whatever concessions or sacrifices were made accrued to the benefit of the nation, and not to private interests."

A MULTITUDE OF MEN.

There is something greater in this age than its greatest men; it is the appearance of a multitude of men on the stage where as yet the few have acted their parts alone. This influence is to endure to the end of time. What more of the present is to survive? Perhaps much of which we now take no note. The glory of an age is often hidden from itself. Perhaps some word has been spoken in our day which we have not deigned to hear, but which is to grow clearer and louder through all ages. Perhaps some silent thinker among us is at work in his closet whose name is to fill the earth.—William E. Channing.

Municipal Finance

JAMES MURRAY.

A FIRM ADMINISTRATION.

That the government of Quebec is fully alive to its opportunities to educate the councils and citizens of the Province in the meaning and workings of the Municipal Department is well illustrated in the generous support given to this Journal when its management recently determined to publish in full in French and English the report of a meeting of municipal executives and officials of the Province, called by the editor to discuss the legislation governing the new department. Because of this financial support the report will be distributed to every municipal official in the Province, and as the meeting itself was one long discussion of the three acts under which the municipal department is administered, the report becomes probably the best medium for the education of local municipal men that the government could have. Be that as it may, the fact that the government has taken this course is very encouraging to those who have confidence in the future municipal government of Quebec. Taking as the best test of municipal administration the standing of local securities, Quebec has always stood well with the investing public, but as brief as has been the life of the new administration, it has been long enough in existence to strengthen the standing of a number of municipal securities that were on the weak side; and all because of confidence in the determination of the Provincial Government of Quebec to administer with a firm hand its municipal department.

BACHELORS TAX IN MONTREAL.

To The Editor:

In reading "Le Canada," this morning, I was greatly surprised to find a reproduction of the article published in your paper regarding the "Bachelor's Tax," and I wish to register my protestation against the said article. I appeal to your broadness of mind, Mr. Editor, and don't you think that this tax is only "Persecution" for a certain number of bachelors who earn but a very small salary and, moreover, who are, for the most part, obliged to support either an old father or mother unable to work for a living? The authors of this tax must be imbibed with "German Kultur," or they must not be responsible for their actions; otherwise, they would have refrained from imposing such a tax on that part of the population who are now on the battlefields of France.

For my part, I have no father or mother to support, but I have to help an aunt who has spent practically all her money in order that I may get in a small country college, a certain education which to-day permits me to earn a modest salary.

Before ending this letter I will make a suggestion:

Why not apply the tax to the thousands of priests and brothers of the Catholic church and the Protestant clergymen? Most of those people are well off and they could pay that tax better than we can do.

J. ELPHEGE BERNARD.

MORE ROOM NEEDED.

Already the newly created Department of Municipal Affairs for the Province of Quebec is getting seriously to work, and many representatives are making pilgrimages to the Ancient Capital to secure information, and in many cases to spend some time in revising the documents they bring with them.

While experiencing every courtesy from the officials, there are some complaints as to the lack of room in which to carry on their work, while meeting the wishes of the Deputy Minister as to altering what they have brought with them.

One municipal representative has suggested that the Department should provide a room and also a stenographer, claiming that the 2,000 odd municipalities would gladly pay a special tax of \$1 each to pay for such accommodation.

The present two rooms are, we understand, only temporary, and it is certain that when permanent rooms are allocated to the new department, the accommodation will be ample.

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TRAINING FOR THE NEW CITIZENSHIP.

That the spirit of democracy will be stronger than ever after the war is becoming more apparent every day. One's country is to be a huge co-operative enterprise, and every partner is to receive and to give the finest service. The idea of fitting the soldier to take his place as an effective citizen in peace times is entirely new to the world and is one of the many benefits which fighting against Hunnish frightfulness has conferred on the whole world. Good citizenship has come to be recognized as a priceless heritage for which one must prepare and for which one must keep worthy. An evidence of this realization is the establishment of the Khaki University. Originally intended for Canadian soldiers overseas, it has been adopted for Australian troops, and now a still greater outgrowth appears in the step taken by the British Government.

