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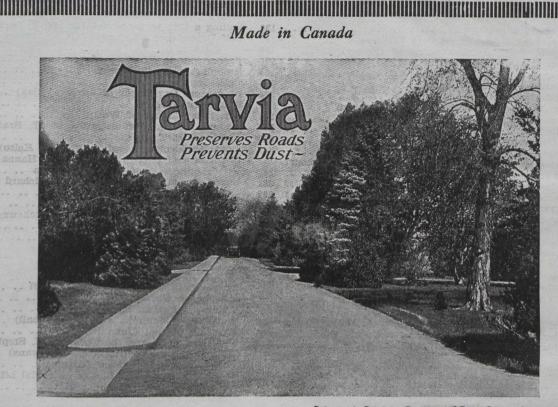
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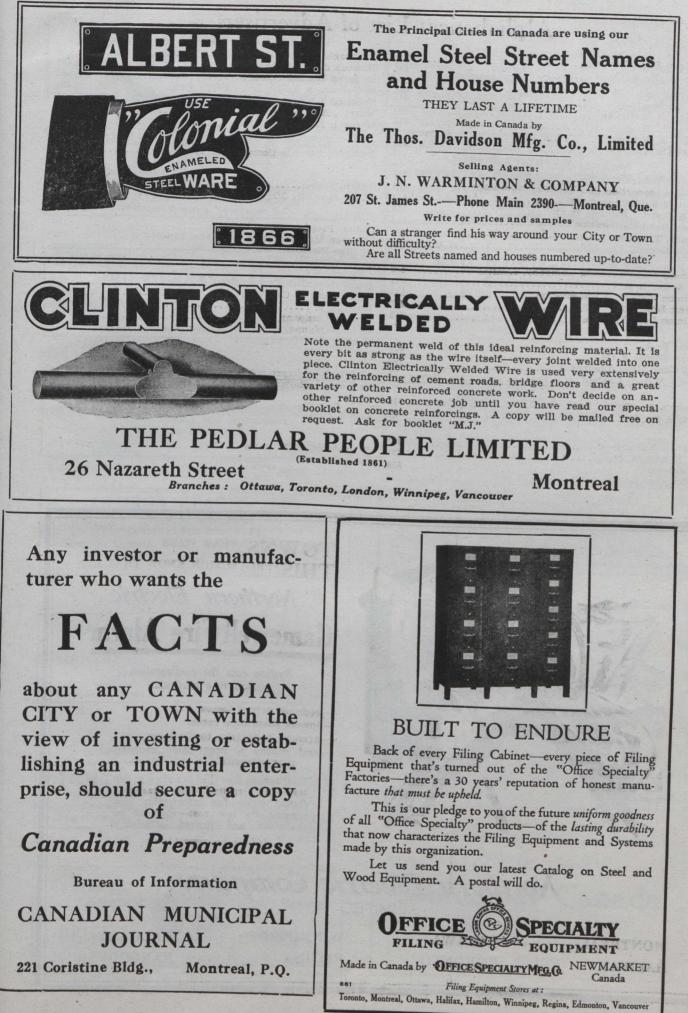
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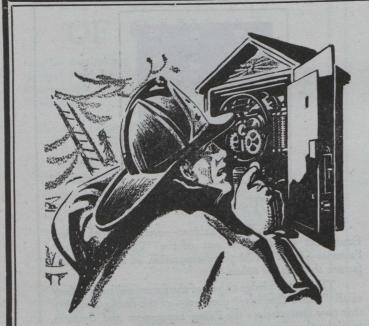
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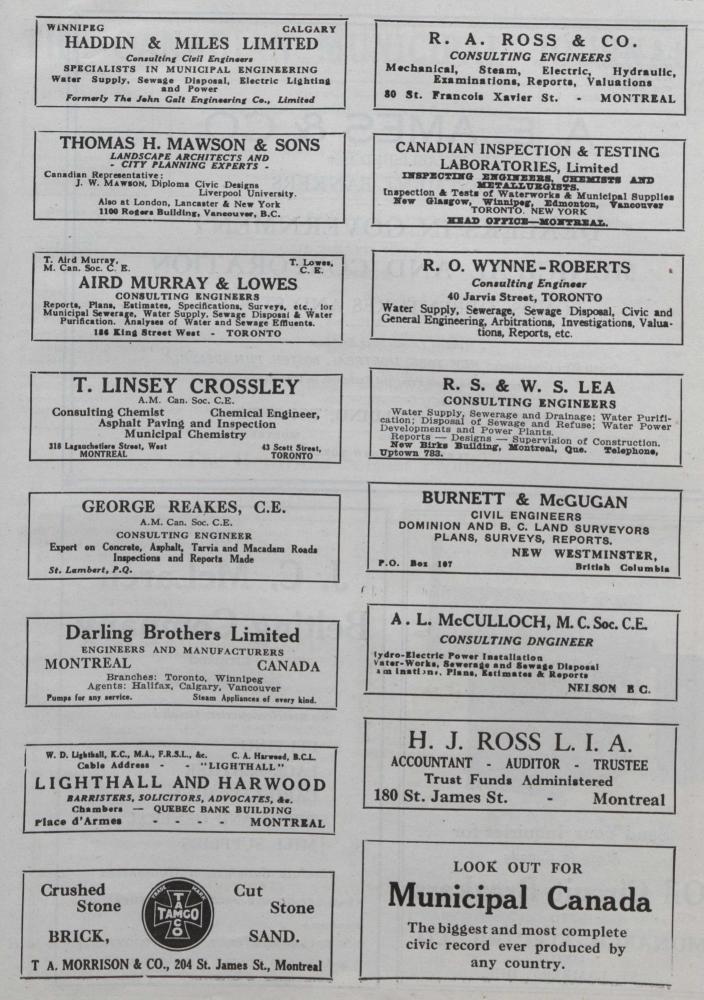
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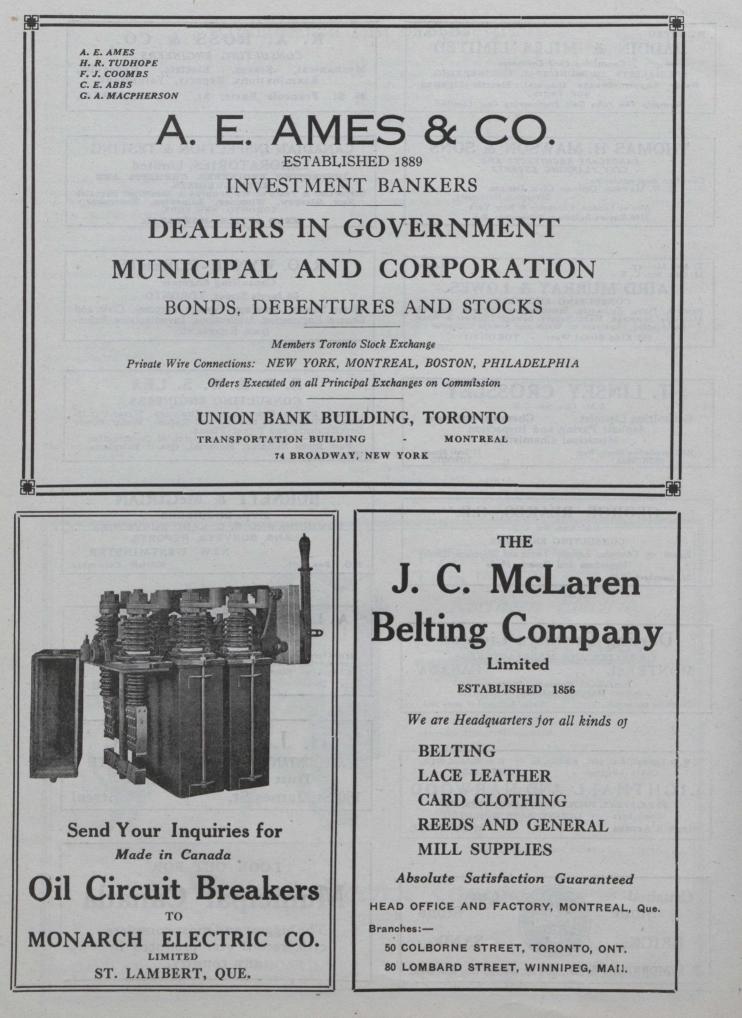
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The Returned Soldier Problem

Mayor Gray of New Westminster in a stirring address before the Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities-the report of which appears in this issue of the Journal — took up the problem of the Returned Soldiers. "The first aim of all" said Mayor Gray "should be, and let it be fixed indelibly in our minds, that these men, who voluntarily gave up their civilian duties at the call of the nation, must not suffer any loss by reason of selves on the back for the way in which we have treated those of our soldiers who have already returned wounded and battle weary We as a nation made great promises to those who left these shores to fight for us, but these promises as yet have been badly kept Everyone of the boys went away under a halo of glory; too many of them who have come back have been made to feel their dependence on the charity of those who had not sufficient spirit to go themselves. It is true that the Military Hospitals Commission is doing good work in giving a vocational training to the men who cannot follow their former employment, but such benefits are limited. . . The great bulk of the returned soldiers, with families, had to secure employment of some kind as quickly as possible so as to better enable their families to get out of that state of respectable semi-starvation, caused by the increased cost of the necessities of life on a meagre income, which had been their lot while the bread winner was in khaki. . . . But the irony of it all is that very few of the men have the same earning capacity as previous to their going to war, meaning that even with the pension the income of the average family of the returned men is less than what it was. To illustrate: a motor mechanic before joining the army in 1914 was earning \$120 per month. - He was sent to Flanders where he lost

a leg and part of his fingers. In due time he returned to Canada and was discharged with a pension of \$24 per month. He could no longer follow his former employment and he now does clerical work for \$60 per month, making a total income of \$84. That is, the income to his family has been reduced by \$36., and this on an increased cost in living. We wish we could record this as an exceptional case, but in our enquiries we have not come across a single case of a workman soldier where his income, including pension, is equal to what it was before joining the ranks.

We had occasion some time back to take up the pension question in these columns, when our criticism was taken exception to by the Pension Board as not being fair, particularly in view of the fact that the amount of the pensions was limited by parliament. Thus the responsibility of inadequately compensating those who have gone through a "hell" for us rests entirely with the nation's representatives. And they have failed.

If we as a nation have not lived up up to our responsibility and promise to those who have already returned wounded and broken, how are we going to live up to our larger responsibility of doing our duty to the whole Canadian army when it returns home? When this war ceases with hard won victory on our side it will be because of the splendid valour of our troops. What then will be their recompense? What preparation is being made to ensure their making the living wage for their families they have the right to expect? And the war may end at any time. These are questions that apply to every Canadian citizen and affects every community and on the way questions are answered depends our success in being prepared for the boys when they come home.

Public Ownership of Public Utilities

In another column we reproduce an editorial on the subject of "Municipal Öwnership" that recently appeared in the Toronto Daily News. The editorial deals with an article by Mr. A. G. Christie of the John Hopkins University which praised very highly municipal ownership in Western Canada. One of our reasons for using the editorial is to record the changing attitude of the daily press towards municipal government in this country—though not before a stranger had shown the way. For long—too long — civic administration has been made the target for every one who wants to try his hand at mud slinging, and it is to be hoped that the editorial of the Toronto News is but the forerunner of a new spirit of encouragement to those who day by day keep the machinery of local government working. At least such an editorial is encouraging.

Mr. Christie in his article lays stress on the fact that while municipal ownership has proved successful in Canada, it has failed in the United States; the reasons given being political influences in the United States on the one hand, and public spirit and cooperation in Canada on the other. Frankly we were not prepared for such a positive statement, though Mr. Christie is an authority in the subject. While fully recognizing the baneful influence of party politics in local affairs which because of the system of election has secured such a hold, we believe that there is a fast growing civic spirit in the United States, as witnessed in the state unions of municipalities and such national organization as the National Municipal League the personnel of which are composed of men of the highest mental calibre and integrity.

We believe that the weakness of local government in the United States is not so much politics, as too much autonomy on the one hand and too much business in the other-that is, there is a tendency to bring local government down to the dead level of business. This kills any civic spirit and is absolutely opposed to the principles of democracy. All successful businesses are bureaucratic in their working-the power and control coming from above, not from below or from the people, as in democratic institutions. It is the attempting to assimilate democracy-on which the American constitution is founded-with bureaucracy that civic government in the United States has not been so successful as either State or Federal Government. By too much autotonomy we mean that there is a lack of central control and thus every municipality, though nominally under State control, is in practise a law unto itself.

But while there are drawbacks to the American system of municipal government, we in Canada have much to learn from our neighbours. To illustrate, the councils of these municipalities that have made civic progress do not confine their energies to the collecting and spending of the local public funds; they realize that they have a larger field: the public and social welfare of the people. As regards municipal ownership, this is largely in its experimental

stage both in Canada and the United States, and it is a subject frought with difficulties. It is true, as the Toronto News says, that the West is composed of young and venturesome citizens who are neither afraid of experiments nor vested interests, but we must not forget that in the West the communities are young and consequently not loaded up with franchises that have been given too generously to private corporations in Eastern Canada, so that in the West, the ground is fallow for experimenting in public owned utilities which on the whole have been successful. That public ownership of all public utilities is bound to come in this northern continent is realized by the interests themselves, who in the East are making all they can while the making is good, but before local bodies can absorb what in many instances are huge business concerns they must show a capacity to administer them in a manner that will not entail a loss to the community. Before this stage is reached much more study must be given to public utilities as administered in other countries, and particularly in those countries such as Great Britain, where public ownership of public utilities has been so successful.

