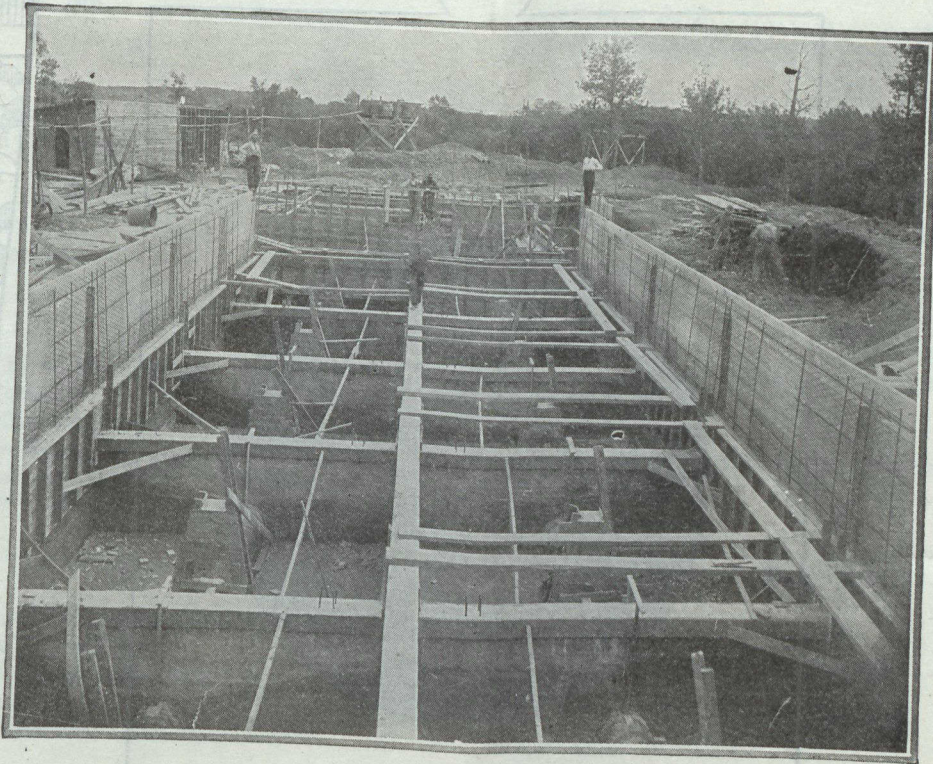


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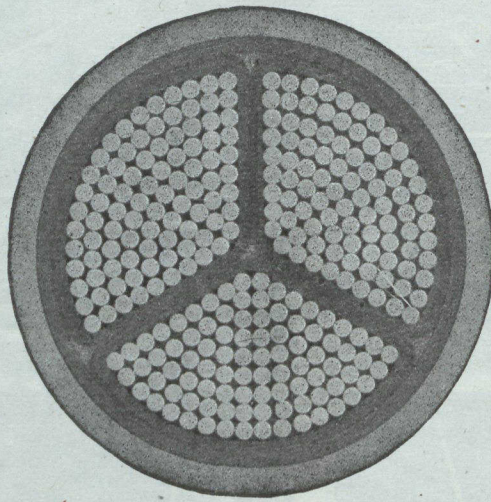
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FREDERICK WRIGHT, Editor

VOL. XVI.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1920

NO. 12

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Unemployment and the Community

Already there is much unemployment in Canadian cities, due not only to the cessation of those industries affected by the usual winter conditions of this country, but by the dislocation of many industries that have been affected by world-wide conditions, and it looks as though the army of out-of-works will be much larger before the winter is over. Fortunately many workers have provided for unemployment periods but the larger number have made little or no provision out of their increased wages during the last few years. The consequence is that for them and their families the winter is going to be a hard one, and the community will be affected. The authorities will be expected to help by carrying on public works, and the Federal Department of Labor anticipating this has sent out a statement which says in effect that while the Dominion Government will do all that is possible, by co-operating with the Provincial and Municipal authorities to provide work, too much must not be expected of it, though the Dominion Government is prepared to contribute one-third of any relief disbursements if found necessary, provided the other two-thirds is paid either by the municipality, or the province, or both jointly. This practically means that each community will be expected to solve its own unemployment problem.

Those cities and towns that have large manufacturing establishments will suffer most and the difficulty is that the local authorities are limited in providing public employment for the reason that the

spending of money for improvements at this time and during the winter months in particular, because of the extra work, is frowned upon by the Provincial authorities and the banks. The problem of providing work then is a serious one and requires the getting together of the council, employers and leaders of labor at the earliest opportunity, so that the situation may be faced boldly and successfully. The responsibility for unemployment rests primarily with the employers, even though it may be because of circumstances over which they have no control, so that they have a special duty in helping to mitigate the distress that always follows in the wake of general unemployment.

Fortunately for the industrial communities this slackness of trade is only temporary, if we take the statements of some of our leading financiers as a criterion. According to them the present situation is caused through the readjustment of industrial values which is taking place throughout the world, and that when a more normal level is reached Canada will forge ahead with renewed life and vitality. What that level will be remains to be seen. In the meantime a serious situation of general unemployment has to be met and it is up to those who have so much hope in the future and so much to gain to put their shoulders to the wheel of community responsibility, and push until it is out of the mire and slough of the distress that will be caused by unemployment this winter.

The Town Planning Institute of Canada

The Town Planning Institute of Canada is now an established fact. It has over one hundred members under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Adams, Town Planning Adviser to the Commission of Conservation, and has published its first bulletin. That there are over a hundred town planners in Canada—that is engineers who are specializing in the planning and laying out of communities—is strong evidence, not only of the importance of town planning itself, but of the determination of Canadian engineers to prepare themselves for the actual work of town planning. Furthermore, such an institute will be a guarantee to the average municipal council

desirous of re-planning the community along sane lines, that the plan submitted by any of the members will be practicable, because such adviser will have the benefit of the knowledge and the experience of all the members. The Town Planning Institute should get into touch with the councils as early as possible for they are the authorities who must be converted to the necessity of Town Planning.

The new President of the Canadian Good Roads Association is Dr. G. E. Desaulniers, M.L.A., who for a number of years has taken a keen interest in the good road movement in the Province of Quebec.

Chambers of Commerce and the Community

In the last issue of this journal was published a very important article by Mr. W. Jos. Shea (late Industrial Commissioner for the city of Three Rivers, P.Q.) which showed very clearly the close association between the government and the industrial life of the community. Throughout the article was the sound suggestion that unless the social conditions were good and a real civic spirit prevailed, no community could hope to develop materially. In taking this stand Mr. Shea is in accord with the best traditions of municipal economics. To-day the captains of industry realize that good citizens mean good workers and they also realize that good citizenship can only be built up by cleanly and bright sur-

roundings, consequently in many of the American communities the local chamber of commerce takes a very active interest in civic affairs purely on economic grounds.

In Canada, though there are exceptions, there is little association between the boards of trade and the councils, unless it is in the form of criticism, and the councils are left to find out for themselves the expectations of those manufacturers who would locate in their midst. This is hardly fair to the local authorities who should have all the support possible from those in a position to know the requirements necessary to develop the community.

Lengthening Municipal Service

We note with pleasure that Mayor Hardie, of Lethbridge (Alta.), has been re-elected by acclamation for his fourth term, he already having served eight years. The genial past president of the Union of Canadian Municipalities is one of those optimists whose cheery presence is ever a beacon of encouragement wherever municipal men meet. Believing as he does that good municipal administration is the panacea for all the public ills of the community, Mayor Hardie never loses an opportunity to preach his gospel, and he does it such a way that his hearers never fail to be impressed and are encouraged to "carry on." Municipal Canada cannot afford to lose such men as Mayor Hardie. Another re-election we note with pleasure is that of Mayor MacYoung of Saskatoon (Sask.), who with Commissioner Yorath is building up the administration of the prairie city to a high standard. Municipal government to be successful should be continuous so far as its personal is concerned, and the fact that there are many re-elections by acclamation this year is an indication that the citizens are beginning to realize its importance. In the Old Country long municipal service is a habit rather than an accident. In looking up the records of the old city of Chester (Eng.), we find that the length of service in the council averages over fifteen years, one of the members having served for over forty years. What is more, this gentleman confesses that he has not yet completed his municipal education, though he is a lawyer.

Municipal government is getting more intricate and complicated each year, and no municipal executive can hope to do much for his electorate during his first term of office. He has too much to learn. It is only during his second, third and fourth terms that he does really effective constructive work.

THE CITIZENS RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CANADA

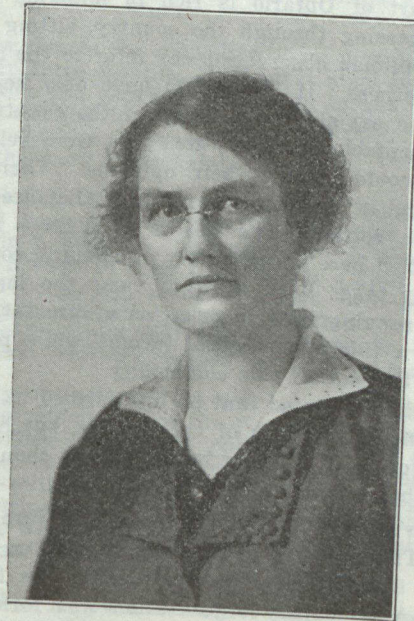
We note that the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada is now making headway, under Dr. Horace L. Brittain, its director. This institute has been established to study and to advise on civic questions, as affecting the municipalities in the different provinces, on the same lines as the Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research of which Dr. Brittain is also director. The Toronto bureau has done excellent work and there is no reason why the Canadian bureau should not do equally good work. Civic government now means so much to the progress of Canada that every means used for its betterment must be encouraged and the fact that the Citizens' Research Institute has for its head a man of such outstanding ability as Dr. Brittain, who is backed up by a committee of Canada's foremost citizens, and an advisory board of experts who know Canadian conditions from personal knowledge and experience, is a guarantee of efficiency. How far the municipal councils will back the institute remains to be seen, but one thing is certain, no council would regret taking advantage of its services.

Municipal Government in Canada During 1920

The year just closing has been for municipal Canada a thorough test for good government, inasmuch as it has been the year in which much was expected in the way of city and town improvements with little money to carry them out. Like the individual the cost of local administration has increased two-fold, but unlike the individual the authorities have not been able to use ways and means to increase the income, without strong protest from the citizens themselves. The consequence is that the task of administering our municipalities has been an exceptionally difficult one this year. And yet such has been the determination of and the ingenuity shown by the councils that on the whole they can not only show good balance sheets but improved public works. It may be said even that the municipal administration of Canada for the year 1920 makes a better showing than that of many private corporations considering the lack of opportunity to increase the rates or to borrow on the part of the councils and the opportunities through increased profits of the private corporations. We state this emphatically because the administration of most municipalities has often been compared unfavorably with that of private firms. To a large extent this increased efficiency in municipal administration in Canada is due to the better class of men now entering the municipal service, and the growing tendency on the part of the councils not to interfere with departmental administration, but to leave it to the heads. The results are better service in actual administration and more opportunity for the councils to study and discuss policies for the better government of their respective communities.

If it were possible for any single individual to make a survey of the municipal government in Canada for 1920 he would be surprised at the enormous amount of work now being undertaken by the councils in comparison to the work of but a few years back. He would find, as a result of the war, that a larger responsibility had been thrust upon the local authorities — employment, housing, hygiene, libraries and play grounds, etc. — such as their predecessors never dreamt of, and he would also

find that because of this larger responsibility the local authorities were taking a keener interest in their duties. Community government, whether it be of a city, town, village or rural district, is the most responsible in Canada to-day, and possibly the most successful in spite of all the criticisms made against it, as has been tested this year. Consequently, the position of municipal executive is becoming more and more sought after, and why not? To serve one's neighbours in any capacity is an opportunity that decent citizens desire, but to serve them in a way that can only be done as a member of the local council is an honor worth while, and when it is considered that there are over 30,000 men and women in Canada serving their neighbors as mayors, aldermen or councillors, it is something for the average Canadian to be proud of.



MISS MARTHA A. DICKENSON,
City Clerk of Windsor, Ont.

THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

It is with deep regret that we record the death on November 25 of Mr. Thomas J. Moore, City Manager of Guelph (Ont.), and President of the Ontario Municipal Association, who was accidentally shot while hunting near Sudbury. Mr. Moore was one of those quiet strong men who gave of his best to the betterment of municipal government, not only along ethical lines but along economic lines, as witness his successful management of the City of Guelph, first as City Clerk in 1908 and latterly as City Manager. For many years Mr. Moore was an active member of the Ontario Municipal Association, and when he was elected President

last September it was felt that no man deserved the honor better. Though not so widely known outside his native province as some of his colleagues, those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance knew him as a man deeply versed in the lore of civic affairs who was ever ready to help his colleagues in the solving of their many problems. At the last convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities at Quebec Mr. Moore represented the City of Guelph. By the death of Mr. Moore the City of Guelph has lost an invaluable servant, the Ontario Municipal Association an excellent President and municipal Canada a sterling student and friend.

New Municipal and Industrial Organization For Northwest Ontario

By C. BIRKETT.

Temporary Secretary, Union of Municipalities.

The annual meeting of the Central Canada Colonization and Highway Association was held in Fort William, on the 23rd and 24th of November. It was a history making conference as well as an unique one. Representatives were present from the four Provincial Electoral Ridings of Fort William, Port Arthur, Rainy River and Kenora, an area which is larger in extent than that of the Province of Manitoba.

One hundred delegates were present from the different public service organizations. There were representatives from the City Councils, Boards of Trade, Independent Labor Party, U. F. O., Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Motor Club, Municipal Leagues and rural Municipalities. It was an instructive and a business conference. No time was lost in foolish discussion. These delegates had met with one object; that was to find ways and means of improving existing conditions in this part of Ontario, and also to find ways and means of bringing in new settlers.

This part of Ontario is rich in minerals and timber. Travellers passing through the country, sitting in the arm chair of a pullman observation car refer to the country as a barren wilderness. If they could have only heard some of the delegates explain the richness of the country, the wonderful crops of clover, roots, etc., that were being raised,—how they would change their opinions. There are large tracts of land in this immense country that are waiting the hand of the settler. The soil is productive and farmers already settled here speak highly of climatic conditions.

True, it takes hard work to clear the land, but with pulp wood ranging high in price, as at present, a settler is assured of a fairly substantial income while preparing the land, from the sale of this commodity.