Sir Henry Hadow, Principal of Armstrong College, Newcastle, has been made Director of Education on the lines of communication in France. His own College Council has granted leave of absence to Sir Henry for the duration of the war and through the period of demobilization. Training in citizenship will be his work, and he begins at once. Lectures and classes are already organized behind the front, the leaders being chosen by the men themselves, as a rule. The course is modelled on those of the Khaki University.

There are several special funds devoted to this business of converting the discharged soldier into a dynamic citizen notably among them the Kitchener Memorial Fund. The University of Pensions, the Board of Education, the Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labor are all co-operating along this line and have organized a department to train and place men and officers in civil life after the war. Local educational authorities are asked to give vocational training to disabled men and, in some instances, grants have been made for this purpose. The great dangers which seem to threaten this scheme for citizenship training are that schemes will be too general and leave the individual men untouched, except in theoretical training and that folks at home will not become sufficiently interested to co-operate efficiently with the military authorities.

MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION IN QUEBEC.

The Editor:

I have read, in your valued September number, the record of the proceedings of the Convention of the Municipal Executives of the Province of Quebec. As this meeting was held during my absence on a brief holiday, may I be permitted to make one or two comments in reference to the questions that have arisen.

The recent act or acts of the Legislature respecting municipal affairs is without question an advance step in the regulation of Municipal Government. There are some things now in the law which may require further consideration; the most important being the question of sinking funds and how they shall be dealt with. As the law now exists, I understand it to provide as follows:—

1. For every loan hereafter effected by a municipality in this Province adequate provision shall be made by a sinking fund to redeem the bonds at maturity, excepting the bonds issued which are re-payable by annuity instalments. A further exception being that during the war, with the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, bonds may be issued for shorter terms than the term fixed in the by-law. Sinking funds in connection therewith to be provided as if the issue were for the term as fixed in the by-law.

2. That these sinking funds shall be deposited with the Provincial Treasurer, unless the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council authorize otherwise; (it is to be presumed from this provision and the explanation made by the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs that such Municipalities as have in the past been handling their sinking funds in a satisfactory manner will be permitted to continue to do so).

3. That the rate of interest to be allowed by the Government on such sinking funds shall be 3½ per cent.

4. That the term of such bonds shall be as specified in the Provincial Statute, the maximum period being forty years.

The principle that for every loan effected there shall be adequate provision for its redemption at maturity will not be questioned by any financier, and is certainly one that every lender of money will demand compliance with. Therefore, the Government's action should receive the hearty co-operation of every Municipality of this Province.

That provision should be made by the Government for the handling of sinking funds that cannot be efficiently handled by a municipality, is to my mind a necessity, in order that the lender of money shall be protected, and if he is so protected the credit of all municipal borrowers in this Province will be maintained at a higher level than otherwise. On the other hand those municipalities that have been wisely administering and making adequate provision for sinking funds should not be interfered with.

Should there not be some guarantee given that the sinking funds of the municipalities of the Province, as they are paid into the Provincial Treasury, would be efficiently handled? That the Government will do so is not any more certain than that the municipalities will do so. The present Government has made a record for itself that few, if any, of our Provincial Governments have equalled. There have been Governments in the not distant past that it would have given no satisfaction to the lender of money to know that such Government was to manage all the funds upon which the redemption of all provincial securities was going to depend; therefore, one suggestion that I would make is that there should be appointed, by the Government, a Provincial Sinking Fund Commission to include the Provincial Treasurer and an incorporated Trust Co., and that to such commission there be entrusted the administration of the law respecting Sinking Funds.

Such a Commission would enable a satisfactory adjustment to be made respecting the rate of interest to be allowed the municipalities. I think the Government can easily be convinced, that for the next forty years a minimum of 4 per cent. can assuredly be earned by the safe investment of such funds. It is necessary that a minimum be established, as otherwise there would be no basis, certainly no uniform basis, for the computation of what sinking funds would be adequate to provide for the redemption of the bonds at the several periods named in the Statute. A minimum rate of interest being guaranteed by the Government the Sinking Fund Commission each year or semi-annually should distribute to the credit of the municipalities depositing sinking funds pro rata the actual earnings of the investments after deducting expenses.