GET TOGETHER MOVEMENT.

During the summer months a movement was started to try and bring about better relations between the two dominant races of Canada. The propaganda took the form of "Get together" meetings and conferences in Ontario and Quebec. Every one of the sessions was successful, because each delegate was determined to see the best in the other fellow. English speaking Canadians and French speaking Canadians not only saw the view point of each other, but found out how much they had in common. When the conferences were over the delegates went away home—some to British Columbia and some to Prince Edward Island — feeling that their time had not been lost.

But unless there are means devised for building up the sentiment of harmony between the French and English peoples of this Canada of ours, so auspiciously started in the summer, much of the hard work of those who inaugurated the movement will have been lost. This would be a pity—we might say almost a calamity — and it is to be hoped that the public spirited men of the West and the East will not allow the propaganda to peter out for lack of proper support.

The Hon. Secretary (Dr. W. H. Atherton) has just prepared a brochure giving the history of the "Get Together" movement and the report of the Montreal conference. The brochure in French and English, is written in Dr Atherton's best style. and should be read by every well wisher of the entente cordial which means so much for the prosperity of Canada.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IN CANADA.

Mr. A. G. Christie, of the Department of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, has an interesting article on "Public Ownership" in the August number of Industrial Management. Having given considerable attention to the municipal operation of civic utilities in Canada and the United States, he says:--

"Municipal ownership in Canada, particularly in Western Canada, has met with a considerable measure of succss. On the other hand, successful municipal ventures in similar utilities in cities of the United States have been relatively few in number, while many have proven partial or complete failures."

According to this writer, it is generally admitted that American municipalities have failed to keep their plants up to modern requirements and that they have consequently given indifferent service at high rates. The explanation advanced for these disappointing results is that political interference has prevented efficient management by competent executives. The reasons which Mr. Christie gives for the comparative success of public ownership in Western Canadian municipalities are specially worth consideration. He notes that the thousands of British immigrants in the population were accustomed to municipal ownership in Great Britain, where service upon local boards is regarded as an honor. It is the custom in British cities for pominent men to seek rather than shun civic responsibility. They introduce business methods into municipal affairs and are incurably opposed to the spoils system in civic politics.

These excellent British ideas of public responsibility have been readily accepted by Canadians and Americans on the prairies and has thus become a real factor in the life of Western Canadian cities. It is also pointed out that the West is a country of young, optimistic and venturesome citizens, who are neither afraid of experiments nor overawed by vested interests. But, we are told, the principal basis for the success of municipal ownership in the Canadian West is the spirit of co-operation which is a predominant characteristic of the people. The co-operative idea has taken full hold of them. Westerners are used to "getting together" for the promotion of any movement which will advance the price of real estate or benefit the community in any way. Mr. Christie says that there is less class d'stinction, and therefore less political corruption, in Western Canadian communities than in the older centres of the United States. He continues:

If the prominent men and women of a city have a public spirited interest in municipal affairs and render helpful co-operation in governmental matters, other citizens will do the same. If only criticism is offered by the leaders, then the public will become suspic'ous and will soon adopt a hostile attitude toward the management of their own utilities. It is essential, therefore, for continued success in municipal control that this friendly co-operative spirit shall be maintained by the leaders of business and social life.

After referring to the success of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission, the writer draws the deduction that efficiency in municipal ownership is due, not entirely to new conditions in urban life or to the rapid growth of population such as are found in the West, but also to the executive capacity of those who manage the undertaking, and the wholehearted support lent by the public. This is not the first time that Mr. Christie has written of Canadian public utilities, to which he has given a great deal of study. His conclusions are of particular use at a time when the City of Toronto approaches the problem of taking over its street railway system. The franchise of the Toronto Railway Company has over three years to run, but it is time that we began to consider ways and means of acquiring and operating the plant. It is clear that the citizens can secure a much better service than that which they now "enjoy" if they follow the advice laid, down by Mr. Christie. It is essential that there be an absolute separation of the management from politics, that the soundest financial and accounting methods be adopted, and that an enlightened public opinion give the project cordial and constant support. "One-man control" under the supervision of a competent State Commission has been recommended as the most effective working principle .-- Toronto Daily News.

EXPLOITATION OF THE PEOPLE'S HERITAGE

In our last issue we took up the subject of the attempt on the part of a private corporation to secure a charter to dam the St. Lawrence River at Coteau Rapids. According to its last bulletin, the Commission of Conservation has already taken action with, we hope, good results. The Bulletin report is as follows:—

"The Commission of Conservation has made representations to the Minister of Public Works pointing out the inadvisability of granting to the Power Development Company, Limited, the right to develop power from the St. Lawrence river at the Coteau Rapids, and the Hon F. B. Carvell has assured the Commission that this matter is of such public importance that nothing will be done by his Department till every person in Canada has had an opportunity of being heard and pressing their views.

The water-power situation in Quebec and Ontario should be fully considered before any action is taken to grant rights of development to private interests similar in character to those being sought by this company. Such consideration would show that the power situation has developed very rapidly within the last few years, and so far from there being an excess of power capable of being developed at easily accessible points, it is certain that within the next twenty years, all the power that can be developed at points where it can be conveniently used will be required for use in Canada.

The company which has heretofore been granted the right to make use of the Cedar Rapids has developed a very large amount of power estimated to be about 100,000 h.p. Of this amount so developed purely from Canad an waters the company has sold and delivered to the Aluminum Company of America an amount varying from 50,-000 to 74,000 h.p. Indeed, it has been authorized by a permit issued on April 1, 1916, to export up to 100,000 h.p. This enormous quantity of energy is being sent out of Canada and is of no benefit whatever to Canada except in so far as the profits thereon represent dividends to a few shareholders. Whatever the power situation is in Montreal, there can be no shortage which is legitimately due to lack of power development.

In Ontario, the question of fuel has become an increasingly serious one, and the time will come very soon when electric power will be largely used for the purpose of operating the railways in that province and for other purposes for which coal is at present employed.

It is, therefore, unwise and improvident to allow large Canadian water-powers to be developed with the object of exporting the power to the United States. The time will undoubtedly come when the power will be required upon the Canadian side of the line and the cheation of vested interests in the United States will give rise to serious embarrassment and international complications when it is withdrawn for use here. A situation similar to this has already arisen at Niagara Falls.

COST OF MILK INSPECTION IN TORONTO.

The total cost of milk inspection to the City of Toronto amounts to 3 3-5c per head of population. The total amount saved per head of population by cutting out adulteration amounts to over 75c a head. Any man who can save 75c with an investment of 3 3-5c would consider this to be a pretty sound business proposition.

CLEANLINESS IN HANDLERS OF FOOD.

Clean hands and clean clothes are an outward indication of clean habits. These and these only are the kind of butchers or other handlers of food that you should It is seen.

It is very probable that people of clean appearance will cover foods while the premises are being swept, and will also protect such from cats, rats and mice. The days when cats were seen lying in the m'ddle of a candy shop window or sitting on a basket of grapes are fast disappearing, though this has been witnessed recently by the writer.

Citizens themselves can do more than health inspectors by calling the attention of proprietors to unsatisfactory conditions, for after all, the store-keeper is primarily

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

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

VICE-PRESIDENT, REEVE BRIDGEMAN OF THE DIS-TRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER, OCCUPIED THE CHAIR.

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

Moved by Reeve Fraser, Bunaby.

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

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

Moved by Municipal Clerk Moore.

Seconded by Reeve Borden and carried.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) E. A. STANTON, Lt.-Col." (Telegram) via Mortreal, January 3, 1917. "Union of British Columbia Municipalities,

Surrey Centre, B.C.: All British Columbians in the Canadian Corps thank

you most heartily for your resolution.

GENERAL BYNG."

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONVENTION OF B.C. MUNICIPALITIES

(Continued.)

It has been stated, in view of this Act, that the Government are now used as collectors of Municipal revenues. This, as far as it goes, is true, but at the same time the Government are forcing the collection of their own taxes, which is eminently sane, and is in keeping with the advice that the Municipalities have always received from the Governments, namely, to collect the money owing to them, and not to keep on adding to their liabilities by borrowing money against their arrears of taxes. We know that times are hard, but if we are ever collectively to assume a sounder financial position in this Province, we must do so by collecting the monies owing to us, and having the property eventually in the hands of those who can afford to carry the liabilities attached thereto, and I feel that this convention should record its appreciation of the action of the Government in placing such a wise provision on the Statutes.

There will be many questions before you for consideration, and I have taken the responsibility this year of having only one paper, kindly contributed by Mayor Gray, of New Westminster. This will leave the convention more time to discuss business placed before them.

The Good Roads convention, now being held at Duncan, is a very important one, and as this is a movement which has an intimate connection with all our Municipalities, I have arranged for a meeting with them this evening, when their views will no doubt be laid before us for endorsation.

The City of Duncan have very kindly invited us to have lunch and spend Thursday afternoon as their guests, and knowing the lovely nature of the country, I feel sure we shall thoroughly enjoy the outing prepared for us, which will be instructive as well as pleasurable.

In all the deliberations which will take place, I know that the same spirit and unanimity of purpose will be shown as at former conventions, and would like those who are attending for the first time clearly to understand that the privileges of the floor are equal, and that no relevant discussion of any question will be curtailed; at the same time, I would ask all present, for the sake of the business in hand, to be as concise as possible, which will result in benefit to all. And I would also ask the convention to exercise great care that all amendments should be of such a nature that they work to the advantage of all municipalities throughout the Province, otherwise we may ask for something which may be advantageous to one section of the community, but detrimental to others.

Many of you are probably aware that our solicitor, Mr. McDiarmid, was very ill for some months since we met at Vernon, but notwithstanding this, he has rendered his usual valuable assistance to his Union, and I have pleasure in recommending, as the past President did, that he should be reimbursed for his expenses to this convention.

In conclusion, I would like to record my personal regret at the absence of our President, who for so many years has taken an active part in the affairs of this Union. His retirement from municipal life is a distinct loss both to his own city of Vernon and to the Union.

The work of your executive has not been as heavy as last year, but we have conscientiously worked in your interests and trust that our stewardship will be found satisfactory to this convention. Moved by Mayor Todd, Victoria.

Seconded by Cr. Purdie, District of North Vancouver and carried.

That the Vice-President's report be received and filed, and the two recommendations therein adopted, namely,

- (1) Request the Provincial Government to redraft the Municipal Act.
- (2) Record. and inform Provincial Government of, appreciation of action of Government in enacting regulation enforcing payment of all taxes in order to obtain Registration of Title at Land Registry Office.

LATE SIR RICHARD MCBRIDE.

Moved by Mayor Gray

Seconded by Mayor Todd and carried.

That the heartfelt sympathy and condolence of the representatives of the Municipalities of British Columbia now in Convention assembled in the City of Duncan, be tendered to Lady McBride and family on account of the bereavement which they have suffered by the death of Sir Richard Mc-And this Convention desires to record its sense Bride. of the loss of one who while Premier of this Province was ever ready to lend a sympathetic ear, and to render all possible assistance to those in charge of the Government of the Municipalities of this Province.

The Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. H. Bose, presented his report which was received and referred to the Auditing Committee.

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Solicitor McDiarmid presented his report which was in printed form.

Resolved, that the same be adopted as read and referred to the Resolutions Committee.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mayor Gray reported from the Resolutions Committee dealing with the Solicitor's report as follows: INSPECTION OF DAIRY CATTLE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention it is the duty of the Government in order to safeguard the public health, to take every other necessary step to more effectively control and regulate the conditions under which

milk is produced for sale and use, and also the conditions

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

(2) That such regulations and sanitary measures be en-

(3) That accurate scientific knowledge, as to the best

forced by the frequent and rigorous inspection by quali-

fied inspectors, and by the infliction of adequate penalties

methods of producing, transporting, storing, handling, preparing and using milk and milk products, he compiled,

ranged and disseminated throughout the province for the

The Act relating to Contagious Disease (animals) was amended this year along the lines suggested, and such

other matters as are matters of regulation in the Department are receiving the careful consideration of the Minister.

(Solicitor's Report, Continued on Page 504.)

for violation of the same;

better information of the people.

transported, stored and used, and to this end would suggest: (1) That such regulations be formulated and enacted into

under which milk and milk products are manufactured.

The Returned Soldier Problem

MAYOR GRAY.

Mayor Gray, of New Westminster, read the following paper before the Convention of B. C. Muniicpalities. The subject which I have chosen to bring to your attention is one worty of the greatest consideration, and is receiving the attention of Statesmen in the various countries engaged in th's Great War.

We must take time by the forelock in constructing measures which will satisfactorily meet the needs of the situation when demobolization of our civilian army takes place.

Already the necessity for such measures is brought home to us in dealing with the increasing number of men returning, and it is apparent that a discussion with a view to arriving at the best methods to deal with the problem of providing satisfactory employment for these men is urgent.

The first aim of all should be, and let it be fixed indelibly in our minds, that these men, who voluntarily gave up their civilian duties at the call of the nation, must not suffer any loss by reason of their patriotism when they again return to civil life.