One delegate stated that he had farmed in the North of England, and other parts of the Empire, but he had yet to find better crops of roots or better variety than those grown here and shown at the different fall fairs.

Two or three outstanding resolutions were unanimously adopted. The first one of primary importance was the formation of a Union of Municipalities in the four electoral districts. A temporary organization was formed with Mr. Norman M. Paterson, a wealthy Fort William business gentleman as President, the Mayors of Fort William, Port Arthur, Kenora and Fort Francis as the executive Committee, with the writer as temporary secretary.

These gentlemen will immediately begin to organize a strong Union of all the organized and unorganized municipalities in this part of Ontario. They will correlate and coordinate all existing efforts and present a united front to the Provincial and Federal Governments. The primary and fundamental function of the Union of Municipalities will be to bring in more settlers, which can only be done systematically, after the building of colonization roads. The new organization has the best wishes of every citizen in Northwest Ontario.

The second resolution which was unanimously accepted has reference to the appointment of colonization agents in the four electoral districts, and the Provincial Government will be asked to appoint these gentlemen. There was a slight difference of opinion as to whether one colonization agent would not be sufficient for the four districts, but the resolution as passed called for the appointment of four officers; one for each riding. Whether one is appointed or four are appointed there is sufficient work to keep them busy for the next twenty years.

The Provincial Government will be well advised to listen to the pleadings of this resolution. It is the concensus of opinion that nothing will do more good to open up our part of the Province than the appointment of these colonization agents.

The third resolution has reference to the building of roads for agricultural purposes only. This part of Ontario is undoubtedly lacking in this respect and previous Governments have not had any definite programme in this regard. It can be definitely said without any fear of successful contradiction, that the Provincial Government has over a period of six or seven years received a million dollars more revenue than expenditures, from these four districts. This million dollars should be immediately spent on the building of roads and the bringing in of settlers.

These delegates did not and do not believe that the Provincial Government is being asked for anything that is not fair and honest. Every dollar spent by the Provincial Government in the opening up of this immense territory will, we think, be returned with interest in the course of a few years.

There was only one rift in the lute; the Hon. Frank H. Keefer, K.C., M.P., Under Secretary for External Affairs, Ottawa, was a guest of the convention and made a fighting speech in favor of these four electoral districts seceding from Old Ontario. It was replete with information in the way of statistics and created a very favorable impression on the minds of his listeners. Being a guest, however, to the convention, his speech was not discussed and no resolutions were passed in this regard. Nevertheless, it can be truthfully said that there is a strong under current prevailing in this regard, and it depends to a marked extent on the treatment of the Provincial Government to this part of Ontario, as to whether this feeling grows or dies a natural death.

BOOK REVIEW

DENNISON GRANT.

Time was, not so long ago, when Canadians bought a novel by a Canadian—if they bought it at all—much as one gives money to some worthy cause. They did it to help a struggling fellow-countryman, and felt, perhaps, a compensating glow of patriotism even if they did not expect to get value out of their expenditure.

But Canadians are discovering that their fellow-countrymen are writing books which are most decidedly worth reading on their own account, and perhaps no one has contributed to this discovery more than has Robert Stead, author of the famous "Kitchener" collection of poems, and of the novels, "The Homesteaders" and "The Cow Puncher." There is not a dull line in anything Mr. Stead writes, and this is particularly true of his new novel, "Dennison Grant" (\$1.75), which has just been published by the Musson Book Co., Ltd., of Toronto. When you get your copy of "Dennison Grant," you will be so interested in the fortunes of the young Easterner who renounces the family wealth on account of his Socialistic ideals, and who finds greater happiness as a ranch hand in Alberta than as a millionaire in a city club, that the hours will slip by uncounted until you find how it "comes out" in the last chapter. And it "comes out" a little differently from what you expected, and yet in the only way it could and be true to the Stead type of story, which always leaves one with the feeling that the time spent in reading it was not lost.

Smaller Municipal Councils More Efficient

By CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF.
Hon. Secretary National Municipal League.

There has been a steady tendency of late years towards smaller legislative bodies in all American cities. The commission-governed cities, running into the hundreds, have from three to seven councillors, usually five, and so do the city-managed cities. The movement, however, has not been confined to those places adopting the newer forms of city government, but is to be found in cities like Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco, where older forms prevail.

Boston was one of the earliest of the large cities to introduce a small council, introducing one of nine. Some thought the millenium was about to be ushered in, but experience has shown us that the millenium has a way of disappointing its friends and there has been a lot of grumbling among the politicians and disappointed millenialists, at least those who were vocal. Consequently the last Massachusetts Legislature passed a measure which was signed by the Governor, increasing the members of the Boston city council from nine to fifteen, to be elected from council districts, thus abandoning the present system of election at large. The bill carried a referendum at the November election.

The measure was supported by the Republican and Democratic organizations in Boston. Neither was satisfied with the plan of electing nine members at large, and both turned hopefully to the district system. Under the proposed measure the entire council will be elected every two years. The political organizations obviously hoped, according to the "National Municipal Review," that this would make easier the development of a complete city machine. The candidate for mayor, who was to be elected at the same time, was expected to carry a majority of the council districts. On the other hand, they claimed that the essential harmony between the legislative body and the executive, and simplified party responsibility to the people, which constitute the theoretical merits of party government, would be expedited.

Boston's Charter Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Good Government Association urged the governor to veto the bill. The referendum provision, however, saved it from this fate, and there was a "show-down," which surprised the dissatisfied, for the measure secured a vote of 55,195 while 78,033 voted in the negative, thus defeating the proposed change by 22,838 votes, clearly showing that the inarticulate (except on election days) voters were satisfied with the plan even though the "ideal" men had not always been chosen at the elections. Thus the smaller council was vindicated in a definite and conclusive manner.

Chicago is another city which has joined the smaller-council movement, although the step there has not been nearly so decided a one. On the same day its voters approved the "Fifty-Ward" Measure. Having placed the Fifty-Ward Law on the ballot by petition, a citizens' committee campaigned actively for its adoption. The features of the law which were emphasized were the necessity for redistricting the wards of the city and the committee's recommendation for the adoption of a two-year term for aldermen.

A sample ballot was prepared, marked in accordance with the recommendations of the committee. It indicated a preference for the two-year term for aldermen over the four-year term and thus clarified the issue so that many voters did not, as last year, oppose the law under the misapprehension that it provided a four-year term for aldermen.

A circular showed a map of the present ward lines, together with a table of population by wards. It is pointed out that under present conditions 610,731 people in five wards of largest population have 10 aldermen, while 564,178 people in eleven wards of smallest population have 22 aldermen.

Joseph Cummins, the president of Chicago's lively City Club, who was chairman of this campaign committee, issued a statement a few days after election in which he said:

"The adoption of the 50-ward law by a huge majority is encouraging and significant. The voters of Chicago are not indifferent about their city government. They are in earnest in seeking improvements in its machinery and in removing obstacles to the free and effective expression of the people's will.

"The 50-ward law will not bring any millenium but it will get a fair redistricting, tend to bring high-class men into council, and fix responsibility where it belongs. There should be a distinct slump in the game of "passing the buck." Finally it will lessen somewhat the heavy burden carried by the taxpayers.

"The law directs the council to adopt a redistricting ordinance within three months. In fact, it must be done in less time to enable the election commission to get ready for the aldermanic election in February. Doubtless the Judiciary Committee, of which Alderman Cermak is chairman, will proceed with the work immediately.

"Redistricting by the very men whose political fortunes are affected is always a difficult job. The new law gives the committee in a sense a clean slate which should make it easier. As always in such matters, the fullest publicity—including, if necessary, public hearings—will be helpful to those aldermen who place a right result above personal interests. The principles that govern are simple—equal population, compact territory, regard for lines of transportation.

"The only obstacles in the way of an impartial application of these principles are the personal and temporary interests of office-holders and politicians. The public cares not a copper about these and will not be patient with trading and log-rolling in this business if it is kept informed. Chairman Cermak will find public opinion his most powerful and effective weapon in putting through a redistricting that is on the square."

Philadelphia joined the smaller-council group this year when the New Charter went into effect. It now has a municipal legislature of 21 in place of a former huge bicameral body consisting of 48 select men and 96 common council men. This new body is elected from eight districts with from one to four representatives.

There is some difference as to how it is making out, but the candid and discriminating observers believe that it is justifying reasonable expectations. It is not a "high-brow" group, but then the electorates that chose the members cannot be considered as such. Indeed, the body is a truly representative one in its make-up and it is functioning normally. Its sessions are interesting. They provide real debate and the people know what their Council men are doing. Hocus pocus is a thing of the past. Likewise shifting of responsibility.

The millenium has not arrived, but the thoughtful student of affairs did not expect that it would and I believe that if the proposition were submitted to a referendum an overwhelming majority would be recorded in its favor. The smaller council has come to stay.

Report of the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the Union of B.C. Municipalities

Held at Nelson, B.C., the 6th, 7th and 8th Days of October, 1920.

The seventeenth annual convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities was held in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, Nelson, B.C., on the 6th, 7th, and 8th days of October, 1920.

The President, COUNCILLOR J. LOUET, District of North Vancouver, occupied the chair.

The Convention was called to order by the President, who appointed a Credentials Committee, as follows:

Municipal Clerks Moore of Bunaby (Chairman), and Newman of Coquitlam.

Address of Welcome.

An address of welcome was given by MAYOR J. A. McDONALD, of Nelson, in the following words:

"It is with great pleasure, and a deep appreciation of my privilege as Mayor of this City, which we think we are justly entitled to call the Queen City of the Interior, that I extend to you one and all a cordial and hearty welcome. We appreciate your honoring us, as many other organizations have done during this year, in making this your Convention headquarters, and we trust we may again be able to have this pleasure at a future date.

We welcome you to Nelson because we are proud of it. Our City is growing, our location is ideal, our climate one of the most even in British Columbia, and we have many plans in thought for an ultimately beautiful City, and if you stay long enough you may become converted to some of them and see mentally some of the things we picture as going to happen. We trust, however, that your occupations will not be so continuous or strenuous and your time so much taken up as to prevent your seeing some of the beautiful things we have already secured and enjoy.

I wish to express my great hope that much good may result from your deliberations.

I think you will all agree that we are passing through a trying time of reconstruction, which requires our best thought and action in order that the spirit of unrest may be overcome.

Again, I bid you welcome, and trust you will find it as pleasant a city to stay in, as we find it to live in."

Replying to Mayor McDonald's address, REEVE L. E. MARMONT, of the District of Coquitlam, spoke as follows:

"In expressing the appreciation of the delegates of the Convention to the City of Nelson, for the very hearty welcome which they have extended to us, I am sure I will have the hearty co-operation and approval of all here, in what I am going to say. The climate is all that could be desired, and especially to those who have just come from the coast cities where the weather was not all that one could wish, it is indeed a pleasure to be able to enjoy such pleasant weather during our visit here.

"We are all charmed with the City of Nelson, and I am sure you will all agree with me in remarking on the beautiful mountain and lake scenery which encompass the City on all sides, and it is well named the Metropolis of the Kootenay. The Convention was wise in choosing Nelson as the meeting place for this year. It has been the practise of the Union of B. C. Municipalities to hold their Conventions alternately on the Coast and the Interior, to enable us to see at close range what each district needs, and deal with all problems accordingly.

"I am not going to take any more of your time, but again I am sure that you will heartily agree with me in expressing our cordial thanks and appreciation to the Mayor and City of Nelson for the very splendid reception they have given us, and for the good things to come."

The minutes of the last Convention were approved as read.

Presidential Address.

The report of JACK LOUET was read as follows:

"In presenting my report for the past year, I desire to express my great regret at the death, early this year, of our Vice-President, the late Mayor McKenzie, of Nanaimo.

"Mr. McKenzie took a keen interest in municipal affairs and up to the time of his death took a leading part as one of the executive of this Union. His death is a great loss to the City he represented and to this Union.

"During the past year most of the special legislation arising out of the late war has now lapsed, and as a result new problems have arisen for municipal councils to solve.

"New legislation may be required to prevent unnecessary difficulties over assessments.

"Among the many matters dealt with during the past

year was the question of tax relief for soldiers and the special committee appointed to deal with this problem was fortunate in arriving at a decision which was approved by all interested parties. The resulting legislation while not entirely on the lines finally adopted by the joint committee appears to be working satisfactorily. Owing to pressure of business near the close of the session, the final draft had apparently been mislaid in Victoria and it was only by the prompt action of our solicitor that the present legislation was rushed through on the last day of the Session.

"The executive attended at Victoria during the session and as usual received a very courteous and favorable reception from the government and the municipal committee of the committee of the House. Practically all the recommendations of the Union were considered reasonable and fair and those deemed most important were incorporated in an amendment to the existing Municipal Act. This amendment included a clause simplifying the procedure necessary to obtain title to tax sale lands acquired prior to the year 1919.

"In connection with the Soldier Settlement Board a serious problem has arisen in the fact that the Board claims exemption from taxation in the case of lands which have reverted to the Government through the failure of the settler. Such exemption is obviously a serious matter for municipalities affected and action should be taken by the Union at this Convention to endeavor to have this injustice righted.

"Exemption of church property will also be brought before you, a recent court decision having thrown new light on this matter.

"The whole question of exemption should be carefully gone into, and I believe that the immunity of the crown from taxation in incorporated areas, which has only the halo of antiquity, to recommend it should be abolished.

"Another matter that will again come before you is the Hospitals Act. The present act, while undoubtedly a help to the hospitals in large towns, is a danger to the small municipalities, more particularly those which maintain a hospital of their own and find that they also have to pay for patients who have gone to the larger hospitals.

"The placing of the burden of caring for indigent families on the shoulders of municipalities where they have last resided for thirty days is so obviously unjust that comment is unnecessary. This problem which is largely interprovincial should be solved before it becomes more difficult.

"The most important item to come before you at this Convention is the Government's proposal for the local government board.

"The Penticton Convention favored such a board while the North Vancouver Convention, a year later, opposed it. These decisions, while apparently inconsistent, in reality, were not so. At Penticton the feeling was that such a Board, with the powers proposed, might be a help to the municipalities, but at North Vancouver the predominant feeling was that if the board personal was unsatisfactory, the municipalities would lose more than they could hope to gain. The Attorney-General has intimated that the Government could not forego its right to select the board which it would be responsible for creating.

"I am of the opinion that it would be quite in order, if the Government so wished it, to allow this Union to select two out of the three members of the board. Ample time has now been given for consideration of this proposal and I would suggest that your decision be communicated to the Government by special committee in order that the reasons for the decision arrived at may be properly presented.