Of course, every municipality has the option, under the

MUNICIPALITIES AND WAR BONDS.

Writing in the Canadian Municipal Journal, Mr. James Murray points out that the issuance of the next war bonds free of taxation is objectionable to municipalities apart altogether from the usually voiced claim that such bonds will provide an opportunity to those who have made excess profits out of munitions contracts to evade any future retroactive tariff by the simple process of investing the profits in war bonds.

Mr. Murray deals with the question rather from the municipal standpoint and makes out a strong case. So long as the Dominion government is raising revenue for purely war purposes it has a right to expect every other public body — provincial or municipal — to help by cutting down their borrowings to the lowest possible denomination, and as far as possible this has been carried out. On the other hand the government itself is under an obligation to those other bodies to help them buy the money necessary to "carry on" as cheaply as possible — or at least not to put any obstacles in the way. But this is precisely what the government has done and is about to do again, either unconsciously or otherwise. The issuance of the last Victory Loan tax free raised the price of money to such an extent that to-day no municipality can borrow under seven per cent, and in view of the new issue the price of money to civic administrations will go even higher. At the last meeting of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, Mayor Cater, of Brandon, suggested that the Dominion Government borrow for the municipalities. This seems a good suggestion, in view of conditions as they have been occasioned largely by the action of the Dominion in issuing tax free bonds. As against this, however, is the surrender of a certain amount of authority by the municipalities to the government in such circumstances. What is more feasible is the direct loaning to the municipalities of money by the government, without the abrogation of any authority by the former. There can be no doubt that the Dominion finance department has all it can do at present without taking over the burdens of municipalities, but there is a certain amount of responsibility involved by the action of the administration in the matter of the bonds. But, likewise, the finance minister is pursuing the course that his wide experience teaches him is best, and the suspicion that the government is furnishing a loop hole for profiteers is not entertained by any fair minded person. The problem is one that might profitably be discussed by representatives of the Canadian municipalities and the administration.—Ottawa Citizen.

MUNICIPAL FRATERNITY.

The town of Longueuil, Que., has just shown an example of that fraternal feeling which should exist between all municipalities. The adjoining town of Montreal South, which is quite a municipal baby beside its ancient neighbour, has recently installed water works and drainage, but unfortunately the estimated cost has been considerably exceeded, and the proprietors hesitated at the heavy expense on a long intake, and a pumping plant, while the outlet for sewerage would be very costly. To help their neighbours, the Council of Longueuil has very generously agreed to supply Montreal South with water at a low cost, and also to permit the sewers to be connected with their main sewer.

Longueuil has been one of the regular attendants at the Conventions of the U. C. M., and Mayor Thurber, and Ald. D. T. Kyle have been present and taken part at several.

MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION—(Continued.)

law, to issue a serial or instalment bond and by so doing avoid the necessity of paying a sinking fund into the hands of the Government. To exercise this option may entail an unnecessary hardship as, in my opinion, a serial or instalment bond is not the best form of issue for comparatively small municipalities from the viewpoint of the price to be obtained. Experience, I think, will go to prove that an issue of from fifty thousand to one hundred thousand or even five hundred thousand dollars in serial or instalment form will not bring as good a price as a straight term bond would bring.

Yours truly,

ARTHUR F. BELL,

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CANADIAN PENSION LAWS.

Important changes in the pension laws of Canada are about to be put in force. The new regulations, it is said, have passed all intermediate stages and during the next few weeks will be put into force through orders-in-council.