The man who has taken a fighting chance in the greatest war in history to uphold the democratic ideals which you and I enjoy must not be placed in the position of having to take a chance to ensure his own and his family's future welfare in the industrial market of the country he has served so well.

Thousands gave up their profession, trade, etc., absence from which has meant the loss of opportunity, personal advancement and gain; thousands of students were preparing for examinations which, once passed, would admit them into that sphere of life they aspired to. Gentlemen, we owe it to these men to make such provisions that no detrimental effect will be caused to their future by their readiness to spend their energies in fighting our battles.

Men will return who were only nearing the threshold of manhood when they went away, with no fixed calling, on whose behalf the greatest care will have to be exercised in providing employment. This is incumbent upon us, as the years spent in service were those which usually decides a man's future.

The care of the disabled soldier is receiving attention, and the work already done in fitting him to hold his own in the future is worthy of the highest commendation.

Vocational Training at the hands of experts is achieving great results, and the extension of training along the lines already established will prove a boon to the men.

The difficulty of absorbing the large number of men into civil life has to be met by encouragement of new industries, development of our natural resources, and by training men to take the positions which will open up by such development.

The establishment of Technical Schools throughout the Dominion, where practical knowledge of the various trades closely related to our resources can be acquired, would help many men to assure their future. Practical knowledge received in the Engineering Shop, the Mine, the Blast Furnace, etc., as established at Universities in older countries has been the means of producing men who have been instrumental in promoting great industrial development, and consequently more employment.

The Dominion Government has created elaborate machinery at enormous expense to enable its armies to take their place in action under the most favorable conditions as far as equipment is concerned; no effort or money has been spared to do this, and we applaud the action taken by the Government; but is it too much to ask the Government of the Dominion to provide the wherewithal to equip men on their return in such a manner as to place them beyond care or want.

The responsibility for providing men with opportunities which should enable them to live, at least, in the same degree of comfort as that which they enjoyed before enlistment rests with the Dominion Government, and the national sense of honor should guide every act which is intended to solve this great question.

The Dominion Government should prepare plans without delay to meet the situation, and be also prepared to vote large amounts of money to aid productive works: I say productive advisedly, as a proposal to build a road across the continent with returned soldiers' labor while demobilization takes place has been mooted in many quarters. (Such a proposal has been strongly urged by the Canadian Municipal Journal.) I am in favor of good roads and admit

the advantages derived from them; but I cannot agree with such a proposal as a solution to the problem that has to be faced, for it does not provide sufficient scope for the utilization of the mental and physical qualities of the men whom it is intended to serve temporarily. Surely this country possesses the resources to provide productive employment of a varied character to suit the respective abilities of the men to be benefited. Produce from the stores of wealth practically untouched in the realms of the Dominion, and the prosperity which will naturally follow will make the road proposition a feasible one; but build it with roadmakers not with men who may or may not be fitted for the work. Our estimate of the soldier's worth and the merit of his achievements demands a wider sphere than that of roadmaking, and the welfare of the country also demands it.

Every position at the disposal of the Governments and Municipalities should be filled by returned soldiers, provided they are qualified; thus giving a lead to private corporations to follow. It has afforded me much pleasure to see the interest private firms have taken in returned men and hope that this interest will continue.

Though the responsibility rests with the Dominion Government I am sure that the Provincial Governments and Municipal Councils will share the work involved in the administration of all measures tending to further the men's interests, as intimate knowledge of local conditions will favor just and direct dealing, and avoid tedious delays. It is to be hoped that the Dominion Government will make use of these channels.

Many positions, formerly occupied by men at the front, have been filled by women, and this phase of the question, if the men are not reinstated, will produce great hardship, as men who have followed a certain employment for years will have to commence over again in strange employment.

The number of men who will become settlers of the land is estimated at a low figure; but with sufficient inducements a large number may be absorbed in the farming industry.

Shipbuilding with its allied trades will be a source of employment for large numbers for years to come, and the training referred to earlier in my paper would prove valuable in this connection, as shipbuilders are scarce in this country.

Th time to make provision is now, procrastination will bring suffering in its train, which would be a blot on the fair name of the country. The men did not delay when their services were required, their eagerness to be attested was evidenced in the first months of the world struggle, then why should we delay in doing what honor demands of us.

In the work of destruction billions have been spent ungrudgingly to save the world from tyranny, a tithe of that amount would provide all the employment needed if spent wisely in bonusing industries, inducing men to take up land under favorable conditions (community settlements for preference) fitting men to fill responsible positions, etc., and the people of Canada would stand behind such a movement.

Are we going to lag behind other nations in this great work? The spirit of our pioneers points the way to the present generation, let us follow it and become pioneers in finding the paths along which our gallant men shall tread amid plenty and security.

They have won undying fame; their deeds of valor have evoked the highest praises; Canada has found herself great through their sacrifices. We are proud to be Canadians, and our pride is enhanced when we read letters from our boys and note how enthusiastically they boost the land they love, the glowing manner in which they speak of its advantages wherever they go and to whomsoever they meet, all of which should stir our blood into activity break the apathetic attitude that besets us, make us willing and ready to bend our backs to the work that lies before us, so that the love of home and country exemplified by these brave men will not be dimmed, but strengthened by the realization on their return that we built wisely and well for their future welfare, and that our work shall be an example to be followed by other nations, standing as the greatest monument the world has ever witnessed in honor of fallen and living heroes; as the greatest tribute we can pay the men who have paid the supreme sacrifice is the service we can render their living comrades.

(Continued on Next Page.)

A Highway Across British Columbia

At a joint meeting of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Good Roads League of British Columbia the following resolutions were passed:

Moved by Alderman Gale, Vancouver. Seconded by Reeve MacKenzie, Penticton, and carried. "That this Union of B. C. Municipalities in 13th Annual Convention assembled, heartily endorses the following resolutions which were passed unanimously by the Good Roads League of British Columbia at its first Annual Convention seld at the City of Duncan, October 9th, 1917.

Completion of Highway Across Province.

(1) "That the Provincial Government be urged to proceed with the construction of a road across this Province with the utmost expedition and to endeavor to obtain financial assistance from the Federal Government.'

Employment of Interned Aliens.

(2) "That the Federal and Provincial Governments be urged to complete the necessary arrangements with the Military authorities for the employment of interned aliens in this Province on the building and maintainance of at least some of the roads that require immediate attention." Improvement of Pacific Highway.

(3) "Whereas that portion of the Pacific Highway lying between the city of New Westminster and the International Boundary at Blaine is at present in a very bad state of repair:

And whereas said Highway is tributary to a very large and fertile agricultural and dairy district, where good roads, are most essential to the proper development of same;

And whereas said road is a Provincial Highway and the only means of ingress and egress to automobile tourists desirous of touring the Pacific Northwest;

And whereas it is highly essential that tourist traffic should be fostered and encouraged in every possible manner;

Be It Therefore Resolved that the Provincial Governbent be urged to take immediate steps to have said Highway hard-surfaced.

Change Rule of the Road.

(4) "Whereas there are now many thousands of auto-mobile tourists visiting the Province of British Columbia each year, coming from the United States and from various outside Canadian points.

And whereas the number of visitors is expected to increase very considerably during the next few years.

And whereas numerous accidents are constantly occurring as a direct result of the existing rule of the road in B. C., all of which tends to keep tourists away.

And whereas it is most desirable that the influx of visitors should be encouraged and everything possible done toward that end.

RETURNED SOLDIER PROBLEM .-- Continued.

Moved by Mayor Todd.

Seconded by Reeve McKenzie, and Carried.

Be it Resolved, that the Secretary be instructed to write a formal letter of thanks to Mayor Gray, of Westminster, expressing appreciation of the splendid paper read to the Convention by Mayor Gray upon the subject of Returning Soldiers to Civil Life. And that printed copies of the said paper be prepared and distributed to all of the Municipalities of British Columbia.

Moved by Mayor McKenzie.

Seconded by Alderman J. J. Miller, Vancouver, and Car-That in the opinion of the 13th Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the scale of pensions for wounded and disabled soldiers and sailors should be radically revised and substantially raised, as the present scale seems totally inadequate to enable the returned soldier to exist.

Moved by Alderman Gale, Vancouver. Seconded by Alderman J. J. Miller, Vancouver, and Carried.

That it is the unanimous opinion of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, in 13th Annual Convention assembled, that, in view of the increased cost of living, it is necessary and advisable that the pay and separation allowance at present paid to Canadian soldiers be increased by a liberal amount and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Minister of Militia and Defence at Ottawa, together with a request that action along these lines be taken by the Government at the earliest possibl date.

And whereas B. C. is the only portion of North America, with the exception of the Maritime Provinces where our present rule obtains.

Be It Therefore Resolved, that the Government of B. C. be urged to immediately take whatever steps may be decided necessary in order to change the rule of the road in this province.

Canadian Highway Across Canada.

(5) "That the Board of Directors be instructed to urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of giving Financial assistance to the various Provincial Governments in order to secure the linking together of the Canadian Highway across Canada from the vicinity of Cape Scott, Vancouver Island, to the vicinity of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia."

(The Report is Continued on Page 504.)

CURBING EXCESSIVE RENTALS.

Great Britain has taken drastic action against the landlord who uses his ownership of land to extort additional rentals from poorer tenants. Parliament has passed an Act which outlaws any and every claim for rents over and above the amount charged on August3, 1314. The new law is limited in its app'ication to houses renting up to \$175 a year, or approximately \$12 a month, which would correspond with living quarters in Canada renting for from \$20 to \$30 a month.

The terms of the new British Act may be summarized as follows:-

It applies to Great Britain and Ireland, and will be in force during the present war and for a period of six months after. Houses in London rented up to \$100 a year (13s 5½d per week); houses in Scotland reated up to \$100 a year (11s 6d per weck; and houses in other parts of Great Britain rented up to \$126 a year (10s per week) come under the provisions of the Act. It also covers houses, the rateable value of which does not exceed the amount specifield for the areas named. It does not apply to houses where the rent includes board, attendance or use of furniture.

This fact is clearly pointed out: Landlords must not charge a higher rent than that paid on August3, 1914 For example: If the rent was 6s per week on August 3, 1914, and is now 6s 3d per week, the tenant can legally refuse to pay more than 6s per week. If the house was empty on August 3, 1914, then the rent must not exceed what was paid on the last letting before that date. If the house is new and was first let after August 3, 1914, the rent must not exceed the amount paid by the first tenant.

The Act also provides as follows: Tenants can recover from the landlord increases of rent paid after November 25, 1915. If the rent was raised before the pass-ing of the Amended Act (July 10, 1917), the tenant must claim before January 10, 1918. If the rent was raised after July 10, 1917, the claim must be made within six months after the first payment of the increased rent. Tenants who are not in arrears can therefore deduct increases paid since November 25, 1915, from their next rent payments.

A landlord must not increase the rent on account of decorations or of ordinary repairs.

The landlord cannot legally ask the tenant to do repairs formerly done by himself. He cannot, except for very exceptional circumstances turn the tenant out so long as the rent obtaining on August 3, 1914, is paid. The landlord cannot enforce the payment of "key-money." If the tenant pays a bonus in order to secure a house he can deduct it from his first rent payment, and the landlord cannot legally recover it:

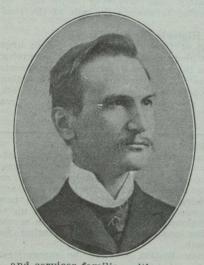
Tenants who consider their landlords are not observing the provisions of the Act should consult the local Trades Council or Labor Party secretary.

In Canada, on the outbreak of war, property values which had risen sky high through speculation, suddenly dropped, which in turn affected rents somewhat; but the biggest factor in the lowering of rents in the larger cities was that families congregated together more-often three in one house-and thus left quite a large number on the landlord's hands. But latterly the families are beginning to take up separate households again, and as very little building is going on, because of the high cost of labor and material, there is a danger of a dearth of smaller houses, or flats, with correspondingly increased rents. There is no doubt but what the average landlord in Canada, given the opportunity, would even double in his rents, and it would be in the interest of many communities if the local councils had power to control rentals of the cheaper houss.

War Time Experiences of Canadian Cities

W. D. LIGHTHALL, K.C.

In that intercommunication which is of late years constantly taking place between the munic palities of the United



States and those of Canada largely through the Municipal League and the Union of Canadian Municipalities — which I repre-sent — our cities of Canada usually look to yours for experiences. But in the case of experiences of the present war we find the rule reversed. No sooner had you come into the conflict than your military leaders appeared at our review grounds and at our Officers' Training Corps; your gallant soldiers were seen fraternizing with our kilties on the streets; we lent you military instructors of all ranks

and services familiar with actual fighting at the front, and our returned soldiers were frequently called to your public meetings to describe the situation in Belgium and France. And to-day some of us dwellers in the larger communities in Canada have been asked to come here and try to tell something that might help your communities, from what we have seen and felt during these last sad but glorious three years and a quarter.