"The problem of increased revenue for municipalities appears still as far from a satisfactory solution as ever and the proposal for a conference with the Federal and Provincial governments will no doubt appeal to you as being the first step necessary before a solution can be found. My own opinion is that if the Government would take over the burden of education, a burden which is fairly chargeable to the whole Province our search for increased revenue would be unnecessary.

"The present duplication of taxes and encroachment on municipal revenues by the Governments would be done away with and taxation so arranged that the rights of each should be clearly defined.

"In conclusion I wish to record my appreciation of the work of the secretary and solicitor during the past year and to express the hope that this meeting will tend further to

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strengthen the Union which, year by year, is proving its increasing value to the municipalities of British Columbia."

Moved and seconded that the President's Report be received and referred to the Resolutions Committee. Carried.

Solicitor's Report.

The Report of the Solicitor was called for, which was read by MR. McDIARMID, as follows:

"I have the honor to present herewith my Eighth Annual Report as Solicitor for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

"It will be remembered that at the last meeting of the Union I refused re-election as solicitor, and 'it was moved and seconded that the matter of the appointment of a solicitor be left in the hands of the Executive with instructions to secure the services of Mr. McDiarmid, if possible.' The reason for my refusal was that I had been retained by the Honorable the Attorney-General to draft the new Municipal Act. This idea of the Local Government Board did not meet with the approval of the Convention. The Attorney-General had not intimated as to whether or not he intended to adopt the view of the Union or intended to put the Act before the House as it stood. I felt that as long as the Union was in accord with the idea of the Government there would be no difficulty in my working for both parties, but as soon as they differed in their views it was my duty to choose between my two retainers, and abandon one, as it would not be possible to serve two persons with different interests; hence in choosing I chose the retainer which more closely followed my own ideas, namely, that the Local Government Board, if composed of men familiar with municipal problems, would be of immense assistance to the Municipalities.

"Very shortly after the Convention the Honorable the Attorney-General intimated to me that he did not propose to put through the Act during the past Session, and, consequently, I was free to accept the retainer of the Union and to press for such amendments as the Convention had approved of, and to attend to the other matters which fall within the scope of my duties. Having intimated this to the President, at the first meeting of the Executive I was re-engaged as solicitor for the Union, in accordance with the resolution of the Convention.

"The first matter to which I had to attend, was the carrying on of the five year old fight against the Province Government for increased sources of revenue on behalf of the Municipalities, and for that purpose I attended two sessions of the Departmental Commission consisting of the Honorable the Premier, the Honorable the Minister of Finance, the Inspector of Municipalities, and the Inspector of Revenue of the Finance Department, held at Victoria, and, with the President and Members of the Executive, the two sessions held in Vancouver.

"This question of increased source of revenue has been constantly before the Government of the Province for the past five years in some form or other. At the sittings at Vancouver my argument pursued the following lines:

- (a) The Municipalities cannot exist on present taxation—quoting at length Mr. Baird's speech at Penticton;
- (b) That Municipalities were collecting all that could be collected from the land;
- (c) That the improvements were in reality taxed through the over-valuation of the land assessments, while the vacant property was being confiscated for the same reason;
- (d) That tenant taxes for the occupancy of real estate was simply another form of taxation on the landlord, and he had all that he could stand now;
- (e) That any form of relief must come out of personalty;
- (f) That all personalty was now taxed by the Province, therefore any relief to Municipalities must come from what is now Government taxation;
- (g) That the fairest form of personalty tax was on income;
- (h) That income tax should be collected by the Government;
- (i) That the Municipality should then receive from the Government sufficient extra to carry on, whether by assistance for special schemes or generally;
- (j) That if this was not found possible, separate the income tax and the personalty tax to the Municipalities, and keep income tax;
- (k) That the Government raised ten millions and spent fourteen; that the Municipalities raised ten millions and spent fourteen; that the Municipalities were neglecting lots of things that they ought to do, and

really ought to spend about twenty; that the Government itself should spend about twenty, and that there would have to be a complete doubling or more than doubling of the income tax in any event, and then we would not feel it as badly as they have it in England;

- (1) That with our large resources, there was no sense in being in debt.

This Commission never reported to the House, nor do I think it was ever intended to do so being only a Departmental Commission for the information of the Ministers and not a Royal Commission appointed by the Legislature. We have no means of knowing how our argument impressed the Government, except for the fact that no legislation even approximately approaching our, or any of our, contentions was adopted. The only measure of relief which was given us is in Chapters 90 and 91 of this year's Statutes, the first of which gives authority to pass a by-law imposing an extra tax of ten per cent. on the admission price to places of amusement, and the other of which authorizes the Councils to impose a poll tax not exceeding five dollars upon all male persons who do not pay five dollars upon real property, and both of these taxes are ear-marked as being applicable only to schools and hospitals. The possible effect of these Statutes is entirely taken away by Chapter 33 of this year's amendments, which raises the rate that may be collected by hospitals from the Municipalities for indigent patients from one dollar to two dollars and fifty cents per day.

The experience of the present year has only strengthened the opinion that I had already formed, namely, that while increased sources of revenue are not necessary and probably not desired in the cases of strictly rural and producing Municipalities, in all Cities, and suburban Municipalities which depend upon the Cities' activities for their support, there is a need that some form of taxation, for Municipal and school purposes, and the administration of justice, should be devised which will come to the aid of the taxation on the land, so that the land will not be unduly burdened and fall into the hands of the Municipalities for non-payment of taxes.

The next matter which arose was at the request of the Township of Spallumcheen. It appeared that the office of the District Registrar in Kamloops was overburdened with work and was not able to attend to the requirements of the Municipalities in the Okanagan valley with regard to the revision of their assessment rolls, and the Municipality mentioned called on me, as solicitor for the Union, to see what could be done under the circumstances. With the very kind assistance of the Mayor of Kamloops, who personally hunted up boarding-houses, I was able to have five experienced men transferred from Vancouver Registry Office to the Kamloops Registry Office for the month of December, and I understand the rolls were revised and checked and brought up to date in time.

My expense account for telegrams and telephone messages was paid by the Township of Spallumcheen, and was not a burden to the Union.

I received from Spallumcheen, under date of December 4th, 1919, the following message:

"At the meeting of our Council held yesterday, your energetic action was reported, and the following resolution unanimously passed:

"That the Reeve be requested to write Mr. F. A. McDiarmid, Union of B. C. Municipalities' solicitor, and express appreciation, and thanks for the interest taken to relieve Spallumcheen Municipal of a great deal of inconvenience, and trouble, in connection with the preparation of 1920 assessment roll, as required by the amendment to the Municipal Act."

In this connection, apropos of the City of Victoria's refusal to remain a member of the Union, might I be permitted to add that at the time that I was acting as above outlined I was, and am still, Counsel against the Municipality of Spallumcheen, in a matter in which I am acting for one Hales in an attempt to set aside a tax by-law of the Municipality. These two retainers have nothing to do with each other; the one against the Municipality is purely a local matter, a question as to whether or not the by-law has been properly passed. The other question was entirely separate and distinct, and remained an entirely different matter, and one in which I was free to serve the township, which I promptly did, nor can I see that any charge of inconsistent conduct can be properly brought against me.

When the Bill incorporating the engineering profession was advertised, I applied to the promoters for a draft of the Bill, and found that they provided for certain penalties under the Summary Convictions Act, provided that these penalties should be payable to the Association. I wrote the promoters and told them that the Union of British Columbia Municipi-

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palties took very strong exception to this clause; that there was no good reason why the Courts should be kept open at the expense of the Municipalities, and the money to run these Courts be taken by private individuals or private corporations. In reply, I received a letter from the promoters in which they said that they would be very glad to accede to our request, and when the Bill was introduced to the House it lacked this feature.

B. C. Telephone Company, Ltd.

It will be remembered that in 1916 the Union was successful in obtaining an order from the Board of Railway Commissioners that no change in the tariff of tolls of the B. C. Telephone Company should be approved by the Board until the Union of British Columbia Municipalities had been notified and given an opportunity of making representations before the Board. In December last the B. C. Telephone Company applied to the Board of Railway Commissioners at Ottawa for an order approving their tariff of tolls, and were directed by the Board to serve the Secretary of the Union, who sent the same to me. On instructions from the President I called a meeting of all the Municipalities using the telephone service, within easy reaching distance of Vancouver, at my office on the second of January last, and at that meeting it was decided that sufficient copies of the tariff should be obtained and one sent to the Clerk of every Municipality in which the B. C. Telephone was operating, which was done, with a letter stating: "If on examination you find there is any complaint which might be successfully urged to the Board against the tariff, or, if you have any complaint, as to service, you might take the matter up direct with the Board of Railway Commissioners at Ottawa, who will, on your complaint, assign a time and place for the hearing of your complaint, or if you prefer, I am directed by the President to inform you that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities will give you every assistance in its power to enable you to place your case before the Board." I received no request for assistance from any Municipality.

Soldiers' Relief.

This matter was, at the Convention, referred to a Special Committee to draft a proposal, Reeve Bridgman being chairman. Under his instructions I sent a circular letter to all of the Municipalities for information as to how their Municipality would be affected by the various proposals which had been made, to which a large number replied, and, after carefully tabulating the replies and going over the legislation of other Provinces, Reeve Bridgman called a meeting of the Committee from my office on the 20th of January last, which was also attended by Mr. Fillmore and a Committee of the Great War Veterans' Association, Provincial Command, and the whole matter was gone over. And, at a subsequent meeting on the 2nd of February, a clause was drafted which met with the approval of the Joint Committees, which clause was transmitted to the Inspector of Municipalities, and to the Premier and Members of the Municipal Committee, and received their approval, and is now embodied in the Act as Section 38, Chapter 63, of the amendments of 1920.

Kettle Valley Railway Agreement.

In this matter the Bill, as presented, contained the following clauses:

1. To extend its present branch railway line from Penticton Wharf, in the Municipality of Penticton, British Columbia, southerly a distance of about three miles to the shore line of Dog Lake in said Province.
2. To operate or cause to be operated, the Railway from Penticton Wharf to the slip at the north end of Dog Lake, and to provide such rolling stock equipment and service as the tariff thereon, both passenger and freight, may reasonably require.
3. To exempt until the first day of January, 1931, from all taxation whatever or however imposed by, with or under the authority of the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia, or by any Municipality or School District in the Province, the capital stock, franchises income, tolls and properties and assets which form part of or are used in connection with the operation of the section of the railway above provided between Penticton Wharf and the point on the Okanagan River near the said Demonstration Plot; provided always that the exemption from taxation herein granted shall be deemed

to be applicable to and shall apply to only such parts of the Company's railway undertaking between Penticton Wharf and the point on the Okanagan River, near the said Demonstration Plot as shall actually be constructed and operated under the terms of this agreement.

On receipt of this Bill I was of the opinion that the language was sufficiently wide to cover exemption of taxation within the Municipality of Penticton, I accordingly telegraphed Penticton Municipality Clerk, and afterwards made protest before the Municipal Committee and to the Premier, and I was assured by the Premier and the Attorney-General's Department that the language was not capable of such construction, and that if it were, and if the Kettle Valley Railway should hereafter attempt to obtain exemption from taxation for the Incola Hotel or the Wharf at Penticton or the Railways within the Municipality of Penticton, legislation would be promptly introduced to make it absolutely certain the language did not, and never was intended to cover such exemption. The Premier informed me that he had the authority of the President of the Railway Company for saying that such exemption never was contemplated, although perhaps the language was not so free from ambiguity as it might have been.

Other Legislation.

Other Legislation with which I have dealt, or have been consulted, outside of that authorized by the Convention consists of an amendment to the "Motor Act" consequent on the judgment handed down by Mr. Justice Macdonald in the Victoria case, the amendment to the "Cemetery Company Act," and an amendment to the "Local Improvement Act," which authority the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the application of the Municipality to overhaul and correct or amend the assessment for local Improvements when any defects exist or hardship has resulted as a consequence of the local improvement assessment. The City of Victoria Private Bill, and the amendment to the City of Vancouver Charter, and the West Vancouver Private Bill I did not interfere with, or have anything to do with, in accordance with the general understanding that the Union does not interfere with Private Bills for the benefit of one Municipality.

Resolutions Passed at Last Year's Convention.

Of the resolutions looking towards an amendment of the "Municipal Act" passed at last year's convention, nearly all were adopted and form part of the "Municipal Act Amendment Act, 1920." In fact, I think it is safe to say that there never was a year in which so many of the recommendations of the Union have been carried into effect. Those which were not adopted are not matters which it seems to me are of sufficient importance to be brought forward again.

I might say that in all of the above matters everything was reported promptly and immediately to the President of the Union, and no step was taken by me in any particular except on his advise, approval and instructions.

In conclusion, it seems to me that it would be wise, in order to avoid confusion and misconception in the minds of the Municipalities, if you would change the name of the office which I hold from that of "Solicitor for the Union" to "Counsel" or "Parliamentary Agent," or "Counsel and Parliamentary Agent for the Union," in order that there might be no misapprehension that my office is not the office of solicitor in the strict sense of the use of the word "Solicitor."

It as moved and seconded that the written report of the Solicitor be referred to the Resolutions Committee.—Carried.

Financial Statement.

Secretary-Treasurer A. W. GRAY presented the following financial report:

Collection folio No. 44-46.....	\$1,120.00
Balance in bank	286.52
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	\$1,406.52
Exchange	\$ 7.35
Expense account	1,288.14
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	\$1,295.49
	<hr/>
	\$1,406.52
	1,295.49
Balance	\$ 111.03
Outstanding cheque	11.22
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Sept. 30th, balance as per bank statement....	\$ 122.25

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(Continued).

It as moved and seconded that the Financial Report be placed in the hands of the auditors.—Carried.

The report of the Secretary was as follows:

"Everything in connection with the work has been completed. I must say I am pleased to be able to give any necessary assistance to the President and also to the Solicitor when required."

A Resolution Committee was appointed, being the following gentlemen: Reeve Bridge (Richmond), Chairman; Mayor Burton (Kamloops); City Clerk Gordon (Revelstoke); Reeve Chambers (Penticton); Reeve Lockley (Esquimalt); City Clerk Greig (Point Grey); Ald. Bruce Watson (North Vancouver); Reeve Marmont (Coquitlam); and Alderman W. H. Keary (New Westminster).

Report of the Credentials Committee.

