

Premier Affairs (Minister)

M-10-D

PADC

GR 1222

Box 52 File 4

M-10-22

Subjects

arising from the

*Convention held at
Qualicum Beach, B.C.*

Sept. 6th & 7th, 1945

to be submitted to

*The Hon. the Premier
and Cabinet*

Union of British Columbia . Municipalities

1. RE CIVIC CENTRE.

Whereas it is generally accepted that the idea of Civic Centres is now established as a necessity in combatting Juvenile Delinquency and building bodies and minds of our Younger Generation;

And whereas the Governments recognize the merits of "Pro-Rec" by donating grants according to membership;

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial and Federal Governments pay a percentage of the capital cost of construction of Civic Centres as a Post War Plan.

2. RE DRAINAGE.

Whereas our drainage of certain sections of British Columbia is becoming a serious menace;

And whereas owing to the removal in the past of standing timber;

And whereas the clearing of land has created a serious problem owing to the fact created by the faster run of water;

And whereas this condition not only effects the individual farm, but municipal and government roads;

And whereas the majority of the creek beds have become full of debris creating a hazard effecting the fishing industry, owing to the fact that fish cannot reach their spawning ground in local creeks.

There be it resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities urge, as a Post War Rehabilitation Plan, to create employment and correct this serious menace, that this drainage problem be undertaken by the B.C. Government in conjunction with the Federal Authorities, at the earliest possible opportunity.

3. RE SUCCESSION DUTY.

"Whereas the practice of the Collector of Probate and Succession Duties in insisting upon the Crown's lien for the full amount against properties being sold for taxes, bears too harshly upon municipalities;

"Now therefore be it resolved that the Provincial and Dominion Governments be requested to modify this practice, at least to the point where the lien will be limited to the proportion that the value of the property as such value has been determined for the purpose of Probate and Succession Duty, bears to the whole duty being collected."

4. RE ASSESSMENT.

Whereas in District Municipalities and less populous City Municipalities, the office staff consists of a Clerk and one or two assistants;

And whereas the Clerks in these Municipalities are also appointed as Assessors and Collectors;

And whereas the Clerk has not the qualifications nor the time to devote to this important work;

And whereas in District Municipalities where there is a great diversity of assessing such as farming areas, large industrial areas and residential areas which requires qualified men to make a just and proper assessment so that all the sections are assessed equitably;

Therefore be it resolved that this Union request the Provincial Government to consider the possibility of adding additional employees to their assessing department with the view of training them as competent assessors and then placing them at the disposal of the various Municipalities through the Department of Municipalities at a nominal sum per day.

5. RE EDUCATIONAL COSTS.

Whereas a Commission has been set up by the Provincial Government to make a full survey of the Cost of Education in the Province of British Columbia, and this Commission has now completed hearings in the various School Districts of the Province;

And whereas the findings of the Commission should soon be made known;

And whereas it is imperative that immediate steps be taken to remove the taxation of lands as one of the methods of financing the Costs of Education.

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial Government be requested to implement without delay any recommendations of the Commission that will relieve the land owner of the ever increasing burden of the Cost of Education.

6. RE FINES, WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD.

Whereas fines levied for infractions of regulations of the various Federal departments are payable to the Receiver General for Canada.

And whereas the various Federal departments provide their own prosecutors but make no provisions for the services of Police Magistrate, Court Stenographer or other Court Officials, or for the serving of summonses or other expenses,

And whereas considerable assistance is given to the prosecution of such cases by Municipal Officers and | or employees, and in many instances it is doubtful if convictions would be obtained without such assistance,

And whereas the costs, which are awarded to the Municipalities, amount to only \$2.50 and do not begin to pay for the expenses incurred by the Municipalities, particularly in cases which are contested and involve lengthy court sessions, which require the attendance of Municipal Officers and | or employees (other than Police Officers) for the purpose of establishing infractions of the regulations.

Therefore be it resolved that this Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Dominion Government to pay over to the Municipalities concerned 50% of all fines collected in such cases and further that the Provincial Government be requested to make representations to the Dominion Government supporting this resolution.

7. RE SANITATION ETC.

Whereas the health, sanitation, building conditions in areas contiguous to Municipalities have become a threat to the health and safety of the citizens inside municipalities, and such conditions are steadily growing worse to a degree that is alarming.

Be it resolved that this convention demand that the Provincial Government and the Department of Indian Affairs take immediate steps to enforce a proper code of sanitation and building laws, on these areas, that will protect the interests of Municipalities concerned.

8. RE HOSPITALS.

1. That the Government of British Columbia assume a larger proportion of the cost involved in the maintenance of hospitals.