The first effect of the war upon us is something you will never have-a stunned sense of disastrous surprise. You also were surprised at that time, but you were not yet struck. "You had some stock exchange panic it is true, but we had far more; we knew we were actually plunged into a stupendous conflict, for which we were absolutely without preparation. For months our banks shut down on even the most ordinary enterprises. One banker expressed it, "We may all go to pot together." A well-known capitalist sat in tears in a leading club of Montreal after vainly trying to raise a few thousand dollars to save hundreds of thous-ands of good property. "I have lost everything; I am en-tirely ruined," he moaned. And he was but a type of many. But the general commercial panic — fortunately soon surmounted - was but secondary to other things, the military anxiety over the fateful fighting in France, the possibilities of invasion at home, of explosions, of destruction of our canals, railways, and buildings, and above all the anxiety over our sons and other relatives destined for the front. But the blood that runs in our veins and yours is not given to fear or loss of will. We immediately gathered thirty-three thousand eager young men in Khaki and ship-ped them to England, with the pledge of more. We were pleased to learn that you watched their progress as kinsmen. There were not a few of you among even those im-mortal first crusaders. They could not resist the call of chivalry and liberty.

Then first we knew what war, though far off, meant in our cities. The wrench of the heart of the mother, and then her noble pride in the sacrifice of her son; the young wife's fears, but her trust in her brave man; the father's silent consent; the forebodings and excitements of parting. Afterwards the feverish interest in every incident of the war affecting in any way "our boy." All these you have lately had like ourselves. And here I can say something that will help each anxious parent. Do not read the news of every fight with the thought that your boy may have come to harm. On the contrary you may conclude that nothing has hurt him. Because, assuming that your War

Address of W. D. Lighthall, K.C. (Secretary Union of Canadian Municipalities), as Chairman of National Municipal League Convention Session on "Wartime Experiences of Canadian and English Cities," at Detroit, November 23, 1917.

Department System is like ours, the earliest news of a casualty to him will come to yourself by a Government telegram before the newspapers get it. Unless and until, therefore, a telegram has come to you, assume that all is well.

Another fact may also help you. We read in the newspapers of many accidents every day. But in actual life serious accidents are rare. So it is with war. One reads the lists of killed and wounded, but forgets that the vast majority of the army survives. The deaths and cripplings are bad. I do not wish to minimize them. But they are apt to be overestimated and make us unduly depressed. The total deaths of our First Contingent (the 33,000) are about eigh or cent. in three years. In civil life about three per cent. them would have died anyway. Their deaths by the war were therefore one in twenty in those three years. Should the war last another year, then at the same rate your first contingent might lose one in sixty. And during the winter it ought not to be one-fourth of that, because winter is not a fighting season.

Yet with all these deductions, we have had sad and grave To send 400,000 (soon to be 500,000) men overtimes. seas, has made a drain upon our manhood equal to five or six millions from the United States. Consequently, the daily lists of casualties mean much to every community. Blaw after blow falls every few days. Some bright and generous youth, who a short time ago was our happy neighbor, dies in some heroic effort. We shudder at the fall of the stroke upon the unhappy mother and father. We reverence them and their signs of mourning. But each time the carrying on of the war becomes in us a deeper and deeper religion, so that the lives of our heroes shall not have been laid down in vain. We have come to regard earthly things as mattering little, and to live for glorious ideas, like the resolves of men of former great days. Our feelings, we think, resemble those of the height of your Civil War. Your present generation have yet to fully understand these stern and solemn feelings. Your oldest G. A. R. men understand them. Our churches are decorated with allied flags and "Rolls of Honor." Alas, too, memorial tablets are increasing. At the end of each service the congregation, standing at attention, sings a stanza of "God Save the King"; and at times, the new stanza:

> "God save our splendid men, Send them safe home again; God save our men.

Send them victorious. Patient and chivalrous; They are so dear to us, God save our men."

Our experiences in the way of organizing to meet the various demands of the war have been many. Let me give a sketch of what has been done in the City of Montreal, whose population is about 800,000. Montreal differs from most of our places in that it is not the City Hall which is the centre of patriotic action but the Canadian Club. It is in this ever active body that are hatched the whirlwind campaigns for the Canadian Patriotic Fund, for the Red Cross, and for the War Loans. The Red Cross and the War Loans you are familiar with-but the work of the Canadian Patriotic Fund is unique. It is an immense voluntary organization which keeps the wife and family of the soldier in comfort during his absence. Its whole management is perfect down to the smallest detail and it is a treat to go into the large offices and watch the despatch of innumerable applications, complaints, and equiries, under the leadership of a wonderful woman, Miss Helen Reid. It has collected and administered in Montreal alone over \$2,300,000. An interesting fact is that it is entirely managed by women, none of whom had previous business experience. The problem of affording club homes for the numerous uniformed men in the city it attended to by The Khaki League, a voluntary institution peculiar to Montreal, and which runs many departments very popular with the soldier. Hospitals are chiefly provided by the Coverment, by means of The Hospitals Commission, but Volunteer Aid Detachment nurses (V. A. D's) have done

A Canadian City in War Time

The subject is a large one to deal with at all, in an adequate way. When war broke out Canada was unprepared to meet conditions and lislocations which resulted-but recovered itself verv quickly. Coronto, a city of 486,-)00 in population, with in area of about twelve niles along Lake Onario by ten miles inand almost entirely built up, has sent aleady in the neighborood of 60,000 soldiers overseas to fight in Flanders and in France, under the voluntary ystem.

War has made many changes in our City. A municipality in war ime must cease spending money on local improvements and stop its

far as possible, except for works actually under construction, Red Cross and other war expenditures. It should be careful not to add to the capital debt except for works which are revenue producing and absolutely necessary. Returned soldiers should be given the preference in all civic positions exclusively.

The City should insure its soldiers who enlist in this fight for humanity. Every resident of Toronto receives One Thousand Dollars cash indemnity from the City.

The work of many of the civic departments is multiplied in war time, while in the Public Works Department the work is lessened. The Police Department is overworked in war time. They have to assist the Federal and State authorities as well as look after aliens and alien enemies.

Paper Prepared by His Worship Mayor T. L. Church, of Toronto - 25th National Conference of the National Municipal League of Detroit, November 23, 1917.

WAR TIME EXPERIENCES .- Continued.

great deal in private institutions, together with professional nurses, some of whom have gratuitously given their time and skill.

The large numbers of returned men give rise to several other problems-such as re-educational classes for those whose wounds and mutilated limbs unfit them for their former employment. Those gassed and shell-shocked also present serious questions. They start at sudden sounds, fight battles in their dreams, and require very sympathetic treatment. One question of deep importance has been how to see to it that the soldier, his secrifices, and his war aims shall not be forgotten in the years after the war. some of us thought the solution to have been reached by your Grand Army of the Republic. We have, therefore, aided in forming The Great War Veterans Associations which now numbers between twenty and thirty thousand, and will probably when peace arrives contain four hundred thousand. It already promises to be one of the most powerful of the new influences in Canadian life. It has been imitated in Australia, and ultimately the hope is that all soldiers of the Allies will be linked together in The Great War Veterans of the World. The most precious of all honors is to wear the gilt wound stripes and the button of the returned soldier.

With all our losses, our anxieties. and our stern and serious days, no Canadian worthy of the name will ever regret that our boys sprang by instinct to the help of the oppressed and took up the battle for the common liberties of mankind. You also, men and women of our blood, were bound to be there. We felt you could not keep out of it; although the stupid Hohenzollern, true to type, took your long-tried patience for fear of his might.

In all these conditions the part of municipal authorities is plain. Their duty is to lead and co-operate in every kind of patriotic action within their territory.

MAYOR CHURCH.

capital expenditures as

The United States has made a good start and will have the benefit of the mistakes made by our City and others in Canada. The American cities will learn from our experience and will be able to effect considerable economy.

All unnecessary public works should be stopped in war time except those under contract, local improvements, street extensions and other improvements should be discontinued, they can well afford to wait over until after the war.

Our larger cities, in winter, become a training camp for soldiers. They have handed their municipal properties over to the Government for camps for soldiers, and Toronto's city owned car lines carry the soldiers free, though the private Street Railway Company here makes them pay a fare.

Owing to the work provided by Munition Plants and other works, unemployment is very largely eliminated. Labor becomes scarce and is at a premium.

The City should take the lead in all patriotic work, such as Red Cross and Patriotic funds, assisting them in every way possible.

The best that a city can give the soldiers is none too good for them for all they are going to suffer for us

The coal and food situation may be materially relieved by civic co-operation and the City should assist the federal and state governments by joint action; to assist regu-lating prices, and also in the fuel and food situations.

Proper guards should be put on all civic property. They have a twenty-four hour a day guard on our waterworks and on other public buildings. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure later on. At the start of the war we had a military guard on civic property, but this has been substituted by a civil guard under the control of the Police Department. Civic receptions should be given when the troops go away and when they come home. In Toronto the returned men are met by a band. given a civic welcome and taken to their homes in automobiles, and otherwise looked after, and as soon as discharged are found suitable

Employers of labor and manufacturers when their employees return from the front should not expect 1^0 per cent. of efficiency from them and should not reduce them to a minor position to their old one-at lesser pay, for were it not for the soldier to-day the manufacturers' business would be nowhere in such a war as this.

Officers of all ranks should not "orget that the soldier of to-day is a civilian. The men should be treated properly and not as inferiors of the officers. This is a democratic country and the men have left their civil positions for the good of the colors and civilization. While discipline is necessary there should be democratic spirit between the officers and men of all ranks. If the state collects war taxes the money should be spent for war purposes and not impose too much war tax on the municipalities.

The people are taxed to death by federal and state enactments and while the municipality's expenditures are doubled for war purposes, their revenues are becoming depleted all the time. The assessment of the City in war time should as much as possible not be interfered with.

The State imposes a war tax of one mill on the dollar per annum on the assessment of the City.

We have Sixty Thousand soldiers away from Toronto on active service, but only some fifty thousand are included in the Civic Insurance in smuch as they had not all been residing in the municipality before 1914 to qualify for our insurance scheme.

The City should assist the soldiers in seeing that they get proper transports, assist in notifying their relatives. have a Civic Bureau to look after the soldiers' wants and needs. The City should pay the difference between the military pay and the civic salaries of its own employees who have joined the colors while they are on active service

The war is a gigantic affair and rigid economy should be practiced. Cities on this side of the line should not make the great mistake that Toronto has made of assuming too many federal responsibilities. Toronto has spent vast sums to assist recruiting which the Federal Government should have paid. We have given over to the Government a tenmillion dollar property known as the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds and other public buildings to house the troops for eight months of the year. The American cities should prepare to receive the returned men, as in less than (Continued on Page 512.)



Municipal Enterprise

H. N. BAKER, L.L.B.

At the last sitting of the Manitoba Legislature a most important clause was added to the Winnipeg Charter whereby the City was given extensive powers of entering into certain municipal trading enterprises under certain conditions and subject to the approval of the Public Utilities Commissioner. The powers contained in the draft clause submitted were, however, considerably curtailed and modified by the Law Amendments Committee, and the following is a reprint of the section as now law.

"S. 703-D.

(a) The Public Utilities Commissioner upon application of the said City and upon being satisfied that extraordinary measures should be taken to provide food and fuel for the residents of said City, and upon being satisfied that the ordinary mercantile methods of supplying such commodities at a reasonable price and in sufficient quantities have failed, or that there are reasonable grounds for fearing that they will fail, may make an order authorizing the City to buy such quantities of food or fuel as may be necessary, and hold the same in reserve or sell the same to the residents of said City in such manner, and in such quantities, and on such terms and conditions as to said Commissioner seem just.

(b) Provided that in order to save merchants and other residents in the City from actual loss (including loss of a fair profit in money spent for stock of food or fuel) or for any other reason, the said Commissioner in making any order herein may stipulate that the said City shall take over any stocks of such commodities at such prices or shall assume any contracts or obligations on such terms as to said Commissioner may seem just and reasonable to all concerned.

(c) For the purpose of exercising the authority given by any such order the City may buy, lease or otherwise acquire such grounds, buildings, warehouses or equipment as may be necessary for the obtaining, handling, delivering, and otherwise dealing with said fuel or food, and may by by-law borrow in any manner authorized by this Act such sum or sums of money as may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid, and unless the total amount so borrowed exceed the sum of \$100,000 any such by-law need not be submitted for the consent of the ratepayers of the City."

For a considerable time our municipalities have been gradually accumulating to the central governing body, more, and more powers over certain activities necessary to the welfare and comfort of their inhabitants. For many decades it has been taken for granted that many of the present departments in our Municipal Government should belong to it exclusively. Street lighting in England was formerly done by the householders under penalty for failure to observe the law in this respect, and later was let out by contract. Until a comparatively short while ago organized fire control was exclusively in the hands of the various insurance companies, each of whom had its own uniformed fire brigade for the purpose of controlling fires in buildings insured by it. Just now when a municipal salvage corps has been proposed for the City of Winnipeg one of the most persistent arguments against this form of municipal activity is that the cost of the maintenance of such a corps should properly be borne by the insurance companies and not by the City. Even within the remembrance of some of our citizens water was sold on the streets of Winnipeg, and with the suggestion that the municipality should own and manage this supply there is little doubt but that some of these water carriers omplained that the City, to whom they were paying taxes. was taking away their livelihood. Few now, however, venture to suggest that anyone other than the municipal body should own and manage these public utilities.