The Credentials Committee presented the list of delegates, number eighty-six, as follows:

- Alberni City (2), Mayor Capt. G. A. Huff, Alderman R. H. Prescott.
- Armstrong City (2), Mayor H. Fraser, Alderman J. Parks.
- Chilliwack City (2), Mayor J. H. Ashwell, Clerk P. Brown.
- Chilliwack District (2), Councillor J. F. McCutcheon, Councillor C. J. Miller.
- Coquitlam District (2), Reeve L. E. Marmont, Councillor W. Routley.
- District North Cowichan (1), Reeve A. A. B. Herd.
- Cowichan District (1), Clerk C. S. Crane.
- Burnaby District (3), Councillor F. J. Russell; Councillor T. D. Coldicutt, Clerk A. J. Moore.
- Duncan City (2), Mayor T. Pitt, Clerk J. Greig.
- Delta Municipality (2), Councillor Huff, Councillor Green.
- Esquimalt Township (1), Reeve A. Lockley.
- Grand Forks City (3), Mayor G. H. Acres, Alderman G. H. Hull, Alderman T. A. Love.
- Kaslo City (2), Mayor Robb, Clerk W. V. Papworth.
- Kamloops City (2), Mayor S. C. Burton, Alderman J. R. Collev.
- Langley District (2), Reeve D. W. Poppy, Clerk R. A. Payne.
- Kelowna City (1), Clerk G. H. Dunn.

Reeve Bridgman's report as representative on Board of Directors of Anti-Tuberculosis Society of British Columbia, was as follows:

We have the honor to submit herewith a brief report as your representatives on the Board of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society of B. C. for the last year. You are all probably aware that this institution has had its capacity doubled, owing to the Dominion Government spending a large sum of money for the purpose of taking care of returned men suffering from chest troubles. Unfortunately, in making arrangements to take care of a number of Government patients, sufficient accommodation was not provided for extra nurses, nor extra accommodation to ensure an adequate supply of fresh milk. This matter was vigorously taken up with both Provincial and Federal Governments and no doubt will very shortly be remedied, especially as after going very thoroughly into the question the Provincial Government have now decided to take over the Tranquille Sanatorium and the Society have agreed to turn over all their assets and sources of revenue to them.

For many years it has been the desire of this Union to have the Government assume this responsibility, and you will no doubt be glad to hear this has now been done. There are many details still to be arranged, but we have the assurance of the Hon. Dr. McClean and the Hon. Attorney-General that any necessary legislation affecting the transfer will be taken care of at the next sitting of the House.

It must not be gathered that the civilian accommodation at present has been increased by the expenditure of the Dominion Government, but as years go on less military patients have to be taken care of, and the civilian accommodation will be naturally increased.

- Matsqui District (2), Reeve A. McCallum, Councillor E. M. Benson.
- North Vancouver City (3), Mayor Vance, Alderman J. Irwin, Alderman B. Watson.
- North Vancouver District (3), Reeve E. H. Bridgman, Councillor J. Loutet, Councillor P. Ward.
- New Westminster City (3), Mayor J. J. Johnston, Alderman W. H. Keary, Alderman W. Gifford.
- Nanaimo City (2), Mayor F. A. Busby, Clerk H. Hackwood.
- Nelson City (3) Mayor J. A. McDonald, Alderman C. F. McHardy, Ald. A. A. Perrier.
- Maple Ridge District (3), Reeve W. Ansell, Councillor Blews.
- Penticton Municipality (2), Reeve E. J. Chambers, Clerk B. C. Bracewell.
- Point Grey Municipality (4), Councillor W. G. Rogers, Councillor W. L. Lembke, Reeve Pearson, City Clerk W. B. Greig.
- Port Alberni City (2), Mayor Exton, Clerk R. F. Blandy.
- Port Moody City (2), Clerk J. J. Lye, R. Newman.
- Pitt Meadows Municipality (1), Reeve W. A. Parks.
- Oak Bay District (2), Councillor A. D. McFarlane, Clerk O. W. Ross.
- Prince Rupert City (1), Solicitor T. B. Hooper.
- Pearchland Municipality (1), Reeve R. J. Hogg.
- Revelstoke City (2), Mayor W. Bews, Clerk W. A. Gordon.
- Richmond Township (2), Reeve W. Bridge, C. W. Webb.
- Rossland City (1), Mayor A. R. Pitt.
- Saanich District (2), Reeve G. F. Watson, Clerk H. S. Cowper.
- Spallumcheen Township (2), Reeve N. Hassen, Councillor W. G. Dodds.
- Summerland Municipality (2), Councillor R. Johnston, Councillor J. A. Kerk.
- Surrey Township (3), Councillor R. D. Mackenzie, Councillor J. W. Wise, Clerk C. Lemax.
- Trail City (2), Clerk W. E. B. Moneyppennv. Alderman A. J. Martin.
- Vancouver City (4), Alderman F. T. Rogers, Alderman J. Hosking, Eng. Fellows, Comp. A. J. Pilkington.
- Vernon City (1), Clerk J. G. Edwards.
- West Vancouver (2), Reeve V. V. Vinson, Councillor S. Gisley.

It was moved and seconded that the report of the Credentials Committee be adopted.—Carried.

ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS

Furthermore, we feel certain that the Provincial Government of the day or any future Government will make annual provision so as to check the spread of tuberculosis, as unfortunately, up to the present time, we are not more than holding our own.

The opening of the Clinic in Vancouver has proved a splendid move, and we are very glad to state that the relations between the Clinic and the Sanatorium are most harmonious, and we trust that it will not be long before more clinics are established in different parts of the Province as they can do an immense amount of good. We know that to cope with the situation properly a great deal of money will be needed; we are not in a position to say how this expense will be met, but we would strongly urge from our experience with the Association that any reasonable levy made by the Government should be cheerfully met by the citizens of this Province.

We would like to say in conclusion that we thank the Union for the responsibility which they placed upon us a year ago, and that we are firmly convinced that the Province has benefitted from the work carried out by the Board under the voluntary system and the able chairmanship of Mr. Edward Mahon, who has for many years occupied that position.

Respectfully submitted,

E. H. BRIDGMAN.
L. E. MARMONT.

It as moved and seconded that the report of Reeve Bridgman be received and referred to the Resolutions Committee, and that the Committee be thanked for their efforts in compiling the report.—Carried.

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UNION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES.

(Continued).

Report of the Resolutions Committee.

1. City of Duncan.—That this Union of B. C. Municipalities urge upon the Provincial Government the advisability of their taking over the entire control of the Police Force of the Province and that proper regulations as to rank, duties, pay, pension, etc., be framed as will attract the right class of men and so ensure the formation of a highly trained efficient body of men, who can be depended upon to enforce the laws of the Province effectively and intelligently, and whose activities will embrace the whole of this Province without being hampered by metes and bounds of any particular district.

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be not adopted.—Carried.

2. Whereas section 26 of the B. C. Prohibition Act Amendment Act 1920 is faulty in construction and practically valueless to Municipalities by reason of the fact that any by-law framed on that section is liable to be upset in a Court of Law;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Union of B. C. Municipalities request the Provisional Government to revise the said section in conformity with the general rules regulating Municipal license fees and that the said section be also transferred to section 290 of the Municipal Act where it rightly belongs.

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be referred to the Solicitor for re-draft.—Carried.

3. Whereas section 19 of the Public Schools Act provides for a certain definite per capita grant from the Government for each teacher employed in Municipal Schools;

AND WHEREAS such policy is not calculated to encourage the employment of the most efficient and more highly paid teacher but the direct contrary:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be urged to make its school grant upon a basis of a fixed proportion of the salaries actually paid, with a view to the encouragement of a higher standard of teaching efficiency in this Province.

It was moved and seconded that this resolution be submitted to the Board of School Trustees' Convention the following week.—Carried.

4. Section 238 of the Municipal Act, as revised in 1919 does not go quite far enough. Provision should be made whereby the Collector has the power to divide up and apportion the levy for the current year in a similar manner to what he may do with arrears and delinquent taxes. Suggested that recommendations be made that this action be revised accordingly.

Moved and seconded that this be referred to the solicitor for re-draft.—Carried.

5. Burnaby.—That the qualifications for Police Commissioners be at least the same as the qualifications presently required for candidates for Councillors and School Trustees.

Moved and second that this resolution be re-submitted again this year.—Carried.

6. That the Hospital Act Amendment Act, 1920, be repealed, and that in lieu thereof provision be made for the payment by Municipal Corporations for the care and maintenance in hospitals of indigent sick persons only.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

7. That the powers of the Inspector of Municipalities be enlarged, so that this official may be endowed with the powers which are proposed to be conferred upon a Local Government Board.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be laid over until the question of Local Government Board comes up for discussion.—Carried.

8. That Municipal boundaries be disregarded in so far as they may relate to high schools or technical schools, and that such schools be provided and maintained by the Provincial Government.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

9. That the existing system of several police organizations throughout the Province, be abolished, and that the police and the Administration of Justice be co-ordinated and operate under the direct control of the Province.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be rejected.—Carried.

10. That where any Act provides for powers or obligations upon or by any municipal corporation, that reference to such Act be made in the Municipal Act.

This resolution was not recommended.

11. This Corporation would beg to advocate the appointment of a committee composed of members of the Union of B. C. Municipalities to study the whole question of municipal taxation, and the methods necessary therefor, and to report thereon at the next Convention.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

12. District of Langley.—WHEREAS, notwithstanding the fact that very stringent regulations for the eradication in the Municipality of Langley, of noxious weeds, particularly the Canada Thistle, have been made and are being strictly enforced, the growth and spread of same to new areas hitherto not infected, still appears strong; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Langley Municipal Council that the noxious weeds pest cannot be properly controlled while hay and straw containing such weeds continue to be transported from one district to another;

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the District of Langley that the Provincial Government be asked to amend Section 17 of the "Noxious Weeds Act," being Chapter 66 of the statutes of British Columbia, 1915, making specific provision to prohibit the removal from off the premises on which it has grown, all hay and straw, whether loose or in bales, containing Noxious Weeds, particularly Canada Thistle and Ox Eye Daisy.

This resolution was not recommended.

13. City of Revelstoke.—That this Convention strongly oppose any form of Local Government Board as no benefit will be derived except to create an expense of from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year.

This resolution was laid on the table until the question of Local Government Board should come up.

That all resolutions dealing with the Local Government Board from 1919 be filed.

Also laid over for the discussion of Local Government Board.

14. That the Local Improvement Act be repealed and in future all monies borrowed for improvements be voted on by the tax payers.

This resolution was not recommended.

15. That the Provincial Government be asked to re-classify Municipalities giving a separate Act for each class as follows:

(a) Cities of the first class.—To cover all cities over 10,000 of a population.

(b) Cities of second class. — To cover all cities of a population of from 3,000 to 10,000.

(c) Municipalities of first class.—Covering municipalities with a population of less than 3,000 and including all district municipalities with large areas of acreage.

(d) Municipalities of second class.—To cover all municipalities incorporated for the purpose of irrigating, dyking, etc.

Each Act to be complete so as to deal with all matters, pertaining to its own class, and divided up as follows:

Division 1.—Forms of Government or management and qualifications.

Division 2.—Mode for appointing management and the qualifications of electors.

Division 3.—Mode of assessment and Court of Revision on same.

Division 4.—Mode of levying taxes and the sources of revenue of same.

Division 5.—General powers to expend current revenue.

Division 6.—Powers of borrowing by by-law, and the methods of voting on same and the qualifications of voters.

Division 7.—Collecting of taxes, Public Utility, Rates and the sale of lands for unpaid taxes.

Division 8.—Powers by By-Laws to cover and regulate all licenses and premises; the abating of nuisances; Public Health, etc.

Division 9.—Powers by resolution.

Division 10.—General management, powers and limitations of cities having Public Utilities.

Division 11.—Duties of the Municipal Inspector's Office.

(Continued on page 374).

MUNICIPAL MEN OF CANADA

By AJAX



COUNCILLOR JACK LOUDET,
President of Union of B. C. Municipalities.

Because of their previous interest in civic affairs most Old Country men on coming to Canada soon begin to follow the municipal activity of whatever community they may be located, though unfortunately they soon lose interest when they find that the administration of the community, instead of being of primary public interest, is at a discount in too many Canadian Municipalities. But fortunately for Municipal Canada there are some Old Country immigrants who do gravitate towards the city or town hall, in the capacity of mayor, alderman or official. These men have introduced a real sense of public responsibility in their respective offices, with the consequence they have given a new meaning to public office. They have inculcated the idea that in many ways local government is of more importance to the citizens than either provincial or federal government, and for this sense of duty towards their neighbors they have been honored by the citizens in most municipalities.

This has been the experience of Councillor Jack Loutet, of North Vancouver, and President of the Union of B. C. Municipalities for the second term. Born in Perthshire, Scotland thirty-five years ago Mr. Loutet came to Canada in 1905 and settled in British Columbia. In 1910, or five years afterwards he was returned to the North Vancouver District Council by the residents of North Lonsdale, which seat he has held ever since. Now there are municipal men in Canada, though not many, who can beat Councillor Loutet's record of ten year's continuous municipal service, but there is no man who has done more to raise the standard of municipal government in Canada than the subject of this sketch. From the first year of his office Jack Loutet has taken a leading part, not only in the adminis-

tration of his own community, but in the municipal government of his adopted province. To fit himself for his exacting duties, (and local administration is the most exacting task in the world of government), he made a study of civic affairs as administered in every part of Canada, and he never lost an opportunity during his travels to investigate the government of whatever city or town he may be visiting. Consequently, he has been able to bring to bear in the discussions on local and provincial municipal administration a really profound knowledge of civics in general.

There is no doubt that his special knowledge, together with his capacity for executive office, had a large influence on the minds of his colleagues of the Union of B. C. Municipalities, in electing Mr. Loutet, while still only a councillor, to the position of president last year. And his re-election this year is evidence of the wisdom of their selection.

Mr. Loutet is now going further in his work. He is about to call a meeting of the Provincial Unions to discuss and arrive at some solution of the taxation problem which is affecting every municipality in the country by first, in the words of Mr. Loutet himself, "settling the respective fields of taxation available to the three bodies (Federal, Provincial and Municipal); secondly, by a more economical method of collecting taxes." Whatever may be the outcome of the meeting (and we hope it will be held under the auspices of the Union of Canadian Municipalities), there is no doubt of the necessity of the councils getting together so that something may be done to lessen the problem of local taxation and its economical collection, and Councillor Loutet, who has made a close study of the subject, should be backed up by all municipal men, in his propaganda.