2. That Section 32 of the "Hospital Act" be amended to provide that in municipalities where the maximum revenue derivable either for the current year or for the last preceding year from taxes on land or land and improvements is less than \$7500.00 such municipality shall not be required to pay more than twenty per cent of such revenue for hospitalization and that the Provincial Government be requested to take care of any excess in such costs over and above the amount contributed by the municipality.

9. RE POST WAR REHABILITATION.

Whereas Post War Rehabilitation will entail building of many new homes, slum clearances and the establishment of new residential areas and;

Whereas custom has permitted sites with a foot frontage of 25 feet, 33 feet and;

Whereas Sites of such dimensions are not conducive to reasonable privacy and tend to promote congested areas.

Therefore be it resolved that this convention goes on record as advising that future residential subdivisions in organized municipalities and in unorganized districts also be laid out in lots of not less than 50 x 120 feet, or not less than about 6000 sq. feet, and that not more than one third of the lot area be built upon where private dwellings (one family) are constructed.

10. RE SCHOOL COSTS.

Resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities take immediate action and demand that the Provincial Government assume the costs of education without further delay.

11. RE FIRE INSURANCE.

That the Provincial Government be asked to enact legislation whereby Fire Insurance Companies shall be obliged to contribute a percentage of all premiums collected in the Province toward a fund for fire fighting purposes and that such fund be apportioned among the municipalities in proportion to the amount of fire insurance in force therein.

12. RE RESIDENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT.

Whereas considerable difficulty is often experienced in collecting monies paid out on behalf of Inter Municipal cases:

Therefore be it resolved that Section (7) of the "Residence and Responsibility for Relief Act" have the following addition made thereto after the word "resident," at the end of the existing section:

That all Inter-Municipal cases be paid in full by the Social Assistance Department, to the City or District administering assistance, and the percentage collection be made by the Social Assistance Department, from the City or District responsible for the payment of same.

13. RE RESIDENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT.

That the "Residence and Responsibility Act" being Chapter 246 of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1936, as amended, be further amended by adding to Section 4 thereof the following Subsection:

"(4) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Act any person who at any time after the 3rd. day of September, 1939, has moved or shall move to a local area and has been or shall be employed in any establishment classified pursuant to The National Selective Service Civilian Regulations as a "designated establishment," in such local area or any local area adjacent thereto, shall not be deemed to be a resident of such first mentioned local area until such person has resided continuously in such first mentioned local area for a period of one year after the date of the publication in the Canada Gazette of a proclamation of the Governor-General-in-Council that the hostilities in which His Majesty is presently engaged, have ceased."

14. RE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Whereas Municipalities in which public hospitals are situated are being required to care for the illegitimate children of mothers who have come from points outside of the Province and have either refused or failed to remove their children from the hospital;

And whereas there is no provision for the caring of such children except by the Municipality:

Be it therefore resolved that the Provincial Government be asked to take the responsibility of paying for all illegitimate children born in this Province when the mothers are residents of other Provinces, and make some arrangements with such Provinces for reimbursement for the care of such children.

15. RE TITLES TO PROPERTY.

Whereas the title of municipally owned real property in many municipalities is registered variously in the name of the Corporation and in some instances in the name of the School Board.

And whereas it is deemed desirable to have all Municipal real property registered in the name of the pertinent City, District, or Village Municipality.

Therefore be it resolved that the appropriate amendment be made to the Statutes, requiring that the title of all Municipally owned real property in Municipalities, be registered in the name of the Corporation of the applicable City, District or Village concerned.

16. RE REPATRIATION OF JAPANESE.

That this Council hereby endorses the resolution passed by the Kelowna Board of Trade on the 19th. January 1945, demanding "the repatriation to Japan after the war of all peoples of Japanese origin, the repatriates to be allowed to take with them to Japan any assets they may have here in Canada";

That this Council urge on the Dominion Government that at the next Federal Election the opinion of the people be taken by way of Referendum on the question of what disposition should be made of the Japanese in Canada in the post-war period;

That all Municipal Councils in British Columbia be sent a copy of this resolution to give it their endorsement;

That a copy of the resolution be sent to the Premier of British Columbia;

And that the Federal Member for this District be requested to make appropriate representations on this Council's behalf pursuant to the resolution, to the proper authorities at Ottawa.

* * *

Whereas by reason of Japanese National doctrine, outlook, and expressed intentions, they will never fit into the Canadian scheme of life, and work with us wholeheartedly in building Canada's future, and

Whereas the Japanese are not assimilable (fortunately, so far, both races have frowned on mixed marriages, but Canada does not want to run the risk of what has happened, as the result of mixed marriages, in other parts of the world), and

Whereas all Canadian-born Japanese have a dual allegiance. (The birth of all children of Japanese parents in Canada were registered at the Japanese Consulate in Vancouver, and the death of persons of Japanese origin were registered in like manner.)