The claim that many other activities should be controlled and managed by the Municipality cannot be dismissed with the statement that these claims are purely "socialistic"—implying thereby that they are possessed of all that is bad, and little if any that is good, in so called socialism. The Prussian Municipal system for all practical purposes is as oligarchic and autocratic as is its central government, and yet the Prussian cities have gone to much greater extremes than those of any other country in the world in the extension of what they term "municipal socialism." Some German towns insure all children

attending the primary schools and their teachers, against accidents sustained while going to and from school, or while on the school premises; practically all cities, towns and villages have large holdings of public lands, and the village of Langenanbach owns land and forest yielding timber and limestone sufficient to pay all local expenditure including the cost of water, and leave a balance to be added yearly to the credit of the commune. It must, however, be borne in mind when comparing the activities of continental cities with those controlled by Anglo-Saxon inhabitants that there are radical and essential differences in the forms of their Charters and of administrative control. A study of what Great Britain and the United States have accomplished in municipal trading is of more profit when investigating what we Anglo-Saxons can, may or may not with reasonable safety attempt. The systems of municipal management and the historical temperament of the inhabitants more nearly approaching those of our Canadian cities. Many of these schemes have been tried out practically and have prospered or failed for reasons local or inherent, and one interested in municipal government can study them with profit and no little interest.

Various enterprises to which municipal management may be applied can be roughtly divided into a number of classes for the purpose of investigation. In one class may be put those services of an essentially monopolistic character which require large outlays of money before they can be productive, and which generally necessitate the use of public streets. Such services include waterworks, gas works, electric light and power works, electric railways and a few other miscellaneous services. All these have usually been regarded as good commercial undertakings likely to pay satisfactory dividends and therefore fitting objects for private enterprise. Toward them a local authorities may adopt one of three policies. It may leave them to private companies and allow these companies to go their own way uncontrolled, that is to occupy the same position towards the public as a private trader towards his customers. Secondly, it may impose certain obligations and restrictions upon the Company; it may limit the profits or charges and enforce regulations as to the quality and quantity of the commodities supplied, and make any other conditions which it thinks proper. Thirdly, it may itself undertake to supply the services needed either alone or in competition with private undertakers. There is one other policy midway between the second and third whereby the local authorities own the plant necessary for the service but leave the working of it to a private company, so that it runs no commercial risk itself. This was the plan which was originally authorized by the Parliament of England for the operation of tramways. Until the year 1882 it was the recognized rule in Great Britain that no local authority could be allowed to work its tramways itself, and many cities including Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and Glasgow each built its own line and then leased it at an annual rental. This system has, however, rarely been very successful, and is now generally given up. The policy of leaving the supply of service entirely uncontrolled is now universally recognized as being practically impossible and the controversy rages between the supporters of the second and third alternative.

In Great Britain the tendency has been for the services to pass rap'dly through the three stages and to become completely municipalized — that is to be owned and worked by the local authorities. It must be admitted, however, that a potent cause favoring the development of municipal trading has been the difficulty of drafting a lease which would be entirely satisfactory to both parties. But probably the chief reasons for the progress in the desire of municipalities to take over utilities affecting indirectly public health s (uhcas water power and tramways which relieve congested districts in cities) were that if not taken over they would be supplied by private enterprise which would consider primari'y only their own interests; for administrative reasons connected with the control of the streets; and the belief as expressed by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in 1874, as mayor of Birmingham, that all monopolies which were in any way sustained by the state ought to be in the hands of representatives of the people by whom they should be administered and to whom the profits should go. One writer has put very aptly the proper policy that should be followed by municipalities in relation to profits by saying that "The duty of the municipality is to

Civic Affairs in Manitoba

H. E. MORTON.

A request by the Federation of Winnipeg Civic Employees, the Firemen's Union and Union of Water Works Operators for a revised schedule and increases in salary approximating 15 per cent, or \$150,000 a year, has for the time be ng been refused. The Winnipeg City Council, which officially goes out of office until the end of the nominally holding the reins of office until the end of the year, refused to accede to the request made. While not adverse to considering such a request at a more suitable time, the Board of Control, after a caucus meeting with the City Council, took the view that the request was made at an inopportune time (one month before the municipal election) and that it would be unwise to take up such matters during the last month of office.

In view of similar requests in other municipalities, the reply of the Council might be of general interest. This read as follows:

"The Board of Control having considered the request from the Federation of Civic Employees for a classification and grading to be made in respect to the employees of the various branches of the civic service, and also the adoption of a schedule fixing the minimum and maximum monthly salary and annual increment for each grade, feels that a request of this nature coming as it does on the eve of an election and with a l'mited time in which to consider same is unreasonable, and the only conclusion the Board can come to is that it is inopportune and unwise to take up such matters under the existing unsettled conditions. While the Board would not be adverse to considering at the proper time a classification and schedule such as is proposed, believing that some such method would be to the mutual advantage of its employees, it is a matter that requires to be done conscientiously and systematically, if satisfactory results are to be attained, and this cannot be

MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE .- Continued.

make as little profit as possible, whereas the duty of the commercial company is to make as much profit as possible. An electric lighting company paying a dividend of ten per cent is a triumph of good management; but a municipal electric lighting company making profits at the same rate is guilty of social maladversion." But the doctrine generally accepted now, by Anglo-Saxon communities at least, is that a municipality should undertake only those enterprises which promote the objects for whose realization the local authorities exist-what has been called "civic housekeeping."

In Prussia and Germany generally the policy has been either to bring these services under strict control or to municipalize them. The latter course has been adopted in many cases: and it will bear repeating that it is well to remember that German civic administrators have not been influenced in the least by any of these so-called "socialistic ideas" which are so often alleged to have anumated British, American and Canadian councils, but have deliberately adopted municipalization because they believe it will best promote administrative efficiency.

In the last few years the whole policy of municipal ownership has been fiercely attacked in Great Britain; but the controversy has changed its ground. It is no longer concerned with the general principle - that is admitted within limits - but with its particular applications. There is no difference of opinion, for instance, that the water supply should be in the hands of local authorities; but once that be admitted the whole of the theoretical case against a large part of municipal ownership is abandoned. For the arguments for a municipal water supply-that it is a monopoly, because of the economic and administrative impossibility of competing supplies in the same area, and that it is desirable to encourage the consumption as much as possible, and therefore to make charges which are fees rather than prices-these apply with nearly equal force to tramways, gas and electricity supply. Criticism is then leaving aside the question of principle and confining itself to the practical problem which is simply this-taking all the circumstances into consideration does the municipalization of the particular service present a balance of advantages or disadvantages? This involves the separate examination of the services as rendered under great varieties of conditions; and in the inquiry it must be borne constantly in mind that the choice is not between municipal action and uncontrolled private enterprise, but between a municipal service and a private but controlled service. (To be continued.)

done in the short time outlined by the applicants. With regard to the application of this organization and also those of the Firemen's Union and Water Work operators for an increase in salary and wages at the present time, the Board would point out that only a few months have elapsed since a general increase averaging 121/2 per cent was granted, apparently acceptable to all parties concerned, upon which the appropriations for the year were based. Furthermore, it is the established custom to deal with the question of salaries and wages but once a year, and that, generally, when the estimates are being prepared. The fiscal year is now little more than half over, and it is the opinion of the Board that the practice as hitherto to consider increased requirements of all kinds, including salaries and wages, when fixing the appropriations and tax rate for the year, is the most fair and logical course to adopt."

Approximately 1,000 employees are concerned in the request, which means a further increase of about 15 per cent all round, or about \$150,000 per annum with shorter hours. General increases totalling \$64,000 per annum were granted last spring, and were included in the fiscal estimates for the year commencing May 1st, dating back, however, to March 1st.

Decreased Infant Mortality.

The recent announcement that the infant mortality rate for Winnipeg in the present year is likely to reach a new low record is gratifying news. Winnipeg has done wonders in lowering the death rate among children, and those responsible for pressing on with the work, sometimes under discouraging circumstances, are to be thanked for what they have done. Some people have been prone to look upon as fads certain institutions and works for the pre-servation of chilf life, but if they are "fads" they are fads worth having and worth keeping up, for they are showing practical results.

During the first nine months of the year, 424 babies under one year of age d'ed, compared with 539 in the corresponding period of 1916. This death rate is 102 per 1,-000 as against 117 for 1916. Compared with every 1,000 infants born alive, there were 15 fewer deaths in 1917 than in the year before. General communicable diseases also have been lower this year, and during October only 361 cases were registered, a decrease of 117 cases from a year ago, despite the fact that diptheria cases were nearly double those of a year ago.

In addition to the recent request by the Winnipeg Public School Board for the passing of a by-law entailing the issue of debentures for \$500,000 for the acquiring of sites and the building and improving of schools, the Muricipal Hospitals Commission has requested the council that the necessary author'ty be obtained from the Manitoba Legislature allowing the city to submit a by-law to the ratepayers for the issue of debentures to cover the cost of a nurses home. The amount required would be about \$200,-000 for the nurses' home and \$25.00 for the addition to the hospital. The expenditure in connection with the hospitals represents over-expenditure of about \$300,000, for which legislative sanction was not given originally, and in a report by the city solicitor, it was learned that the erection of the superintendent's residence some time ago was not properly authorized by the submission of a by-law, and the cost is now being carried by an overdraft. It has been decided to ask the leg slature for the power required.

CITY COUNCIL WANTS TO CONTROL GAS PLANT. The friction between the City Council and the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway, which company supplies the whole of the gas used in Winnipeg, still continues. The city holds that the present price charged for gas is excessive, and that if the company still contends to the contrary the general public should be given an opportunity through its representatives to run the plant, when, T. Hunt, K.C., city adviser holds, it would be seen that it could be managed more economically. Mr. Hunt, in a recent report, gave a short history leading up to the enquiry which recently took place, and showing how the gas company asked to be allowed to increase the rates owing to the difficult coal s'tuation. He suggested that the only feasible course to pursue was to place either the city's or the public utilities commissioner's engineer in full and complete control of the gas plant to be operated, say, for one month or more, in order to determine whether a greater quality of gas could or could not be produced from each ton of coal than is now the case, also to ascertain if the cost of operation could not be materially cheapened without lessening the efficiency of the service. The matter is still under discussion.

CONVENTION OF B.C. MUNICIPALITIES_

(Continued from Page 497.)

SOLICITOR'S REPORT.

2. Assessment (1) Power should be given to municipalities to grant relief by way of rebate on the assessed value, to lands held and used solely for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

This was granted, limited to lands of three acres or over in area.i It is now Section 46 of this year's amendments.

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

Section 479 of the Municipal Act has already provisions sufficient to enable the inspector to issue such forms. It would, however, seem to the undersigned wiser if such forms were not prescribed until that portion of the Act respecting collection of taxes and tax sales is given a thorough revision.

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

Resolved further: That the President of the Burnaby Womans' Forum forward this resolution to his Worship the Reeve, and the Council of the Municipality of Burnaby with the earnest request that they do present this resolution to the Union of B. C. Municipalities, and give it their support.

This was not granted by the Government and it was resolved that the matter be re-submitted.

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

This was not granted and the Convention resolved that this be dropped.

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

This was not granted and it was resolved that the representatives of the different Municipalities send their seasons for wishing this to the Solicitor of the Union so that when the Act is revised that he will have the same for reference.

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

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

No change was made in the law respecting this matter. By Section 53 of this year's Act the Government have recognized the principle of paying the taxes accrued on properties, when the Government has resumed the same.

No change was made in the law respecting this matter. By Section 53 of this year's Act the Government have recognized the principle of paying the takes accrued on properties, when the Government has resumed the same.

Claim of Government to a Reversion of one-fourth of the lots upon sub-division of certain lands. In the form of Crown Grant issued upon the Land Act; 1896, the following

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

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

Nothing was done in this matter.

It was Resolved that this matter be re-submitted to the Government.

8. "Municipal Act."

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

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

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

Power to fix a standard weight of bread.

This was granted in part. Sections 16 and 17 of this year's amendments.

9. Amend Section 54, Sub-section (117) as follows: "For preventing persons in streets or public places from importuning others to travel in or employ any vehicle or go to any tavern, hotel, inn or boarding house; and for regulating and governing persons so employed."

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

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

With the exception of the last paragraph all these amendments were passed by the Government and it was resolved that this clause be dropped.

10. A sub-section should be placed at the end of Section 54, giving the councils a general power to pass by-laws "for the good rule and government of the municipality." This power is given to the City of Vancouver, and also to all municipalities in Ontario and England. There are almost innumerable cases in which by-laws or portions of by-laws which would otherwise be held invalid for want of express powers.

This was granted and forms Section 30 of this year's Act.

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(Continued.)

11. "Noxious Weeds Act." That Sub-section (2) of Section 3 of Chapter 66, The Noxious Weeds Act be amended by striking out the same.

Not granted and it was resolved that this be dropped.

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

Not granted and it was resolved that this be re-submitted.

13. "Provincial aid to municipalities for the maintenance of main trunk roads."

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

This matter was laid over to be dealt with along with the resolution from the Good Roads League.

14. Whereas under the Municipal Act the control of the Police Force and matters pertaining to licenses are in the hands of boards who are in no way responsible to the council, and whereas in some cases this works greatly to the detriment of a municipality, Be It Resolved, That the Act be so amended that the orbads shall see that the will of the people be carried out.

This was granted. Sections 57, 58 and 61 deal with the matter.

15. Be It Resolved: That necessary legislation be sought that a municipal council may expend for the purpose of acquiring the necessary field data and providing general outline plans for a comprehensive scheme for laying out the municipality to which scheme all new sub-divisions must conform.