To some extent the Canadian Municipal Journal can claim Mr. Loutet as a member of its staff. For two years he acted as its British Columbia correspondent, during which period the municipal affairs of our far western provinces became known the world over. Unfortunately for the journal's readers Mr. Loutet had to give up his monthly letter on account of business, and has since only been able to send in an occasional article. It is to be hoped that Mr. Loutet will soon be able to renew his delightful and instructive monthly letters.

TO THE COUNCILS

*Please don't forget the subscription
for 1921 to the Canadian Municipal
Journal.*

THANKS.

The Taxation Problem In British Columbia

JACK LOUTET.

President, Union of B. C. Municipalities.

The greatest problem before the municipalities of British Columbia to-day, is the necessity for revenues which will meet their expenditures.

In considering this problem, it would be well for those seeking a solution if they would first approach the question with an open mind, and not with the prejudice of the individual who supports one theory or another and endeavors to prove his theory by citing the present position of any one municipality.

It can be readily admitted that during the boom period of ten years ago, expenditures were made which were ahead of the times and some of which, though desirable, were beyond our means in our then state of development. Many of these expenditures, however, were made during a time of cheap money and reasonable construction cost, and taking into consideration our present state of development and future prospects, have turned out to be good investments. Graft, as it is known elsewhere, has been practically absent from our municipal government and certainly was not a large factor in bringing about the present state of affairs. Single tax and improvement tax have also had little bearing on the subject, the single tax being a distinct success under certain conditions and the improvement tax being as successful and necessary under different conditions. Theorists have sought to prove the single tax system a failure by citing the financial condition of Vancouver, but have failed lamentably in endeavoring to prove any connection between the two.

One reason for our financial difficulties undoubtedly was the fact that we were carving out our towns from heavily timbered land and endeavoring to pay the high initial cost in a short period of time. In the smaller municipalities, new roads which cost in clearing alone, about \$500.00 per acre, are being paid for out of revenue though this initial cost is really a capital charge for a work which will be of value as long as the municipality exists. To offset this, some municipalities improved these original roads with money raised on bonds whose term is much longer than the life of the improvement. Other municipalities realizing this as a mistake went to the opposite extreme, and issued bonds with so short a term that when the improvement bonds were paid off there was still many years of value in the work and the short term of payment coinciding with a period of depression had practically ruined the property owners.

Another factor contributing toward financial difficulties was the disinclination of councils to enforce the collection of taxes. In the prosperous period, money was easily borrowed and collections were therefore not enforced.

In the hard times following pressure was brought to bear at elections, to compel a policy of leniency and the attempt made to stave off inevitable liquidation was for a time successful. With the return of better times in all lines except property, there was less resistance to the collection of taxes and eventually a sane fixed policy of collection was made compulsory.

No one of these contributing causes of our present financial difficulties was in itself responsible and it can be shown that even all these together could not have been the cause of our troubles.

An increased levy on the land or even the improvements sufficient to meet our needs, would be disastrous to the landowners, especially when we know that except in a few cases, the present high rentals do not show a fair interest return on a conservative valuation of the land and improvements.

The business tax, trade licenses and similar makeshifts are only petty hindrances to business and the revenue they produce does not justify their existence.

Leaving for the moment our sources of revenue, let us return to our sources of expenditure. In the first place it is no doubt quite fair to charge directly to the land, expenditures for roads, sidewalks, water mains, sewers and the general running expenses of a municipality.

But when the state decided that for the good of the state it was desirable to provide a first class system of compulsory education, can it be shown that this is a fair charge against the land.

Taking it for granted that it is not desirable to charge the cost of education directly to the parent, surely it is equally true that it should not be charged to the landowner who already is providing everything else necessary for the running of the municipality. The government recognizes this and provides a grant but the grant is insufficient.

Education, which the state makes compulsory for reasons of state, should be a state charge and the cost equitably distributed through the income tax which is generally admitted to be the fairest tax. The government will say that it could not properly care for the educational needs of the Province from one central office, but if it will admit that the cost of education should be a charge on the Province as a whole, a system of administration could be evolved which certainly could not be less satisfactory than the present one which is so constituted that neither school board nor municipal council can avoid friction between those bodies.

While it is difficult to provide a general cure for the troubles of the various municipalities, I believe that if the government were to assume the cost of education and hospital treatment, that most municipalities would find immediate relief and future financing made easy.

The B. C. Government in its "Highways Act" has practically solved the vexed question of roads and if it can now evolve a real Schools and Hospitals Act, the search by the municipalities for increased revenue will be over.

Multiplicity of taxes is irritating and costly and the present tendency towards licensing all trades and professions is harmful and un-British.

Still another makeshift was the right given to municipalities to impose a poll tax, provided said tax was earmarked for schools and hospitals. Presuming that the cost of operating schools and hospitals is kept as low as possible, what object can there be in keeping such a tax separate from other taxes and using it for a specific purpose. If the tax is too small to meet the cost of schools and hospitals, the balance would have to come from ordinary revenue and if too large would tend towards extravagance. Large cities want a share of the amusement tax and motor license tax in order to solve their financial difficulties, but smaller municipalities would not get sufficient from these sources to pay for the cost of collection.

The Dominion Government demands exemption from taxes as a constitutional right and then in special cases where this is an exceptional hardship, agrees to pay certain taxes.

When the B. N. A. Act was drawn, soldier settlement had not been dreamt of yet simply because this Act would cover the case, the Federal Government insists on exemption from taxes on lands which have reverted to the government through failure of the soldier settler. Just imagine a busi-

Bilingualism in Canada—A Parallelism in Norman England

By B. THADDEUS, F.S.C.

[In a recent lecture to the students of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Montreal, Professor William Henry Atherton analyzed some of the features of the Norman Conquest of 1066 in its bearings on Philology and Ethnology, and, paralleling what had been accomplished seven centuries later by another invasion, the counterpart in a measure of the first, the English Conquest of Norman Canada in 1760, he concluded by an appeal for good-fellowship and mutual forbearance between the two great ethnical groups of this country. The following are thoughts inspired by Dr. Atherton's lecture.]

The Norman Conquest of England.

A cursory glance at the Norman period of English history will impress even the casual reader with this basic fact: no matter by whom undertaken, the subjugation of an island kingdom and of a language racy of the soil, will prove a difficult task. Renowned tacticians had attempted it heretofore and had miserably failed. No less a genius than Julius Caesar soon found out that these liberty-loving Britishers were not to be coerced; and even while William of Normandy, at the head of a formidable armada is awaiting a favorable southern gale to dash his troops against England's rugged shores, another army of invasion—Danish pirates under a fierce chieftain, Harold Hardrada,—are learning to their own sorrow that the easy-going Saxon does not tamely yield when fighting with his back to the wall. This is the tale told by the battle of Stamford Bridge.

But William of Normandy was no ordinary soldier. The historian Green has this to say of him: "In William, the wild impulses of the Northman's blood mingled strangely with the cool temper of the modern statesman. As he was the last, so he was the most terrible outcome of the northern race. The very spirit of the sea-robbers from whom he sprang seemed embodied in his gigantic form, his enormous strength, his desperate bravery, the fury of his wrath, the ruthlessness of his revenge. Boy as he was at Val-es-dunes, horse and man went down before his lance. All the fierce gayety of his youth, in his rout of fifteen Angevins with but five men at his back, in his defiant ride with hawk on fist as if war and chase were one. No man could bend his bow. His mace crashed its way through the ring of English warriors to the foot of the standard. He rose to his greatest height at moments when other men despaired.

THE TAXATION PROBLEM (Continued).

ness being run with the revenue fluctuating in this absurd manner. The Dominion and Provincial Governments at will, may through their acts, exempt any land from taxation as was done in the case of the C. N. R. and P. G. E., and large revenues thus disappear with no reduction in the expenditures necessary by the municipality. The plea, that such exemption is justified because the construction of these lines and of public works benefits the municipalities, is an absurd one as it is obvious that such works are not primarily for the benefit of the municipalities, and any benefits carry with them a corresponding responsibility and expense to the municipality.

The time has surely come when we should abandon such unbusinesslike methods.

A conference of Federal, Provincial and Municipal representatives might result in a fair division of revenue and expenditure with increased efficiency and decreased cost. Only our extreme conservatism and tendency to reverence our ancestors by holding to their methods keep us from putting into the discard theories and methods which have outlived their usefulness.

Thus his voice rang out as a trumpet when his soldiers fled before the English charge at Senlac, and his battle cry turned into victory what seemed utter defeat." And this William of Normandy is the man who has made up his mind to bring England under his domination. Eventually, he succeeds; but at the cost of a mighty host of followers.

Throughout the spring and summer of 1066, all the sea-ports of Normandy, Picardy, and Brittany ring with the busy sound of preparation. "Nightly toils the subject of the land, whose sore task divides not the Sunday from the week." And as early as August, the whole of his shipping is assembled at the mouth of the Dive, 400 large sailing and more than a thousand transports. His army numbers sixty thousand men, well equipped and officered. Adverse winds retain them for several weeks and they smart with impatience, little surmising that it is this bit of ill-luck which will really help them win at Hastings. For in the meantime Harold of England was losing the flower of his army against Hardrada the Dane, and when William landed his troops at Pevensey, Harold had but a half organized army to meet him. Even then his troops fought so well that he nearly won the day. But when he was wounded by a Norman arrow and a sudden breach was wrought in the Saxon line chiefly through the rallying cry of William himself, the islanders grew panicky and towards nightfall turned and fled, leaving the Norman in possession of the field. Sad as was the plight of the defenders, they had as yet but sipped the bitter cup of woe. Under their new masters, they will have much to suffer; and many will empty the chalice of bitterness to its very dregs. A merciful Providence spared the French of Canada in 1760 from a like humiliation at the hands of the English invaders.

Norman Bilingualism.

The Frankish conqueror had come with the intention of annihilating everything Saxon; even the very language of the people was condemned to disappear; the conquest was to be complete. In a measure the dream of the invader is realized; the rude Teutonic tongue is cast aside, the lower orders alone clinging to its use; the language of the Court is French—not the polished French of a later day, but an outgrowth of the Latin dialect of the Roman legions in Gaul and of the Frankish hordes who had settled in Northern France about the year 486 A.D.;—the Norman lords in their Saxon mansions and the gentry in their feudatory holdings will suffer no other tongue to be spoken; apparently, French will soon be the dominant language of the country and the Saxon idiom is doomed to oblivion. But such will not be the outcome; the Anglo-Saxon language will survive and the foreign tongue will gradually die out as the main vehicle of literary expression or of social intercourse, though it will remain for long as the language of diplomacy and never entirely lost by the educated classes, as a fertile source of literary culture.

At first the French foreigners disdain to learn the crude Germanic idiom; but intercourse and marriage between Norman lord and Saxon lady gradually lessen this dislike for the language of the vanquished, and each learns the other's speech; first as a means of communication, and then as a medium of intellectual culture. English will not only survive, but it will emerge from the ordeal with added excellencies. First, many of the old Saxon inflections will disappear; the genitive ending will be replaced by "of"; and a wealth of words will be added to our vocabulary. Secondly, in metrical composition, a compromise will be reached between the two forms of poetry.

(To be continued.)

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UNION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES.

(Continued from page 370).

- Division 12.—Sinking Funds; how to be kept and the investment of same.
- Division 13.—Auditing and form of bookkeeping.
Withdrawn by Revelstoke.
16. That this Convention again recommends that the Government take over the Police Administration of the City, collection of fines and paying for the entire cost of Administration.
This Resolution was dealt with in Resolution No. 1.
17. That this Convention again recommends that the Administration of Education be taken over by the Government and provide for the cost by direct taxation.
The Committee moved the adoption of this resolution.—Carried.
18. That to provide for the suggestions mentioned under the memorandum re "Objects of a Local Government Board," this Convention suggests to the Provincial Government that the Municipal Inspector send out a general form of improvement usually undertaken by Municipalities, for each class of permanent improvement; the form to permanent improvement; the form to provide for the amount of work done, the cost, and other essential information of all cities and municipalities.
The Committee recommended the resolution be laid over for later consideration.
19. To substitute No. 3 this Convention recommends that City Officials should pass an examination.
This was not recommended by the Committee.—Report adopted.
20. To substitute No. 4 this Convention recommends that each year the Treasurer make a certified return:
(a) Of the general expenditure and receipts;
(b) And the amount required in the Sinking Fund together with a certified statement of the amount at the credit of the Sinking Fund and its composition together with a statement of all shortage in the sinking fund, at statement of monies outstanding and belonging to that account and of Debentures monies received and expended during the year.
The Committee did not recommend this.—Report of Committee adopted.
261. This Convention recommends that Councils be elected for a term of two years, that if necessary they be required to furnish a bond for the faithful performance and administration of all funds.
Moved and seconded that last year's resolution on this matter be adopted.—Carried.
22. It was moved and seconded that the Provincial Government be requested to have their Fire Insurance Department make an inquiry into the rates charged by Fire Insurance Companies and that the opinion of this Union is that a general reduction should be made, as rates as now charged appear to be excessive.—Carried.
23. City of Fernie.—That this Council do hereby protest against the appointment of a Local Government Board as they are unable to see any advantage to be gained by this formation.
That this Council strongly recommends that the Government take over the administration of Education and provide for the cost by direct taxation.
That Police Commissioners be required to have the same property qualifications as Aldermen.
That the Government take over the Fire Insurance of the Province.
That Mayor and Aldermen be elected for two years.
All these recommendations dealt with previously.
24. That Councils be given power to regulate Clubs in same manner as Hotels for sale of beverages.
After some discussion Mayor Gale moved an amendment to this: Moved by Mayor Gale (Vancouver), seconded by Mayor Johnston (New Westminster), that the Government be requested to enact legislation that will enable municipalities to exercise control, for the purpose of supervision and regulation, over Clubs operating in the Province.—Carried.
25. District of Saanich.—That subsection 103 of section 54 of the Municipal Act as amended in the year 1915 and 1916 be further amended by inserting after the 24th line thereof the following paragraph:
(d) To which the Municipality is prepared to give a service connection to any existing water or gas main or electric lighting power tract or main wires of the municipality on the same terms as is given

to adjacent piece of land or real property which actually fronts upon the said water or gas main or electric lighting or electric power track or main wire.

It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Solicitor for re-draft.—Carried.

26. That the Trespass Act, being Chapter 230, of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1911, as amended by the Trespass Amendment Act 1918, be further amended by inserting the following paragraph at the end of subsection (1) of section 18.