Partial dependency claims will be dealt with for the first time. Under present regulations it is necessary for parents to prove that a son was their main or only support. Under new regulations if it is established that a son killed in war service was of material assistance to parents, they will draw as a pension the amount he contributed. Future dependency claims will also be taken care of, under the new regulations. A stated case which came to the notice of the Pension Commissioners best illustrates the object of the new ruling. Father and son started a ranch in British Columbia. The project was not sufficiently successful and father and son had an agreement between them. A mortgage of \$2,000 was placed on the property and the boy was sent to college to study law with the proceeds. The agreement was that he was to reimburse his father from the proceeds of his law practice. On graduation war was declared and the boy enlisted with his father's consent. He was killed in action. At the time of his death he was not contributing to his father's support, but he would have done so in the natural course of events. Under the new regulations the father could file a claim for pension under the "future dependency" clause.

Under pension laws now in force separation pay and assigned pay stops when the soldier is killed. Considerable delay is caused in investigating the pension claim, and in the meantime dependents are without any support from that source. The Board of Pensioners under the new policy will assume that in each and every case a pension equal to the assigned and separation pay is due dependents of deceased and such an amount will be payable as from the date of death of the soldier and continued at the rate of \$40 a month until such time as the pension claim is officially settled and the pension either continued or cut off, as the case may be.

Another important regulation which will come into force will remove many grievances. An order will provide that the percentage of disability in pension claims, as fixed by the local examining board, shall not be subject to a new ruling at Ottawa. In the past Ottawa has often reduced the percentage of disability. In future this cannot take place, although Ottawa will have the power to demand a re-examination by the local Board.

MR. E. MAVAUT, CEMENT EXPERT.

Mr. Emmanuel Mavaut, formerly with the Public Works Department at Ottawa, Ont., some months ago joined the staff of engineers of The Milton Hersey Co., Ltd., Montreal, to take full charge of their cement, sand and stone testing laboratories, and be director of same. He is one of the longest and most experienced men in the line of testing all building and structural materials, especially research and special tests on cement, sand and stone.

He was for three years testing building and structural materials for the Public Works Department, Dominion Government, Ottawa, Ont., after which he became Assistant Director of the same laboratories, and acted in that capacity for nine years. In January, 1916, he joined the Canadian Inspection and Testing Laboratories at Montreal, as director of their cement laboratory, and is now with his new company to act in the same capacity.

The firm of Milton Hersey was indeed fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Mavaut, for with his addition to their company, they now have high class and proficient engineers as heads of departments representing practically every branch of the engineering profession.

Mr. Mavaut is now busy in equipping his laboratories with every appliance and machinery conceivable to carry on the test of cement, etc., in the most efficient manner.

He is also carrying on an extensive campaign to try and convince all engineers, architects and contractors to the importance of having all building and structural material tested and inspected.

We wish Mr. Mavaut every success in his new undertaking.

The Trenton War emergency General Committee, of which the Mayor is Chairman, has given unanimous approval to a proposal of their City Food Supply Committee for the establishment of a municipal wholesale and retail produce market.

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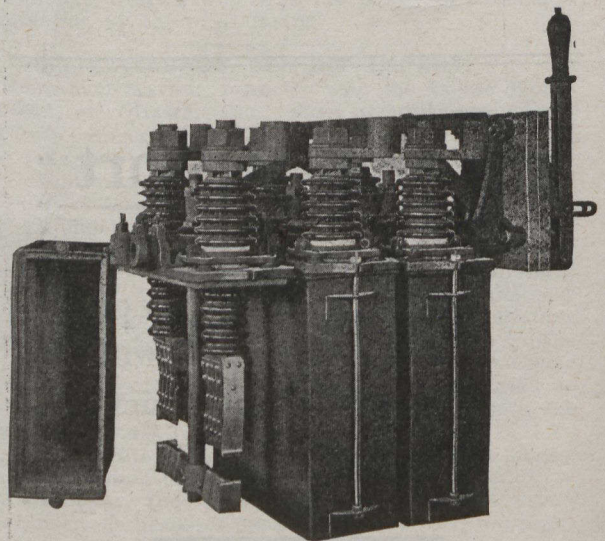
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