16. "That all municipal corporations shall, in addition to power already provided, be given authority to refuse sub-division plans if it can be shown:

(1) That such plan is not in the public interest.

(2) That the topography of the area or true nature of soil is not suitable for sub-division.

- (3) That the area of the lots is unsuitable to the locality or situation of the land proposed to be sub-divided.
- (4) That such sub-division would entail upon the corporation unwarranted expenditures.
- (5) That before the final passage of any sub-division plan, all streets and lands therein shall be cleared, graded and surfaced to the satisfaction of the council or such official as may be appointed by the council for that purpose."

The Legislature could not see any usefulness in this legislation at the present time. Resolved that this matter be left in the hands of the Solicitor to be taken up at the redrafting of the new Act.

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

Not granted.

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

Re-submit.

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

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

Not granted.

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

For the purposes of this Act: A wife shall be deemed to be deserted by her husband, (a) Because of his assaults or other acts of cruelty; (b) Because of his refusal or neglect without sufficient cause to supply his wife and their infant children (if any) with food, clothing or other necessaries.

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

Not granted. 19 and 20 were referred to the Solicitor to be taken up when the Act is under revision.

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

22. Resolved, that the Legislature be asked to make it an order of the House that no legislation affecting municipalities shall be allowed to be inserted after such time as it is possible for the Municipal Committee of the House to hear any interested parties and to deal with the matter.

No formal action was taken on these matters, but assurances were given that so far as might from time to time be possible, the ideas therein embodied would be carried into effect.

23. It is submitted that sections embodying the following ideas should be inserted in the Municipal Act:

(1) A clause authorizing the passage of a by-law to either increase or decrease the number of aldermen or councillors; mentioning, if it should be thought advisable, a minimum.

(2) Providing that such by-law should be submitted to the ratepayers;

(3) That such by-law may be submitted to a vote of the ratepayers.

(4) When such by-law is passed and carried by vote, say by a majority vote, to be stated in the section, that

the by-law shall then take effect at the next election.

This forms Section 3 of the Act as amended this year. 24. "Municipal Elections Act."

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

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

In slightly different form this was approved and inserted as Section 6 of this year's Act.

25. Resolved, that this Convention petition the Government to so amend Section 22 of the Municipal Elections Act that the annual elections shall be held one month earlier than at present, and that the time elapsing between nomination and election be the same in city municipalities as in district municipalities.

Re-submit.

26. Under Section 97 of the Municipal Act (as re-enacted by Section 20 of the 1916 Amendment) debentures or other obligations given to secure a municipal debt are required to be made payable on or before fifty years from the day on which the underlying by-law takes effect. We think that the maturity item should date from the time of issue of the debentures and not from the time when the by-law takes effect.

27. Amend Section 248 so as to give power to convert or reconvert stock into debentures.

These were granted and are now in the Act.

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

This was not granted. And it was moved by Mayor Todd, seconded by Reeve McKenzie and carried. That the following new draft be submitted:

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(Continued.)

"A sub-section be added to Section 180 of the Municipal Act by which any proceedings attacking an Assessment By-Law, either General, Special or Local Improvement, shall be confined to an application to quash the same to be made within three months.'

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

This was granted. Section 47 of this year's amendment. 30. Re Transient Traders and Transient Real Estate Agents. Section 290, Sub-sections (21) and (27); By Sections 47 and 48 of the 1916 Amendment, the definitions of transient trader and transient real estate agent were altered so as to afford a more workable basis than the former section, but still further amendment is required as follows:

- (a) The sub-sections do not specify any officer who has power to approve or disapprove of the required security, and we suggest that this discretion should be vested in the municipal treasurer or other officer appointed by the Council.
- (b) While the condition of the security is that a transient real estate agent shall carry on business in the municipality for one year, the amount of the security is limited by the sub-section to the license fee for six months, and we suggest that the Section should be amended so as to provide that the security shall be double the twelve months' license fee, so as to cure this anomaly in the section and make the security effective throughout the year.

This was granted by Section 54 of this year's amendments.

31. Re Abandonment of Expropriations: We urgently recommend the insertion of a sub-section of 367 by which municipalities which have expropriated land which they have not actually entered upon or used, shall have the right to abandon such expropriation and re-vest such land in the original owner, upon paying any actual damage occasioned to such owner by reason of such expropriation. 32. Local Improvement Act. Section 33 of the Local Im-

provement Act should be amended so as to require owners intending to complain to the Court of Revision to give thirty days' notice by municipality and ten days' notice by property owner to the Municipality.

33. That the Municipal Act be amended so as to give power to the Councils of adjoining municipalities to enter into agreements for the joint control and management of parks and beaches within either Municipality, and to expend municipal funds thereon.

The above sections were all approved and now form part of the Act.

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

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

(1) That the Union of B. C. Municipalities recommend to the Provincial Government that provision be made in estimates of years 1918-1919 for a sum sufficient to construct and equip a building at Tranquille for the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis.

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

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

Re-hubmit.

Re-submit.

35. Municipal Act, Section 487a.

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

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

- (a) That it shall be competent for the Court in which any such civil action, suit or proceeding is pending, to add or substitute the Attorney-General as a party plaintiff on his application;
- (b) That nothing herein contained shall limit or affect any right of the Crown or of the Attorney-General of Canada, or the Attorney-General of British Columbia under the "Constitutional Determination Act."

The substance of this resolution is now contained in Section 66 of this year's amendments.

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

Referred to Solicitor to be taken up at redrafting of Act.

37. We urge a larger rebate on payment of taxes, that a rebate of one-sixth of all taxes be allowed.

This was adopted. Sections 49 and 50 make provision for this.

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

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

Nothing has been done with these sections.

It was moved by Mayor Gray.

Seconded by Reeve Kew and Carried, That

Whereas no success has so far attended the efforts of this Union to secure the revision of the Municipal, Local Improvement and other Acts directly affecting Municipalities.

That Be It Resolved we re-affirm our resolution of last year and that it be an instruction to our Executive, to continue to press upon the Government the difficulties, annoyances and costs occasioned by the lack of continuity, of flexibility, and of precision of statement which fill the text of these acts. That they point out to the Government that no amount of amendment, short of total revision will in our judgment afford any adequate relief, and that such a revision should only be undertaken by those familiar with the various and varied problems arising in Municipal administration.

That this Council having experienced difficulty in the administration of Municipal affairs, by reason of the fact that the Municipal, Local Improvement and other Acts affecting Municipalities are cumbersome, difficult of interpretation and lacking in reference to other Acts also affecting Municipalities, most strongly urge upon the Provincial Government the necessity of a complete and thorough revision of these Statutes and the drafting of a new Municipal Act in which will be incorporated all matters affecting Municipal Government.

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for presentation to the Government by the Executive of the Union and that each Municipal Council be requested to send a representative or representatives to the meeting with the Government when this matter is presented and that th members of the Provincial Legislature be requested to support same

40. That the process of returning sub-divisions to acreage by means of cancellation be simplified and made as inexpensive as possible for the owners. "Plans Cancellation Act."

Dropped.

41. Association place itself on record as favoring the internment of all alien enemies in British Columbia and that we strongly recommend the Provincial Government to urge

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(Continued.)

the Dominion Government to take immediate steps toward that end.

This was submitted to the Government concerned.

42. Re Section 54, Sub-section 104. "It would contribute very materially toward clearing up the water situation in a number of municipalities if this sub-section were extended to include water. The Municipalities have power to purchase, contract, operate and maintain works for supplying water. In very many cases it is much more convenient to carry out this undertaking by the purchase of water than by going to a new source of supply, and in a number of cases in the Province this has been done. In the case of Oak Bay and Saanich, the Oak Bay Act, 1910, by its amendment, 1911, confers power upon the Municipality of Oak Bay to sell water to the Municipality of Saanich.

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

This was granted and forms Section 14 of the present Act.

43. Re Sub-section 82, Section 54, of the Municipal Act. We consider that this section should so read that it is made plain that any responsibility for demolition of property for the prevention of the spread of fires shall not lie with the cities of British Columbia.

Dropped.

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

Dropped.

45. That the School Board estimates be submitted to the Municipal Council within thirty days after the School Board take office instead of on 1st of February as now. Re-submit.

46. Resolved that Municipal Councils be permitted to add to the school estimates sufficient sum to allow for a rebate, the same as may be given on the general rate in order to encourage prompt payment of school tax. Should a surplus arise from non-payment of school taxes within the rebate period that such surplus be carried forward for school purposes in the following year.

The first part of this Section was granted.

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

This is a departmental regulation and can be carried out by administrative order.

Resolved that this be referred to the Solicitor to take up with the Finance Minister.

WAR RELIEF ACT.

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

"Mr. President, and Members of the Union of B. C. Municipalities.

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

That while we are now in full sympathy with the aims of the War Relief Act, beg to report as follows:

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

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

(2) In any action or other proceedings by any munici-(2) in any action of taxes the onus of proof that (The Balance of the Report will be published in Jan. issue.)

any person comes within the provisions of Sections 2 or 3 of the said Act shall be upon the person claiming or entitled to the benefit thereof, unless a statutory declaration proving the fact, shall be filled by or on behalf of such person in the office of the municipal clerk of the municipality where the land affected by such action or other proceeding is situate. A copy of this section shall be printed on all assessment and tax notices.

(3) Within one month after the passage of this Act, on or before the first day of February in each subsequent year during the continuance of the said war, each municipality may compile a statement of arrears of taxes owing by any person coming within the provisions of Section 2 or 3 of the said Act and forward the same to the Provincial Secretary, and the Minister of Finance shall out of the Provincial Treasury advance to the municipalities 75 per cent. of said arrears. Such municipalities shall hypothecate to the said Minister of Finance the said arrears of taxes, to secure payment of such advances, and all monies collected on account of such arrears by the municipality shall, within thirty days from date of collection, be paid into the Provincial Treasurer.

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

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. McBeath, Chairman.

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

(1) and (2) These were granted.

(3) and (4) These were not granted and it was resolved that we ask no further amendments to the War Relief Act.

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

A great deal of the Session was taken up with the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company investigation, and there was not time for the Government to decide as to what it was going to do with these railways. The matter has been pressed upon the attention of the Government and they are fully aware of the situation.

Resolved that this be re-submitted.

50. Re Hospital Act.

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

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

(c) Exceptions to be made for cases of accidents occur-

ring outside the boundaries of the municipality interested. Resolved that this be re-submitted.

51. That the Provincial Government be asked to amend the Provincial Highway Act making it compulsory to have adequate light carried upon all vehicles and street cars for the proper protection of life and property. Resolved that this be re-submitted.

53. Resolved that the principle of combined assessment and tax notice be endorsed.

8

Personal Liability for Preventable Fires

L. FRED. MONAGHAN, City Clerk of Halifax.

In the form of a report to his Council Mr. Ford Monaghan, City Clerk of Halifax introduced a very important subject affecting the personal liability of citizens when fires break out in their premises.

The report is as follows:

Amongst the great lessons taught by the present war and one which time after time has been brought most vividly to the minds and experience of many communities, has been the utter wastefulnes and woeful loss of property, including foods and other necessaries of life, and munitions of war through preventable fires. The magnitude of such losses in war time is more expressive than under other circumstances because the effect is felt by all persons in time of war, whilst in peace times the burden is a pecuniary one only and is suffered only by an immediate, interested few.

It would appear then, that while the minds of the people are filled with instances almost daily through the columns of the press in which great losses through preventable fires might have been averted and immense quantities of foods and munitions of war saved for their proper purpose is an opportunity not to be neglected by legislative bodies.

In ordinary times the annual loss by fire in Canadian cities is very great, and the cost of the upkeep of Municipal Fire Departments a burdensome tax.

Most communities, including the City of Halifax, have officials whose duty it is to inspect properties for fire hazard and to apply certain regulations for the correcting of unsafe conditions, but the results of this system are far from satisfactory everywhere.

An effective deterrent for preventable fires must touch the pocket of the careless or vicious property holder. A short cut to this is to make him personally financially liable.

The Common Law principle of liability for injury resulting from carelessness or neglect in order that it might be summarily, inexpensively and expeditiously applied should be supported in the special matter under consideration by statutory enactment and municipal regulations.

This subject is most opportunely a live question in the United States at the present ime, and is being urged wih some diligence by the National Fire Protection Association of which th City of Halifax, through its City Clerk, is a member.

The City of Greater New York, the City of Cleveland, Ohio, and the State of Pennsylvania have already moved in the matter and have had the principle enacted into law. I think the subject worthy of consideration by the City

of Halifax for many reasons.

The Law in the State of Pensylvania is as follows:-"Section 1.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same: That where a fire originates on the premises occupied by any person, firm or corporation as a result of his or its criminal intent, design or wilful negligence, or where said person, firm or corporation has failed to comply with any law or ordinance of said cities or any lawful regulation or requirement of any state or municipal authority enacted or made for the prevention of fire or the spreading thereof, such person firm or corporation shall, in addition to the present penalties for the punishment of persons convicted of arson or the payment of any fine or penalty for the violation of any law, ordinance or lawful regulation or requirement of any state or municipal authority enacted or made for the prevention of fire or the spreading thereof, be liable in a civil action to said cities for the payment of all costs and expenses of the fire departments of said cities incurred in and about the use of employees, apparatus and materials in the extinguishment as aforesaid. The amount of such costs and expenses shall be determined by the Director of the Department of Public Safety based upon the wages of the firemen and other officers for the time they were engaged in the extinguishment or the attempt to extinguish such fire; a reasonable amount as rental for the use of the apparatus of said city, and the cost of the water or other materials used in the extinguishment or attempt to extinguish such fire, with an additional amount of ten per centum

h- on the total amount as aforesaid as supervisory

or overhead charges, all of which shall be paid into the City Treasury for the use of said cities. Section 2.—All acts or parts of acts inconsistent

with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed. Passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

Approved the sixth day of May, 1915, by Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh.