The Council of any District Municipality as defined in Section 2 of the "Municipal Act" may by by-law determine that the expression "Enclosed land" as used in this Act shall include all cultivated lands whether surrounded by a fence or not, in the whole or any defined portion of the Municipality and all the provisions of this Act applicable to enclosed land shall apply to such cultivated lands.

Referred to the Solicitor for legal advice.

27. Corporation of the Township of Richmond.—WHEREAS notification has been given by the Dominion Government through the Soldier Settlement Board that lands purchased by the Government for settlement by returned Soldiers is non-taxable in the event of the soldiers abandoning the land, thereby causing it to revert to the Crown;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities is surprised to learn of the position which the Dominion Government takes in respect to the taxation of lands purchased for returned soldiers and emphatically protests against a course of action which places an increased burden of taxation upon returned soldiers who remain on the land and upon other tax payers, which militates against capital expenditures rendered necessary by increased population, which interferes detrimentally with the credit of Municipalities; and this Convention demands that lands purchased by the Dominion Government for the use of returned soldiers shall have the same status with respect to taxation as that upon which lands held by other owners are placed.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted, and that an amendment moved by Mayor Gale and seconded, that all lands owned by the Provincial and Dominion Government be taxable by the Municipality.—Carried.

28. WHEREAS the Dominion Government is the owner of 630 acres of land on Lulu Island, in the Municipality of Richmond, known as the Richmond Rifle Range;

AND WHEREAS the said Government claims exemption from taxation (except drainage and dyking rates) of the said lands;

AND WHEREAS exemption from taxation of these lands necessitates increased taxation on the remaining lands in the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS the said lands were held by private ownership before being purchased by the said Government about the year 1904;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities is of the opinion that lands which have been Crown-granted and thereby have become taxable, should thereafter remain subject to taxation.

F. A. McDiarmid moved the following amendment:

That it be an instruction to the Executive Committee to revive all the resolutions passed by the Union in former years dealing with the taxation of Crown lands and railway lands and after placing the same in proper shape transmit the same and urge their adoption by the Provincial and Dominion Governments.—Carried.

Moved by Mayor Gale, seconded by Councillor Russell, that it be the instructions of the executive to enlist the support for the foregoing resolution of the Union of Canadian Municipalities and Unions of all other Provincial Municipalities.—Carried.

29. North Vancouver.—That this Convention recommends that the Municipal Act be amended to provide that the percentage additions to be added to unpaid taxes in each year be not applicable to Local Improvement Rates.

This was not recommended by the Resolutions Committee.—Report adopted.

That this Convention recommends that provision be made in the Municipal Act, to provide for consolidation of arrears of taxes on Soldiers property in the year 1921.

This question is believed already provided for in the Act Amendment.—Principle adopted.

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(Continued).

That this Convention appoint a Committee to investigate and submit a report and recommendation with respect to the spread in price, between the producer and consumer on agricultural products.

This resolution was lost.

30. That this Convention request through the Provincial Government that the Federal Government call a conference of representatives of the Provinces, the Cities and Municipalities; the conference to endeavor to divide the field of taxation so that there will be the least overlapping, and thereby as equitable a division as possible arrived at, in the field of taxation, between Dominion Government, the Provincial Governments, and the Municipalities;

AND that copies of this resolution be forwarded from this Convention to the Federal Government, the Pro-

vincial Government, the Union of Canadian Municipalities, and the Union of the various Provincial Municipalities.

Upon recommendation of the Committee, this resolution was adopted.

31. Oak Bay.—That the liability of the Municipality for hospital charges under subsection 1 of section 7 of the Hospital Act Amendment Act, 1913, as enacted by section 3 of the Hospital Act Amendment Act 1916, be confined to cases where the Municipality has been immediately notified of the admission of the patient by the hospital authorities.

Moved and seconded that this be laid on the table till later.—Carried.

Local Government Board.

The Hon. F. W. DeB. Farris, Attorney-General of the Province having arrived, was requested to address the Convention which he did as follows:—

ADDRESS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD FOR B.C.

Address by the Hon. Mr. Farris, Attorney-General of British Columbia:

"This is strictly a business occasion and there is no intention on my part of making a speech. In fact, I did not know until this morning that I was expected to open the discussion, I am not sure that this is just as it should be. My idea in being here is a desire to keep closely in touch with all matters in connection with every part of the Government of this Province. As you all know, Municipalities are an offshoot of the Government of the Province.

The question that you are facing is one that has caused us considerable thought for some time. Mr. Baird, when appointed to the office of Inspector of Municipalities, represented to us in what a serious condition the Municipal Act then was. I discussed the matter with the Cabinet, and was able to inform him that we would undertake a revision of the Municipal Act. The next step was to secure the services of a solicitor, to prepare a revision of that act. We selected Mr. McDiarmid because of his qualifications to do the work, and because he not only had the knowledge, experience and ability, but because of his familiarity with affairs between the municipalities and the government. Mr. McDiarmid undertook the work, and the first revised draft was in shape for the Union Convention at Penticton.

This idea of a Local Government Board came up before the Convention at Penticton and was endorsed at that convention, and a committee was formed to confer with the Government. That legislature would have gone through in 1918, with the sanction of the U. B. C. M. However, we felt that we should make haste slowly, as it were, so it was decided to put the finishing touches to it.

Last year you had your convention at North Vancouver, and by that time the Act as originally figured out, had been completed and was in the hands of the municipality. We attended the Convention in North Vancouver. At that time there was a change in the viewpoint on the question of a Local Government Board, and I must confess that I was just a little bit peeved at the way things were going. There was such a feeling of almost organized antagonism. I told the Convention that as far as the Government was concerned, while they were conferring with you on the subject, the responsibility still rested with the government. The whole basis of the scheme for a Local Government Board is one for closer co-operation. If you have not got a pretty good idea of the situation I cannot expect to convert you. The only reason that this scheme has been brought forward in the House is that it is a step forward in municipal government.

We are here then, discussing a common problem, with common facilities, and common ideals. I notice a suggestion I have heard in regard to the personnel of this Board. I can understand fully the feeling you gentlemen have in this regard. There is no doubt that the success or failure of a Local Government Board depends almost entirely upon the character and ability of the men holding the positions. Another question is that of the length of service of these men. It is not a good idea to give a man a life job as an official, as there is no inducement to give of his best services, and it does not help in working out the problems. I strongly believe that a man should hold his position for a limited length of time. And further, the men who are elected to fulfil an office should be responsible to the people for their actions. I hope to benefit at this meeting as I have done at other meetings of your conventions, by the discussion.

A resolution thanking the Attorney-General for his address was carried.

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (Continued)

32. Oak Bay.—That section 930 of the Land Registry Act, as enacted by section 3 of the Land Registry Act Amendment Act, 1919, make provision for the approval of subdivision plans by the Council of the Municipality, such approval to be certified on the plan under the signature of the Engineer of the Municipality.

An amendment to this resolution was moved and seconded, that after the word "certified" the words "by the clerk under the seal of the municipality" be added.—Carried.

33. That the title to all property acquired for school purposes be vested in the Municipality, subject to the control of the Board of School Trustees while used or required for educational purposes.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

34. That the Council be given power to either disapprove of School Board estimates of extraordinary expenditure or approve subject to a vote of the ratepayers and if such vote is unfavorable the liability of the Council to provide such funds shall cease.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

35. That subsection 2 of section 166 of the Municipal Act Amendment Act, 1920, should provide for the making of a list of those qualified to vote on any by-law.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

36. Port Alberni.—The Preparation of Voters Lists should be improved.

- (a) By increasing the resident electorate;
(b) By eliminating congestion due to insertion of names of non-residents.

It is suggested that all voters should sign applications, as in Provincial lists, but that once their names are on the list, they should remain on so long as the voters remain qualified, owners by continuing to hold registered titles, and householders and licensees by paying their annual dues. This would greatly reduce clerical work and expense re non-residents and avoid difficulty re "owners" being British subjects. It would also abolish the arbitrary conditions requiring householders and licensees to register each year and restricting their registrations to the month of October only.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be not adopted.—Carried.

37. Municipal Act.—Section 134 should be amended to make it clear that:

- (a) Loans may be either against current taxes or against arrears of taxes only, or against both combined. (This might be done by altering the word "and" to "or" in the fifth line of subsection 2, some banks now insist that both arrears and current taxes must be pledged in combination as the correct interpretation of this subsection.)
(b) Only one by-law per annum should be necessary for each class of loan (some banks declare that a separate by-law is necessary for each individual promissory note).

Section (a) Moved and seconded that be adopted.—Carried.

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(Continued).

- Section (b) This is covered by the Act, one bank only contending otherwise.
38. The right to own and maintain foreshore lots, wharves and floats, adjoining municipal boundaries should be granted.
Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.
39. Section 287, requiring recourse to distress proceedings in re collection of road tax, before summary conviction, should be altered.
Moved and seconded that this resolution be referred to the Solicitor.—Carried.
40. Section 290, re trades licenses, should specifically include insurance agents.
This matter is up before the Courts.
41. The right to license cows and goats, where they are allowed to run at large, and where more than one is kept by the same owner, should be granted.
This resolution was not adopted.
42. A section like section 230 in the 1914 Act, should be added permitting the changing of the names of assessed owners where registration of transfers or agreement has taken place after the preparation of the Assessment Roll.
This resolution was referred to the Solicitor.
43. Sections 227 and 253 should be made to include water frontage rate. It seems invidious to have percentage additions on sewer frontage and local improvements rates and not on water frontage rates.
This resolution was adopted.
44. In section 253 the period for selling tax sale lots should be extended from nine months to twelve months.
This resolution was not recommended. Committee's report adopted.
- Report of the Municipal Officers' Association.**
The following report of the Municipal Officers' Association of B. C. was read by the Secretary, and each resolution voted on by the Convention:
The Municipal Officers' Association of British Columbia in Convention assembled have decided to request the necessary changes in the Statutes to cover the following recommendations which I am instructed to submit for the endorsement of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, namely:
1. That the date for posting the Annual Voters' list be changed from the 5th. to the 10th. of December and that the date for the holding of the Court of Revision be altered from the 10th. to the 15th. of December, and that the consequent change in the date for the resolution appointing the Court of Revision be made. ("Municipal Elections Act." Section 15 (a) and (b).
Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.
 2. That the charge for Land Registry fees to be included in the Tax Sale upset price be fixed at \$5.75. ("Municipal Act," Sec. 249, Sub. sec. 1 (f).
Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.
 3. That it be made clear that all penalties added to the taxes for non-payment become part of the General Revenue of the Municipality. ("Municipal Act," Section 235).
Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.
 4. That Section 227 of the "Municipal Act" be so amended as to provide for the addition of penalties to all rates imposed upon a frontage basis.
Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.
 5. That when land situated within a municipality is sold by the Government or any other body outside of the Municipal Corporation in respect of rates or taxes levied by such body, notice of such sale be given to the Municipality in which the land is situated, and to the Land Registry for recording.
Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.
 6. That the words "legal description," in Section 232 (a) of the Municipal Act be changed to "Short Description" in order that the Assessment Roll, Collector's Roll, and Tax Statement may all show the same description of the land.
Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

All these suggestions deal with matters of difficulty to Municipal Officials and I shall be pleased to explain to your Convention, or to the Resolutions Committee the reasons for the requested Amendments.

I assure you that the Municipal Officers' Association greatly appreciate the support given by the Union of B.C. Municipalities, the provision made on your programme for

the consideration of the above suggestions, and the interest in our association shown by the Municipalities who have made it possible for one or more of their officials to attend.

We have had a very successful convention, a number of matters of great interest to all Municipal Officers having been discussed, in addition to those being brought before you for endorsement, and it is certain that one result of our organization will be the gradual standardization of the work in Municipal offices.

JOHN G. FARMER, President.

It was moved by Secretary Gray, seconded by Mayor McDonald, that the Union express their appreciation to the Municipal Officers Association for the interest they have always taken in these matters, and for the way in which they have discharged their duties.—Carried.

ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION PROBLEMS.

Mr. J. G. Farmer then presented a paper on "Assessment and Taxation Problems," which will be published in the January issue of this journal.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Farmer's paper be spread on the minutes, and that a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. Farmer for his address.—Carried.

The Resolutions of the Good Roads League were presented as follows:—

League of British Columbia place on record its most hearty Resolution No 1.—That this convention of the Good Roads appreciation of the very excellent address as presented by His Worship Mayor R. H. Gale, of Vancouver, President of the Good Roads League of B. C. at the opening session. The Convention feels that without doubt, it was the best address of its kind ever presented to any Convention. This body feels in His Worship Mayor Gale we have an officer whose one aim is to make the Good Roads League a power for good in the community. No effort has been spared by him filling the duties pertaining to his important office and we wish to record our sincere belief that he has presented a report which reflects credit not only on himself but on the League over whose deliberations he has so ably presided for the past three years.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

No. 2.—That this Convention heartily supports the work of the Pacific-North-West Tourist Association and records its belief that the promotion of the Tourist Association is distinct asset to the Province of British Columbia.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

No. 3.—That the resolution of the Gray Creek and District Conservative Association, which urged the necessity of the early building of proposed road along the eastern side of Kootenay Lake and the importance of at once building the connection links between the settlement of Boswell, Gray Creek, Crawford Bay and Kootenay Bay, be referred to the Executive, and if this highway improvement is a part of the transprovincial highway system, this matter receive consideration.

Moved and seconded that the Convention adopt this resolution.—Carried.

No. 4.—That the resolution of the City of North Vancouver, urging that the Good Roads League impress upon the Provincial Government the desirability and necessity of making a preliminary survey at as early a date as possible of the Pacific Highway from its present terminus in West Vancouver via Squamish to Lillooet, and there connecting up with the existing trunk roads to the Upper Country, be laid on the table owing to the large highway construction programme now being undertaken by the Provincial Government.

(Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Public Works, explained that a reconnaissance had been made of this route in connection with the Interprovincial Highway route matter).

Moved and seconded that this be endorsed.—Carried.
No. 5.—That the following resolutions presented by the Fernie Board of Trade, moved by Delegate J. F. Spalding, Fernie, seconded by Percy Gomery, Vancouver (Canadian Bankers' Association) be endorsed:

"Whereas the Information Bureau of the Fernie Board of Trade have come into touch with a considerable number of tourists from the United States during the past two years, and almost without exception they have complained about being allowed a free touring permit of 30 days, which is not long enough in which to use half of the attractions of the province. The necessity of putting up a bond for a stay of a longer period has caused many of them to return before they otherwise would, resulting in a considerable financial loss to the Province. This Board desires its representatives to the B. C. Good Roads Convention to bring this matter up in an endeavor to secure their support to a strong representa-

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(Continued).

tion to the Federal Government to increase the length of time for a free permit to sixty days."—Adopted.