The National Fire Protection Association urge all persons who suffer from preventable fires to bring suit for the recovery of damages.

The enactments in New York, Cleveland and Pennsylvania only confer on the municipalities the power to collect the cost to the Fire Department of extinguishing or attempting to extinguish preventable fires.

The turning out of a City fire brigade with its attendant risks and expense for the extinguishing of a preventable chimney fire is a ridiculous example where the property holder should if at fault reimburse the Municipality for actual cost.

Laws of this nature if deemed wise should really be Provincial or Dominion wide, and not confined to individual or isolated communities only, and with that object in mind I would ask the privilege of submitting copies of this suggestion to the Honorable the Premier of Nova Scotia, to the Secretary of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and to the secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities.

RURAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Commission of Conservation has just published one of the most valuable reports in its existence dealing with the planning and development of rural districts and small towns in Canada. It has been prepared by Mr. Thomas Adams, Town Planning Adviser of the Commission, who has made a close study of the problems of rural development in this country during the past three years, following twenty-five years experience in farming, land surveying and town planning in other countries.

The report deals comprehensively with the social conditions and tendencies in rural areas and the prevailing systems of land settlement and development. It indicates the rural problems requiring solution in order to secure the proper development and economic use of land for purpose of efficiency, health, convenience, and amenity. The great injury which land development in Canada suffers, from speculation, neglect of public health, and want of expert business administration of land settlement, is considered. Incidentally, the problem of returned soldiers is dealt with, and the connection between land development and such questions as taxation, unemployment, and high cost of living is clearly shown.

Having regard to the need for more attention being given to production in Canada; to the extent to which production is impaired by speculation in land, by neglect of public health, and by haphazard systems of development; to the importance of increasing the supply of human skill and energy and of capital derived*from production instead of by borrowing; the problems dealt with in this report are of vital and current interest to the people of this country.

There are five appendices by competent authorities, and the concluding chapter gives an outline of proposals and makes general recommendations to cover the conditions as presented.

CANADA THE "WOOD PILE" OF THE EMPIRE.

Canada holds the only large forests in the whole British Empire. Australia and New Zealand, and South Africa have sacrificed most of their original timber to the fire fiend and ruthless exploitation. These facts emphasize Canada's strategic position as containing the only "wood pile" available to the Empire except those of Russia. Sixty per cent of John Bull's huge timber demand is supplied by the Russian people today, for the British Isles provide only one log out of eight actually needed for home use. What part Canada's forests will play in British trade after the war is problematical but there is no tack of prophets to predict that every square mile of growing timber will double in value under the strain of post-bellum demand from the devastated districts of Europe. Meanwhile Canadian governments can prepare to take full advantage of increasing timber values by thorough fire protection and scientific control of wasteful lumbering.

Municipal Finance

By JAMES MURRAY.

STANDING MUNICIPALITIES IN SASKATCHEWAN.

In his annual report for the year ending April 30th, Mr. J. N. Bayne, Deputy Minister for Municipal Affairs, Saskatchewan, is very optimistic regarding the financial standing of the municipalities that come under his jurisdiction. Particularly does he make a point of accentuating the fact that not one of the municipalities has repudiated its indebtedness. That is as it should be, for in spite of the real estate speculation-one might say gambling-that has been the bane of our Western municipalities, the councils on the whole have kept their heads and kept their credit, though since the war started it has been hard work. The report itself is valuable as showing the complete check, that a department for municipal affairs has on local expenditure.. The following is taken from Mr. Bayne's Report:-

The municipal prosperity of the Province of Saskatche-wan has not diminished but has rather increased at an accelerated rate during the past twelve months. This fact is demonstrated by the substantial cash surpluses shown by so many of our municipalities at the end of the last calendar year, and by a general clearing of debts and taxes hitherto not experienced during a similar period of the existence of the province.

Debts are not now undertaken with that freedom from foreboding which characterised borrowing when real estate values were soaring and credit was so easy to secure. Comparatively few municipalities attempted to borrow by debenture during the past year while temporary loans were usually brought down to a minimum. Our municipal councils as a rule soon fell in line with the policy of "thrift and economy," thereby observing the necessity of conserving resources for a time of stress which it is feared must

follow close after the war. The average cash balance for each rural municipality is \$7.500, according to the 1916 annual financial statements. It sometimes takes a war to break down the artificial. That there were unreal values attached to much urban property, particularly that part which never should have been anything but acreage, is now very apparent. It is indeed a great wonder that even in the days of surging prosperity it was not recognized that a sky-line subdivision lot had no genuine value excepting as acreage. However, the assessors throughout all urban and rural municipalities are generally adopting sane methods in arriving at values for assessment purposes. Great credit is due to the majority of these officials in the efficient handling of difficult problems with which they are confronted. At a time when real estate is not in heavy demand, values are hard to decide upon, as a "selling price" is so frequently non-existent.

No Repudiation of Debt.

Notwithstanding obstacles thrown in the pathway of municipal progress by the decline of demand for real estate and the existence of a world war, Saskatchewan's municipalities have almost altogether avoided financial hardships. It is true, as mentioned in a previous report, that there are three towns which had difficulty in meeting their debenture coupons and for which a re-arrangement of their funded indebtedness was necessary, but, it may be repeated, no municipal institution in Saskatchewan has repudiatde its debts nor shown an inclination to disregard its creditors. It speaks volumes for Saskatchewan's stability as a province when it is recognized that out of six hundred and ninety municipalities only three are at present in actual difficulty, particularly so when the province came through an era of optimism which encouraged borrowing in every possible way.

Municipal life in the province is assisted by the existence of two associations known as the "Union of Saskatchewan Municipalities" and the "Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities." As already intimated, the first is representative of cities, towns and villages, the latter of rural municipalities. These are made up of elected and appointed officials of our municipal institutions. Annual conventions are called where municipal problems and legislation are discussed. The two organizations perform a real service for Saskatchewan.

Incidence of Taxation.

The incidence of taxation generally, but more particu-larly in our cities, towns and villages, is a subject that has engaged the attention of many prominent citizens of the province. Some of them claim that too much of the tax

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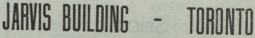
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STANDING OF MUNICIPALITIES IN SASKATCHEWAN.

(Continued.)

burden now falls upon the land. Herein is noted a marked change from a somewhat general attitude prevalent in the province for many years, for it is not so long ago that cities, towns and villages gave evidence of a strong desire to levy taxes on land, exempting from taxation rates, so far as possible, individual thrift as found in buildings and structures which improve the property itself as well as the community as a whole. To meet the wishes of many tax payers the Government has entered into negotiations with a tax expert of continent wide fame with a view to having him make a general survey of the incidence of taxation in our urban municipalities and to issue a report thereon.

THE IMPERIAL YEAR BOOK

ALBERT E. SOUTHALL.

Mr. Albert Southall has just published the third edition of his "Imperial Year Book" and the best ciriticism we can offer is that the volume is, if anything, an improvement on the earlier editions, both of which were fully reviewed in these columns. The purpose of the Imperial Year Book is to place before its readers in an interesting form all that is worth knowing about the Empire, and in particular the social, commercial and economic relations of Canada towards the other units-including the Motherland. That the editors have succeeded in achieving their subject is seen in the 600 pages of the volume just published. The task was no small one and could only be successfully undertaken by one who was not only conversant with the Empire as a whole and the exact niche into which each unit fitted, but who was prepared to patiently study the millions of statistics sent out by each of the governments - in short a man who knew his subject and was in love with it. As an aid to the imagination of the Canadian to grasp his, or her, great heritage as a citizen of a great democratic empire — and for which he is fighting to-day — the work is invaluable. But possibly it is to the material side of Canadian life that the book will make its strongest appeal, inasmuch as the tables and statistics are so arranged as to show economically the potentiality of a Canadian sea-born trade, particularly to those parts of the Empire, in direct line with our Western ports-the Fry East.

There is no doubt that when this war ceases Canada will play a larger part in the building up of the Empire, for therein lies her own great opportunity in building up her own trade. Her citizens will never again be content to export their raw materials only-the capital of the country-but will find and build up new markets for their finished products. because the finished product means profits and employment. These markets and the opportunities they offer are all set down in the Year Book.

Each province is dealt with separately, and realizing the importance of the municipalities as factors in the building up of the province the editors have wisely given much space to the cities and towns. Thus at a glance the reader can find out the standing of any urban municipality and compare it with its neighbours-statistically and financially.

The Imperial Year Book has been advanced to \$3 on account of increased cost of paper and labour but it is well worth the amount asked. It is published in Ottawa.

UNIFORMITY OF MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS AND STATISTICS.

It is evident from the Canadian Municipal Journal for August, 1917, that the local authorities of Canada are up against the old problem of the Old Country.

They apparently find, what we did in a general way some years ago, that at every turn there are serious difficulties in the way when they seek to set up any kind of comparison between one authority and another from the available published accounts and statistics, owing to the absence of uniformity, and a three days' convention is being arranged for Canadian "municipal treasurers, accountants, chairmen of finance committees, etc., with the idea of threshing out the problems of municipal administration as they affect the officials, particularly in the accounting and financial departments." The announcement goes on to say that "we believe that such a convention will do more than anything else to bring about a uniform system of municipal accounting and statistics in Canada. The suggestion is to hold nine sessions, each session to be given to a short paper by an expert, with the balance of that session being taken up with a thorough discussion of the subject selected, in the light of the experience of the delegates themselves. By this means it is hoped to cover every phase in municipal accounting and financing."

The prospect of such an ambitious and comprehensive survey of the whole field by experts rejoices the heart of this Editor at least, and he will look forward to the report of this convention with uncommon interest.-Organ of The Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants, England.

CITY OF MONTREAL RECEIVES LOAN FROM BANK OF MONTREAL.

The Bank of Montreal is advancing to the City of Montreal the sum of \$6,900,000, to enable the municipal authorities to meet the payment of the loan for that amount falling due on December 1st.

The conditions of advance are as follows:

1.-The City of Montreal will subscribe a note for the amount of the money advanced by the bank bearing interest at 6 per cent, payable monthly.

2.—The city will issue a temporary loan of \$6,900,000, and will deliver bonds to the bank for the amount bearing 6 per cent interest and falling due December 1, 1922, the bank reserving the right to sell by public or private tenders for the account of the city and said debentures, from time to time, in whole or in part, in the United States or Canada or elsewhere, and to apply the proceeds to the payment of the said note signed by the city, provided, however, that the rate of commission be not less than 92.85 per cent, and provided, moreover, the banks have the right to pay the brokers it employs to place the debentures a commission not exceeding 21/2 per cent of the amount of the debentures, and to exact a commission of 3-16 per cent more for such expenses as legal fees, advertising and printing.

DEVELOPING CANADA'S TRADE AND INFLUENCE.

For the last two years the Canadian Pacific Railway, in connection with the Pacific steamers of the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, has carried a very large proportion of the passengers from the United States to Russia, and as these passengers have included a great many American railroad men, who have been surprised at the excellence of the service, a remarkable volume of trade is devloping, greatly to the benefit of Canada itself. Among these passengers was the American Railway Advisory Commission, consisting of the leading railway experts of the United States, who travelled from Chicago to Vancouver, and thence to Yokohama via the Empress of Asia. Mr. Henry Miller, vice-chairman of this highly important commission, has written Vice-President G. M. Bosworth a letter of deep appreciation, in which, after referring to many individual courtesies along the route, he remarks: "You have good reason to be proud of your organization and service, and we take this method of thanking you heartily for your kindness and courtesy."

Each municipality in the province is required by law to have compiled within the first two months of the year a complete financial statement for the twelve months comprising the preceding year. In practically all cases this important document is compiled with ease and given ample distribution or publication. In towns, villages and rural municipalities the form of the return is prescribed by the department. A very few municipalities failed to have their 1916 annual financial statements filed with the department within the time required by law. These returns show in almost every case a prosperous condition .- Deputy Minister Bayne, Saskatchewan,

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A CANADIAN CITY IN WAR TIME.

(Continued from Page 501.)

a year they will be coming back in large numbers to the United States wounded and medically unfit. Now is the time to prepare a hospital scheme and local hospitals to take care of the situation before it is too late.

War Time Sports.

Sports in war time are not a luxury but a necessity. They help perfect the training of the troops. The troops in training must have some recreation, and in each military district there is a military sporting programme for all seasons of the year on a large scale, both in the training camps in the summer and in winter quarters. In each City it is a good thing to have a Sportsmen's Patriotic Association which will collect funds from the treatres and elsewhere to provide Christmas presents for the men overseas and their children and dependents at home. The sending of sporting goods to the training camps and to the men overseas is a commendable form of help. The soldiers should have their own military police who should deal with breaches of discipline on the streets, especially in the evenings. Our civil police do not interfere with the soldiers. They are left to their own military police to deal with them. Two hundred and fifty soldiers each night patrol the streets all over the City for a few hours, and they look after their own men, although the conduct of the troops has been most admirable and no complaints have so far been received.