No. 6.—That the right angle turn in the Pacific Highway at South Port Mann be called to the attention of the Government, and the Public Works Department be petitioned to widen the road at this point (paving being in progress) to a width of not less than 24 feet instead of 18 feet.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 7.—That the Resolution of the City of Revelstoke in reference to the Dominion Government being asked to extend a road through the Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks, to connect with the Banff Windermere road with the Revelstoke-Okanagan Road, be endorsed provided this improvement does not interfere with the federal grant to provincial highways.

"The distance uncompleted between Revelstoke and Golden is 35½ miles, mostly through Dominion Government national parks."

Moved and seconded that this resolution be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 8.—**Transprovincial Highway Route from Coast to Interior.**

That resolution No. 2, adopted at the North Vancouver Convention, 1919, and Victoria Convention, 1920, be reiterated, and as no announcement has been made by the Government, this Convention goes on record as requesting a definite decision without delay.

(Resolution No. 2 of the N. Vancouver Convention above referred to read:

"That this convention urge upon the provincial Government the immediate adoption of a route for a highway connecting the Interior and Coast Districts and that preparations be made forthwith to begin construction of the said highway as soon as weather conditions permit this spring).

Moved and seconded that this resolution be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 9.—Nelson to International Boundary.

That the resolution of the Nelson and District Automobile Club urging that the Provincial Government be asked to state how far negotiations have been proceeded with the Dominion Government as to the Dominion Government's grant of forty per cent. towards the construction of this important link in the highway system of B. C. (from some twenty miles north of International Boundary and Nelson. See Resolution No. 6, North Vancouver Convention), be endorsed, and that a copy be forwarded to the Provincial Government and that Government urge upon the Dominion Government to make an immediate grant so that this work can be undertaken without delay.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 10.—**AMENDED.** (Spalding-Gomery).

That this Convention express its approval of and commend the good work done by the Provincial Department of Public Works in connection with resolutions No. 3, 9, 10 and 17, of 1919 Convention.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 11.—Resolutions on the paving Sardis-Rosedale of the Interprovincial Highway, presented by Chilliwack Branch Good Roads League of B. C. per Delegate J. McCutcheon.—Endorsed.

This resolution read:

Whereas the League regards that portion of the Transprovincial Highway between Sardis and Rosedale as a almost necessary connecting link of the said highway.

And whereas the Municipality of Chilliwack has requested the Provincial Government to undertake the hard surfacing of this link under their amended highways act of 1919.

Be it therefore resolved that this League hereby endorse and strongly urge upon the Provincial Government that the work be undertaken at the earliest possible moment.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 12.—Resolutions of the Kelowna Automobile and Good Roads Association, per Dayton Welham, president, urging approval of construction of proposed Kelowna-Narramata Road, giving connection from Boundary Country to Kamloops, recommended to be laid on table for one year, owing

to the extensive highway construction programme that this League has urged upon the Province Government.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 13.—That the Resolutions of the Peachland Municipality re classification of the highway running north and south through Okanagan Valley as a primary road, since it is an international road over which tourists and land seekers from the States visit the northern interior of the province, be referred to the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, for an expression of opinion and interpretation of what the term "primary road" embraces.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 15.—That the Resolution of the Municipalities of Maple Ridge, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Coquitlam, Burnaby and the Board of Trade of Vancouver, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Manufacturers' Association of B. C. and Vancouver Retail Merchants Association, requesting that the League ask the Provincial Government to give consideration to the highway along the North Shore of the Fraser River from Agassiz to Port Moody and Vancouver as a primary road, be endorsed.

Moved and seconded that this action be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 16.—That in reference to Resolution No. 4 passed at the North Vancouver Convention urging that paving operations be carried on the Pacific Highway with all possible speed, the Convention place itself on record as disappointed with the progress of hard-surfacing operations on this important interprovincial and international highway link.

Moved and seconded that this be endorsed.—Carried.

No. 17.—That the Provincial Government be recommended to establish a Highway Department under a highway commissioner.

Further Report of Resolutions Committee.

Moved by Mayor Gale, and seconded, that the present Hospital Regulations be so amended as to provide that no municipality shall be held responsible for the payment by registered mail within three days of the entry of the patient. Further, that the hospital authorities shall assist the Municipality affected when requested to do so, in every reasonable manner.

- In determining as the ability to pay either in part or in full;
- In collecting either in part or in full from the patient;
- In discouraging as far as possible the entry of patients from municipalities in which there is a hospital.

Carried.

Municipality of Coquitlam.

Asks that provision be made in the Local Improvement Act, to authorize the extension of any existing work of local improvement and that such amount of the original cost as the Council may decide, be made payable by the property owners benefitting by such extension, a corresponding reduction being made to the assessed owners of the original scheme.

Moved and seconded that the recommendations of the Committee be adopted.—Carried.

Municipality of Spallumcheen.

Asks that Municipalities be given the same right to alter or construct roads through the lands of Soldier Settlement areas as they now have in regard to lands held by ordinary settlers. This right has already been questioned but so far no action has yet been taken to test the validity of the objection.

(The Committee recommended that the Act be amended to cover this point).

Moved and seconded that the recommendation of the Committee be adopted.—Carried.

City of Kamloops.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Provincial Government be requested to amend the Municipal Act by adding the following clause:

"The granting or refusing of a license to any person to carry on a particular trade, calling business or occupation, or of revoking a license, under any of the powers conferred upon a Council or a Board of Commissioners of Police by this Act, or any other Act, shall be in its discretion, and it shall not be bound to give any reason for refusing or revoking a license, and its action shall not be open to question or review by any Court."

Moved and seconded that this resolution not be adopted.—Carried.

Nanaimo.

Whereas, instances exist in this Province, of unorganized residential areas adjoin the limits of incorporated Municipalities, and such residential areas are benefitted in a large de-

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(Continued.)

gree, by the expenditures carried on by such municipalities, and while enjoying the advantages, yet is no way bear any share of the expense for capital expenditure or the necessary upkeep of any public works;

Be it therefore resolved, that in the opinion of this Municipal Convention, the "MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION ACT," which provided for the extension of the limits of municipalities, should be amended so as to permit His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence that the public interest would be served, by extending the limits of a municipality so as to embrace any such residential area, by Proclamation, to order that the limits of any such Municipality may be extended to include such residential area or part thereof as he may consider fair.

(The Committee do not recommend this).

Moved and seconded that the report of the Committee be adopted.—Carried.

Surrey and Delta.

That any municipality may apply to the proper department of the Government for a certificate of approval of any ditch constructed within the boundaries of any public highway in the municipality.

(Recommended by the Committee).

Moved and seconded that the recommendation of the Committee be adopted.—Carried.

Your Resolution Committee submit the following resolution for favor of consideration by the Convention:

"That the Provincial Government be urged to so amend the Motor Vehicles Act as to exempt all municipal Fire Fighting apparatus from the payment of registration fees or license fees."

Note:—It is contended that in the event of Provincial Government Property being endangered from fire that they would expect to have the same measure of assistance notwithstanding that they do not contribute towards its from the fire department as would private individuals upkeep, and therefore that they ought not to expect a revenue from its apparatus.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Moved by Mayor Gale (Vancouver), and seconded:

That the Government be urged to change the Motor Vehicles Act, exempting fire department apparatus from the limitation of the fifteen-mile-per-hour maximum speed permitted, which at present throws direct responsibility for accident due to necessary speed upon driver of said fire apparatus. It may be stipulated that raising of fifteen-mile speed law be applied only where apparatus is responding to alarm of fire.—Carried.

That this Convention be asked to endorse the action of the Legislature looking to the superannuation and pensioning of police and firemen and urge that the same principle should be applied to all civic servants.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

That the Municipal Act, the Municipal Elections Act, and the Local Improvement Act be consolidated into one volume.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

Penticton.—Re. Proposed Municipal Act.

1. That the penalty as provided in section 23 of present Act be made to also apply to any shareholder, director or officer, of an incorporated company who votes in violation of Section 20.

Referred to the Solicitor.

2. That provision be made for the new Council to assume control during the first week of January in each year.
3. That a proviso be added to Section 44 of present Act so that a Council may appoint a Councillor as acting Reeve for the entire year, such appointee discharging duties only in those cases as provided in Section 44.

Adopted.

4. That all the words after the word "Court" in the third line be deleted from Sub-Section 1 of Section 100.
5. That the provision be deleted requiring Construction By-Laws to be submitted for the assent of the Electors.

That the provision be retained requiring Loan By-Laws to be submitted for the assent of the Electors.

That Sub-section 22 of Section 54 of present Act be redrawn if necessary so that no exception can be taken to a By-law including, say for example:

- (a) New Construction;
Additional Electrical.
Generating Unit.
- (b) Reconstruction, Additions and Further Completion;

(1) Main and Subsidiary Transmission Lines.

(2) Street Lighting.

5. Moved and seconded that this be referred to the Solicitor for his attention.
6. That Sub-section 1 of Section 149 be altered to read: "Without the assent of the electors."
7. That Section 157 be amended to provide for the case where an election is held to fill a vacancy at the same time as the annual election is held and where both commissioners are elected by acclamation.
This was withdrawn.
8. That in the event of Section 175 being enacted as law that the salary of such Counsel be paid by the Province.
9. That Section 495 of present Act be amended so that where charges are made by the Municipality for scavenging services and collection and recovery of such charges may be enforced the same as water and light rates.
9. Referred to Solicitor.
10. That Section 197 be amended by inserting "three months" instead of "thirty days."
11. That Section 224 be redrawn so that only one Annual Loan By-law be necessary (several obligations being allowed so long as the aggregate of the borrowings do not exceed the amount authorized by By-law to be borrowed) instead of as at present it being necessary to pass a Loan By-law each time an amount is required to be borrowed for current purposes.
12. That Section 233 be amended so that it shall only be necessary to keep one current loan rate account for Receipts; and for disbursements one current interest account with a separate sinking fund account in respect of every debt.
13. That section 241 be amended as follows:
 - (a) That Sub-Section 7 provide for the Council having power by By-law to graduate the license according to the extent of business transacted.
 - (b) That Sub-Section 7 and 8 provide for the graduation of license according to floor space occupied.
 - (c) That Sub-Section 28 provide for a maximum license fee of \$25.00.
14. That Sub-Section 1 of Section 294 be amended so as to include Electric Light, Domestic Water and Scavenging rates.
15. That Sub-Section 2 of Section 296 be amended so that the collector shall only be compelled to accept part payment of current taxes when the amount tendered can be correctly apportioned between the various rates.
10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were laid on the table.
16. That Sub-Section 1 of 249 of present Act be amended so that when land is sold for taxes the collector is authorized to include all other rates and charges owing.
It was recommended that the Act be amended to cover all rates.—Carried.
17. That a proviso be added to Clause "E" of Sub-Section of Section 316 setting a minimum of \$1.00.
18. That Clause "B" of Sub-Section 1 of Section 330 be amended prohibiting the removal of buildings.
19. That Sub-Clause 4 of Clause 3 of Sub-Section 1 of Section 330 be amended by limiting same specifically to the particular parcel of land affected.
20. That Sub-Section 2 of Section 331 be amended providing that the tax sale purchaser must accept refundment of amount tendered him in pursuance to the provisions of this Section and that he has no further claim whatsoever.

17, 18, 19 and 20 were laid on the table and no action taken.

Surrey, Langley, Matsqui, Chilliwack, Delta and Richmond.

"Prohibition Act."

WHEREAS the Municipalities find that they are under heavy expense in enforcing the provisions of the Prohibition Act.

AND WHEREAS these Municipalities have seized a large quantity of liquor which they now hold.

AND WHEREAS it is understood that the intention of the Provincial Government is to obtain possession of this liquor for its own purposes, without any compensations to the Municipalities that have gone to such heavy expense.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this Union memorialize the Government strongly urging that they pass Legislation making it clear that the liquor confiscated becomes the property of the Municipality and that they shall be empowered to dispose of the same to the Government liquor vendor at its market price.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

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"THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR 1921."

By HARRY BRAGG.

The Montreal branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association secured Mr. Roger W. Babson, of the well-known Babson Statistical Service, to give an address, and courteously invited the members of the Board of Trade to be present. Consequently, there was a full house to hear a talk on the pressing subject of "The Business Outlook for 1921."

Naturally, there was a great deal of interesting matter, and the carefully selected statistics were illuminating. But the outstanding feature of the address was the urgent appeal for what the speaker claimed was absolutely necessary for success in the business world, namely, Religion.

It was a very brave attitude to take before such an audience, most of whom had come presumably to find out how to make more money, or to save their investments. And it was extremely delightful to hear the continued applause that interrupted, and followed the close of the address.

Mr. Babson evidently touched a chord of real feeling that the business man too often hides because he is ashamed to allow it to be seen; and he must have felt that his message had met with a fine response when the applause continued long after he had sat down. It showed once more that courage is always appreciated by the crowd.

The speaker began by noting the reasons why there should be no need to fear a depression at the present time. Among these he suggested the continued holding of Victory Bonds by the bulk of the wage earners; the effect of the lessening of the drink bills; the helpful influence of the banking system; the prevalence of advertising; the needless fear of the decline in foreign trade; the standardization in manufacturing; the elimination of seasonable trades; the likelihood that taxation will decrease; and the educational improvement in business methods, both in the office and the factory.

Next came a very good analysis of the decline in prices, illustrated by a table showing the prices for staple articles in June, 1914, June, 1920, and at the present time. The prices of the 11 articles showed a total of \$23.06 in June, 1914; or \$104.82 in June, 1920; and of \$79.05 at the present time.

The security market was also analyzed in the same way, but the results showed that the totals of Rails, Industrials, Coppers and Bonds, while 262 in 1914, and 380 in June this year, were now 276, or higher than in June, 1914. Mr. Babson believed that these, except bonds, might go still lower.

Taking up the several reasons why prosperity should continue, Mr. Babson showed by the "Composiplot," a chart made of "such fundamental subjects as bank clearings, railroad tonnage, building permits, foreign trade, crop movements, money rates, etc.," that the abnormal prosperity of the past few years is at an end, and will be followed by a period of depression.

He then pointed out, on a chart, that every period of depression, and every one of prosperity, is divided by a time in which a great change gradually begins. The latter half of the period of prosperity develops extravagance, indifference, inefficiency, immorality, and lawlessness. While in the latter half of the periods of depression the opposite is seen. He argued therefore that our attitude towards life is determined, either by religious feeling, or failure and unemployment.