Adequate leave should be given to the married men with the folors from time to time in the training camps to visit their families, on week-end passes. The authorities should not forget that while discipline is necessary that the men in training have families and home ties. Liberal leave and passes should be given at all times, but not to interfere with the training. Arrangements should be made by the City to get information re casualties and have the news properly announced to the suffering families. How the Women Helped.

The women's organizations of the City are the backbone "in keeping the home fires burning,"—as it were. Toronto has made a splendid showing in regard to men and money contributions-the best of the cities in His Majesty's overseas dominions. The women encouraged their men to enlist, and did not make it hard for them to do so. They also did great work in the Red Cross and other patriotic campaigns.

All contributions for patriotic purposes should be under civic control. If not some fraud is bound to be practiced on the public. A license should be obtained from the Chief of Police or other civic agency before anyone is authorized to collect for patriotic purposes. This will prevent overlapping and any imposition on the public from countless appeals.

The commercial men and manufacturers have done nobly in this war, and vie with each other as to who can do most for their employees with the colors. The churches and the pulpit have also done splendid work and their co-operation is most essential and necessary, also the school children and the Boy Socuts and other fraternal societies. All should work together.

The curtailment of sports in war time is a mistake, although the money collected from sports should go to patriotic uses.

The railways should give cheap fares to the soldiers for week-end trips.

Military hospitals should be provided for in the Cities with lots of grounds surrounding the buildings from a hospital standpoint. Every City should have a large base hospital for its troops in training and those who are returning.

The following is a summary of the war disbursements and liabilities assumed by the City of Toronto since the War started, amounting to over Seven Millions of Dollars:

1. Insurance of soldiers \$2,680,087 55 300,000 00 Canadian Patriotic Fund

3	Canadian Patriotic and Canadian Red Cross			
0.	Fund	500.000	00	
	British Red Cross	250,000	00	
	Overseas Y. M. C. A. Fund	25.000	00	
		20.504		
	Canadian Red Cross	5.000		
7.	Italian Red Cross			
8	French Red Cross	2.500	00	

25.000 00

2.500 00

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2,000 00

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2.500 00

French Red Cross

Belgian Relief Fund Palestine War Relief Fund...

British Sailors Relief Fund

Seamen's Hospital Fund

Canadian War Veteran's Association

Sportsman's Patriotic Association

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5. Maple Leaf Club 500 00	
6. War Prisoners' Relief Fund 5,000 00	
7. Purchase of Aeroplanes 22,800 00	
B. Purchase horses, rifles, ammunition 69,930 00	
9. Salaries of enlisted Civic employees 975,274 35	INT
). Food, clothing, etc., for soldiers overseas 16,052 96	
1. Maintenance and temporary barracks 14.853 11	D
2. Recruiting grants to Battalions, etc 67.083 02	
3. Wages paid to those protecting City	
property 333.073 84	-
4. Paid to soldiers for picket duty	P DI
5. Rent of hospital and hospital accommoda-	I D
tion 13.386 42	
6. Receiving returned soldiers and miscel-	
laneous 11 951 23	CT GEL
7. Provincial War taxes, 1915-1916-1917 1,736,357 00	
	E. DAP DE
Total \$7,118,299 33	
The following are figures containing the assessments of	Contraction of the
the City of foronto for 1914, 1916, and 1917.	1 States
Gross Assessment for the City of Toronto.	A Contract
Notwithstanding the war there has been an increase.	
914 $5513.380.984$	A. Land
915	
916 589,036,455	N.O.THI
917 592,123,873	The second
918 (unrevised) 605.107.430	
The Toronto Harbor is being re-built at a cost of twen-	and the second
v-six millions, of which the City contributes twenty mil-	ter de series
ons. Notwithstanding the war, these works are not be-	
ng shut down, because they are, in the main, revenue pro-	A ELSI in
ucing. The British Forgings plant, on which three and	- Seattle Seattle
half millions has been spent, has located here on the	
larbor property, which would not have been secured if the	The second
larbor had been closed down. They are manufacturing	1 Carton and
unitions.	and the second second
The following is a statement of the amount of money	
ollected by the City of Toronto towards the Patriotic	C
und and the Patriotic Red Cross:	
st. Patriotic Appeal \$1,100,000	
st. Patriotic Appeal	Two
Of which \$250,000 given to Canadian	Tra
Red Cross.)	Conservation of
d. Patriotic Appeal 3,300,000	
British Red Cross Appeals: .). Appeal No. 1	
). Appeal No. 1 \$550,000	
2). Appeal No. 2	
3). Appeal No. 3 837,000	
Secours National. mount of Cash subscriptions \$104,157	
mount of Cash subscriptions \$104,157	
alue of different kinds of goods contributed 200,000	-
IDI IO HEATMIT WODY AND ING DUNDER	
UBLIC HEALTH WORK AND ITS BENEFITS.	-
The work of any health official is at times dreary, for	a start
o system of branch of his work once organized will	
in automatically; it requires constant attention and vig-	
ance to keep everything up to the requisite state of effi-	19
ency, and this is apt at time to become very monotonous.	

no system of branch of his work once organized will run automatically; it requires constant attention and vigilance to keep everything up to the requisite state of efficiency, and this is apt at time to become very monotonous. At the same time the work is interesting for one must always be reaching out for new ideas and new methods which will tend to lower the death rate and improve the health and efficiency of the average citizen. The Department of Public Health exists solely for the purpose of safeguarding the community from preventable diseases, and improving its efficiency.

Naturally many of the measures adopted for the benefit of the community at large are distasteful to particular sections of the public who may be put to trouble and expense thereby. The butcher, baker, milkman, or other business man, may resent our regulations, which are carried out in the interest of the average citizen. The fac-

tory owner may protest that he should be able to operate his factory as he likes, where the Department of Health may claim that certain conditions inimical to the health of the employees exist.

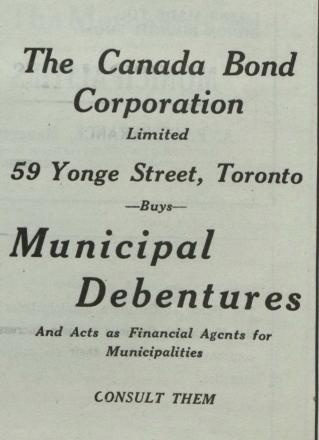
You may protest at the occasional taste in the water, in spite of the fact that you realize by now that the treatment of he water has reduced typhoid fever in this city to a minimum, and that without such treatment there would be much more sickness and more deaths.

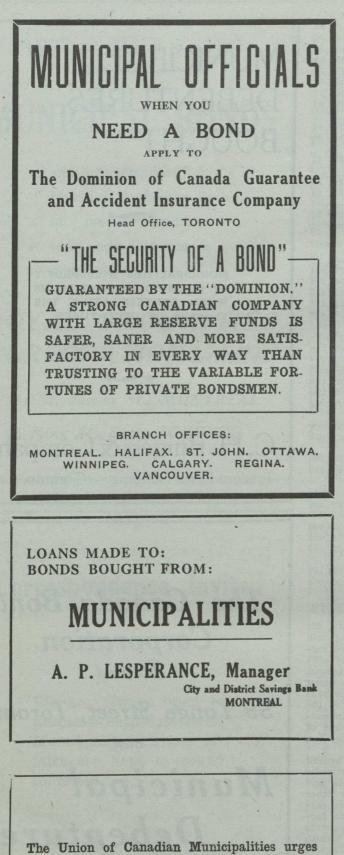
The public sometimes would like to see returns in dollars and cents the good accomplished by the health department, but the improvement in the public health cannot be measured in dollars and cents. It is obviously imopssible to measure for the employer the lessened amount of sickness and absence from work of employees because of a safe water or milk supply. Yet a few years ago

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the Municipal Councils to help increase the consumption of fish in their respective communities.

PUBLIC HEALTH WORK AND ITS BENEFITS.

(Continued.)

it was noticed that every East wind resulted in thousands of cases of diarrhoea in the City of Toronto, which meant a greatly lessened quantity of work done; this no longer occurs. Before our milk supply was all pasteurized there was much more sickness among children; and so on in many other branches of the service. Who can estimate the lives that are being saved, or the improvement in the health of the rising generation over the last generation, due to the constant, unflagging work of our nurses? The death rate is one indication, perhaps the most satisfactory one of all, but even that cannot tell the full tale for many years to come, when th ecomplete results of our work will be registered.

Even from the dollars and cents standpoint the health department is one which can prove that it pays and pays well. One only need be reminded of the fact in the first year of our milk campaign we were able to show that we had eliminated \$400,000 worth of water, which the Toronto public had been purchasing at that time at 9c a quart. This came to a direct tax of 75c a head for each individual in the City of Toronto. At 12c a quart, the present-day price of milk, it would have amounted to nearly half as much again.

Similarly by the reduction of typhoid fever, from fortytwo deaths to five per 100,000 inhabitants, at least 185 lives have been saved annually, estimating our population at 500,000. A low value for a human life is \$5,000, which would mean a total saving to the community of \$925,000 per annum. But this is not the whole story, for the amount spent in sickness, loss of earning power through sickness, etc., is something that we have no means of measuring the value of.

People are apt to think that a department of health costs a lot of money to operate, forgetting that they are receiving a return for their money invested many times over. Nothing pays so well or yields such returns as an efficient and fearless health organization. The results may not be spectacular, but they are there, nevertheless, as the few examples quoted will indicate.

At the present time this department is branching out again in taking over the medical inspection of schools. We will have a more or less complete supervision of the child from the time it is born until it dies, in so far as a department of health can have supervision. This, together with the educational work and pre-natal work in regard to mothers, means that the Department of Health of Toronto will probably have more complete control of the health of the community than any other city in America.

Without removal of unasnitary conditions in a city, comparative freedom from flies, removal of garbage, and the solid, scientific work of years which has resulted in obtaining a pure water supply, a safe milk and food supply, etc., it must be remembered that much of the work of our nurses would be futile, for these are the basic causes of muc hof the sickness in a community. With such scientific control, a sure foundation for future work has been prepared, which would otherwise not be possible. -Toronto Health Bulletin.

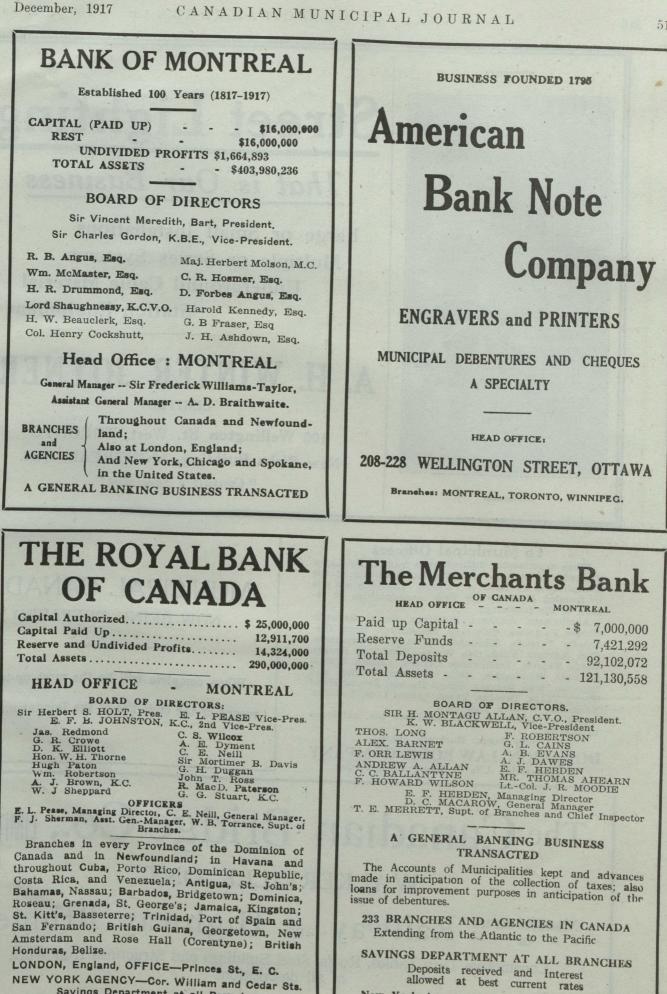
SURVEY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

The Survey Department of the Russell Sage Foundation has just published the ninth report of a survey made in "City and County Administration of Springfield, Ilthe linois.

Throughout the report are given examples of outworn administration methods, multiplication of boards and commissions, and offices that have outlived their usefulness. The result is waste of time and money.

None of the examples of waste, however, mark Spring-field as other than typical of American cities. Indeed, in many ways, the capital city of Illinois is far above the average among municipalities. It has a budget system, for example, although certain restrictions imposed by the State reduce its workability. It is one of the growing number of commission-governed cities. It has the short ballot. It furnishes good illustrations of well-managed, municipallyowned water and electric light plants. It has a good accounting system. In fact, there is plenty of evidence of a progressive spirit at work within the city itself, greatly hampered, however, by the arbitrary restrictions imposed by State laws upon its financial and administrative activities.

December, 1917



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CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL Vol. XIII., No. 12





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