From this, he showed that the profiteering of the employer, and the poor service of the worker, are the causes

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BUSINESS OUTLOOK IN 1921 (Continued).

of the depression. "We are all trying to do as little as we can, and get as much as possible for doing it." The need was to get the people headed in the direction of service," and if 51 per cent. saw this, all would be well. While, on the other hand, if 51 per cent. were headed for profiteering, whether as employers, wage earners, or consumers, all would be wrong.

Unemployment might be welcomed by some employees who had been harrassed by the attitude of labor, but unemployment in large doses led to Bolshevism.

In closing, Mr. Babson appealed to the audience to read history, where two things will be found. That all great changes started with the common people, and that human nature is fundamental. And changes are necessary. Darwin found that every form of life that did not change to adapt itself to new circumstances, died out completely.

The address, which was aptly termed a "lay sermon," closed with a fervent appeal for more religion, and the practical thought for the other fellow that real religion means.

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PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

One of the most remarkable books published this year on municipal government is Bulletin No. 14, which contains the proceedings of a Public Ownership Conference held in Chicago under the auspices of the Public Ownership League of America; the remarkable part lying in the fact that the papers presented in the bulletin are those of men prominent in municipal affairs who had prepared their cases with the greatest care. Yet all these men give the strongest proof to show that the public ownership of public utilities has been in a success in the United States, despite the many obstacles to be overcome. Practically every phase of public ownership was taken up and recorded and as the same problems are being taken up in Canada it would pay municipal students to secure a copy.

The contents of the Bulletin are as follows:

The Public Ownership League and Its Work:—1, The President's Address by Hon. A. M. Todd. 2, Report of Expenditures for the Work of the League by Hon. A. M. Todd. 3, Secretary's Report by Carl D. Thompson.

The Street Car Problem and Its Solution:—1, The Present Street Car Crisis in America and the Way Out. By Delos F. Wilcox. 2, Municipal Street Car System of San Francisco by M. M. O'Shaughnessy. 3, Municipal Ownership of Street Railways in Europe and America by Hon. A. M. Todd. 4, The Seattle Municipal Street Car Lines, by Thos. Murphine. 5, Plan for People's Ownership of Chicago Street Railway System, by Frank Ayers.

Public Ownership of Railways:—1, Plumb Plan for Government Ownership and Democracy in Operation of the Railroads, by Glenn E. Plumb. 2, Public Ownership and Operation of Railways, Why Other Plans Cannot Solve the Problem, by Lawrence B. Finn. 3, An Analysis of the Pending Bills for the Return of the Railroads to Private Ownership and What They Mean Especially the Cummins and Esch Bill, by Warren S. Stone. 4, The American Railway Problem and Its Solution, by Hon. Carl S. Vrooman. 5, The Present Railroad Labor Problem, by Timothy Shea. 6, Criticism of the Plumb Plan from the Viewpoint of Public Ownership, by Geo. C. Sikes.

Municipal Ownership:—1, America's Greatest Publicly Owned Electric Light and Power System and Its 3 Cent Rate for 235 Cities, by R. T. Jeffery.

Publicly Owned Elevator, Storage and Terminal Facilities:—1, The Publicly Owned and Operated Terminals of Seattle, by T. S. Lippy.

Money and Credits:—1, Nationalization of Money and Credits, by Cornelia Steketee Hulst, A. M. M. Pd.

Public Education:—1, Real Democracy in Education, by Charles Stillman.

Public Ownership of Government:—1, Wanting and Getting Public Ownership, by Walter J. Millard. 2, National Referendum in 1920 on Rail and Mine Ownership, by Herbert S. Bigelow. 3, Civil Service as a Pre-Requisite to Successful Public Ownership, by Daniel P. Riordan.

Public Ownership Movement in Different Parts of the Country:—1, Public Ownership in Massachusetts, by Hon. Eugene N. Foss. 2, Public Ownership in North Dakota, by Walter Thomas Mills. 3, Public Ownership Movement in Illinois, by Hon. Edward F. Dunne. 4, The People's Movement in the Great Northwest, by Gov. Lynn J. Frazier.

The Farmer's Attitude to Public Ownership:—1, The Western Farmer's Attitude Public Ownership, by William Bouck. 2, The Farmer—Public Ownership's Least Developed

Source of Strength, by Austin P. Haines. 3, How Far the Farmer Favors Government Ownership, by George P. Hampton.

Organized Labor and Public Ownership:—1, Why Organized Labor is for Public Ownership, by James H. Maurer. 2, Public Ownership in the Program of the Labor Party, by Duncan McDonald.

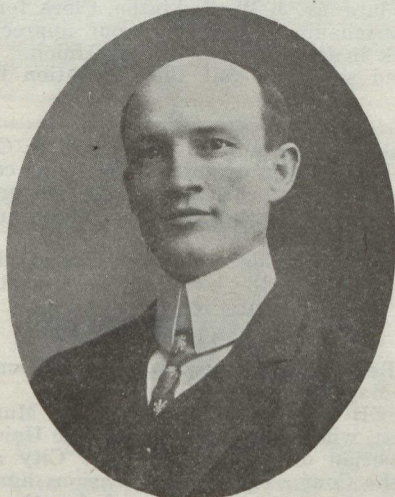
Public Ownership in Program of Committee of 48:—1, By J. A. Hopkins—Chairman of Committee of 48.

How we Won in St. Joseph:—1, A Successful Fight for a Municipal Light Plant, by H. Everett Farnham.

The cost of the Bulletin is \$1 and can be obtained from the Public Ownership League of America, 127 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

BROTHERHOOD.

The whole world to-day is hungry for Brotherhood, for mutual understanding, mutual appreciation and consideration. It is a God-ordained condition of normal mankind to hold as an asset most precious the confidence, consideration and esteem of one's fellows. But this is not all, essential as it may be. There is the great elemental First Cause to be recognized in any attempt at organized society before the beneficence of Brotherhood can be more than sounding brass. With this basic foundation—The father-hood of God—the next great essential to organized Brotherhood is a definite object, greater than its own needs, a goal to aspire to where its own membership will not be the sole benefactor. Organized Brotherhood must have a definite and lofty objection or wither in fruitless growth—nothing but leaves. — The Kinsman.



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REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UNION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES.

(Continued from page 378).

Re Hospitals.

That this Union strongly recommend that the Government be urged to take over the operation of all public Hospitals with the Province.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

Summerland Municipality.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Government be requested to assume all charges for maintenance of persons convicted of desertion of their wives, and therefore remit the levy now made of a portion of such charge upon the municipality through whom such conviction was obtained.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

That whereas the "Memorandum re Objects of a Local Government Board" refer to the need of a bureau for the purpose of giving general information and advisory assistance to municipalities.

And whereas such reference would generally be cumbersome and tedious;

And whereas a manual, published under the authority of the Government, treating of the procedure to be followed in carrying out the working of the Municipal and other Acts, together with suitable forms for By-laws and office routine would simplify and expedite the work of councils and officials, as well as minimize the work of the proposed Board if such a Board should be formed.

Be it therefore resolved, that this Union of B. C. Municipalities request the Government to publish a manual of procedure to be followed in carrying out the provisions of the Municipal and other Acts governing the work of Municipal Councils together with suitable forms for By-laws and the carrying out of office work.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Saanich Municipality.

Whereas the recent decision of the British Columbia Court of Appeal in the case of the Bishop of Vancouver Island vs. the Corporation of the City of Victoria, will seriously affect the revenue of all municipalities to the detriment of all ratepayers;

And whereas it is deemed advisable to appeal the decision;

And whereas it would not be equitable to allow one Municipality to bear the whole cost of the appeal which may be of the utmost importance to all Municipalities.

Be it therefore resolved, that this Union recommends to all the Municipalities of the Province that they contribute to the City of Victoria a proportion of the cost of the appeal, such proportion to be based upon the population of each Municipality. Provided, however, that the contribution shall not exceed the sum of one cent for each member of the population of each municipality in accordance with the latest statistics prepared by the Inspector of Municipalities.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

North Vancouver District.

That in the opinion of this convention no church property should be exempt from taxation and that the government be urged to amend the Municipal Act to so provide.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

The Municipality of Saanich asks that the Trespass Act be amended so as to give District Municipalities power regarding the right of the owner of private property to impound cattle straying onto such private property, whether the same be fenced or not, and to retain such straying cattle until he has been re-imbursed by the owner for the damage they have committed and the cost of their keep during the period of impounding.

Such power to be obtained by the passing of a By-law applicable to given definite areas so that it would be quite optional whether the powers asked for are taken up by a municipality or not, or if so taken up can be quashed at any time by repeal of the By-law.

Moved and seconded that this be adopted.—Carried.

Re Balfour Sanitarium.

Whereas this Convention appreciate fully the expenditure in this Province made by the Dominion Government, in respect to providing accommodation for returned men, suffering from tuberculosis;

And whereas it has been suggested that the Dominion Government may close the Sanitarium at Balfour;

And whereas the accommodation British Columbia is altogether inadequate to cope with the disease;

Be it resolved, that the Dominion Government, be urged to keep the Balfour Sanitarium open. This will help to relieve congestion at Tranquille, and permit many sufferers to take advantage of the increase accommodation, and that this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Dr. McLean, Minister of Health of this Province, requesting him to place the matter before the proper Dominion authorities.

Moved by E. H. Bridgeman, seconded by C. F. McHardy, that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Your Resolutions Committee having considered the question of the formation of a Local Government Board are of the opinion that the President of this convention should be asked to take a vote of all the delegates on this most important question.—Carried.

A standing vote was taken on this question, the result being 14 in favor, 52 against.—Lost.

That the powers of the Inspector of Municipalities be enlarged so that the official may be endowed with the powers which are proposed to be conferred upon a Local Government Board.

A standing vote was also taken on this question, and was defeated by a vote of 13 for and 53 against.—Lost.

Be it resolved that this Convention through their Secretary convey to the family of the late Mayor McKenzie of Nanaimo, their sincere sympathy and to record our unanimous appreciation of the splendid work that was always rendered this Union by our late Vice-President.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

Be it resolved that Mrs. J. W. Dickinson be written to, conveying the Union's sincere sympathy in the loss of her husband, the late Mr. J. W. Dickinson, Clerk for many years of North Cowichan, and to record our appreciation of his untiring work in the interests of this Union.

Moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted.—Carried.

In presenting the Auditor's Report, H. S. Cowper stated that the books had been examined and found correct, but as there was no means of checking up the amount each municipality should pay, he suggested that these amounts be revised from time to time.

Moved by Reeve Bridgman, and seconded, that the Auditor's Report be left in the hands of the Executive.—Carried.

Victoria.

Copy of Resolution adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on May 10th, 1920.

RESOLVED that the Union of B. C. Municipalities be informed that, whereas the Solicitor of the Union at one time held the position of Solicitor for this City and since has pleaded in the Courts on several occasions against the City, and about a year ago was engaged for the St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church to prevent, by means of the courts, the Council from collecting the taxes levied against that property, which action looks toward the annulment of all church property taxes in all the Municipalities of the Province, that these conditions were made plain at the Convention, and, in face of such knowledge, the said Solicitor was re-engaged; as a Municipality with the Province this Council claims it is improper for a solicitor to represent it as Solicitor for the Union and to act against it as solicitor for any party who is seeking to disturb the taxation of the Province as in the St. Andrew's case, and that, while such unseemly conditions obtain, this Council is of the opinion Victoria should absent itself from the activities of the Union.

After considerable discussion on this subject, it was moved by Reeve Bridgman, and seconded, That the City of Victoria be written to, that we regret that they take the position they do, and hope on reconsideration that they will once more join the Union; And that the case be presented to Victoria through a letter signed by the Secretary, and as much information as possible given.—Carried.

Moved by Mayor Gale, seconded by Mayor Vance, That the Executive Committee of the U. B. C. M. be requested at the earliest possible moment, to advise as to the duties of the Parliamentary Agent of the Union.—Carried.

Moved by Mayor Vance, seconded by Reeve Watson (Saanich);

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UNION OF B. C. MUNICIPALITIES.

(Continued).

And resolved, That the appointment of a Hydro-Electric Commissioner be taken up with the Government.—Carried.

Moved by Reeve Bridgeman, and seconded, That matters dealing with relation of one Act to another be referred direct to Municipal Office Association so that they may report to this Convention.—Carried.

Peace of Next Meeting.

Invitations were received from Port Alberni and Chilliwack, and it was moved and seconded that the Secretary be instructed to cast a ballot in favor of Port Alberni, as it is the habit of the Union to hold their conventions in the interior and on the coast alternately.—Carried.

Moved and seconded that a letter of thanks be sent to Chilliwack.

Five telegrams were read from different clubs and associations in Chilliwack, urging the Convention to meet there.

Election of Officers.

Councillor J. Loutet, of North Vancouver, was unanimously re-elected President of the Union.

The following gentlemen were elected to fill the remaining offices for the coming year:

Vice-President, Alderman C. F. McHardy, Nelson.

Secretary-Treasurer, A. Wells Gray, New Westminster, re-elected.

Moved by Reeve Bridgeman, seconded by Ald. Russell, and resolved, That a Parliamentary Agent be appointed in place of the office of Solicitor.—Carried.

Moved by Reeve Bridgeman, seconded by Ald. McHardy, and resolved, That the services of Mr. F. A. McDiarmid be engaged as Parliamentary Agent if possible.—Carried.

Executive Committee were elected as follows: Reeve Lockley, Esquimalt, Mayor Vance, North Vancouver City; Ald. Cawley, Kamloops; Reeve Marmont, Coquitlam, Mayor Johnston, New Westminster; Reeve Chambers, Penticton; Mayor Bews, Revelstoke.

Moved by Mayor Gale, and seconded that a resolution of thanks be tendered to the City of Nelson, the Mayor and Council, and to the citizens as a whole.—Carried.

Moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be tendered to the retiring Executive Committee.—Carried.

Reeve Bridgeman and Reeve Marmont were appointed members of the British Columbia Anti-Tuberculosis Society.

Moved by Mayor Johnston, seconded by Mayor Vance, that a resolution of thanks be extended to the "Daily News" and Vancouver "Daily Province" for the very satisfactory reports and interest taken in connection with the work of the Convention.—Carried.

Moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be extended to the stenographer.—Carried.

Moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be extended to the Scrutineers and Secretary.—Carried.

Moved and seconded that the Advisory Board on the Proposed New Act be thanked, and the position abolished.—Carried.

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