(The statement was made in the Canadian Parliament and not challenged, "That so far, not one Canadian-born Japanese has renounced his dual citizenship), and

Whereas many Canadian born Japanese had returned to their own country to take military training, and many of these people are now fighting for the Japanese armed forces.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this meeting demands repatriation of all people of Japanese origin after the war to Japan, the repatriates being allowed to take back with them any assets which they may have here in Canada.

17. MUNICIPAL FINANCE & PROVINCIAL MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

Whereas financing under the present Municipal Act is becoming a menace to the welfare and progress of Municipalities and the Districts concerned;

And whereas during the past month a conference has been held at Ottawa, between the Federal and Provincial authorities;

And whereas we deplore the fact that the Provincial Government has not seen fit to follow-up with our request of the 1944 Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention held last year, requesting by Resolution that such a Conference be called;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Fraser Valley Municipal Association here assembled urge that the 1945 Union Convention endorse and demand an immediate Provincial Municipal Conference to plan better methods of finance and further we urge consideration be given to this request before the agreement between the Federal and Provincial authorities is signed.

18. RE POLE LINES.

Referred to the Cabinet with the suggestion that it be recommended to the Public Utilities Commission.

Whereas Section 59 (234) of the "Municipal Act" provides for exchanging lands for the purpose of improving, widening, straightening or diverting public streets or highways, but no provision is made for re-locating telegraph, telephone or electric light and power lines to conform with the new location of the streets or highways;

Therefore be it resolved that provision be made in the Municipal Act to compel the owners of telegraph, telephone or electric light and power lines within a reasonable time to move at the owner's expense, the pole lines to conform with the new street or highway location.

REPORT of SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

The reports of this Committee, covering the last few years, have amply demonstrated the feasibility of municipalities operating their own Insurance Company.

May we reiterate some of the main points of those reports.

- (1) The questionnaire covering 5 years showed \$118,621.00 premiums paid and a total loss of \$8,914.00 excluding Vancouver and several other insurable districts.

- (2) The willingness of Re Insurance Companies to underwrite our larger risks, at a nominal sum.
- (3) That the high cost of improved fire protection borne by the taxpayer means more profits to the Insurance Companies.
- (4) The assistance offered by the British Municipal Insurance Company.
- (5) That all major risks be re-insured.
- (6) That present rates should govern, until a sound reserve has been built up Resolution No. 43 Langley.
Suggests broadening the field of coverage to include other than municipally owned buildings.

While undoubtedly this would bring added revenue to the municipality concerned, it would not be good practice to confine coverage to the small area of a single municipality. As this is contrary to sound Insurance practice, (which in general is about 200 Insurable units of equal value scattered as widely as possible.)

Therefore we suggest that any company that may be formed must cover at least the whole Province.

So far your committee has dealt entirely with Municipal or semi-Municipal properties, and would respectfully suggest that we keep to this field, at the present time.

Acting on the directions of the Convention last year, we again approached the Government, with the request that permission be granted us to establish our own mutual company. Our answer was that the extra risk involved during wartime made it inadvisable for the Government to consider granting us this power at the present time.

The war being now terminated, we suggest that the Government be again approached on the matter. Should permission be granted, we recommend that steps be taken immediately to establish our own Company, and that the executive be so empowered to act.

The Committee would also point out that, should we proceed to establish our own Company, it does not necessarily mean that all Municipalities would insure with us.

There would be the inevitable opposition of some local interested individuals, etc., therefore in order to build on a sure foundation, we should first approach each governing body whether school, hospital or municipal, asking their pledged support, which should be in the form of a resolution agreeing to place their future insurance with their own company.

When sufficient support has been pledged, we could then decide on a

deadline for taking over the various risks. The selection of Directors would be left to the Convention.

Such Directors when appointed would have the power to make appointments, determine rates, place re-insurance and all the usual duties pertaining to the Insurance field.

For guidance in all these matters, we have copies of the British Mutual Insurance Company Charter, also one from a similar company in the U.S.A.

Your Committee recommends continued pressure, until a charter is obtained, for the formation of our own Mutual Insurance Company.

REHABILITATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We have now reached the longed for period of Peace, the period, during which we must put into practice our various Post War plans. On our ability and willingness to carry them out, depends in large measure, the future prosperity of B.C.

Your committee is, naturally of an advisory nature, not having funds of its own to administer, and has in all its reports given suggestions for Post War Employment, and constantly urged that your plans be made ready for swift development.

We have also appeared before the Government Committee on Rehabilitation, urging co-operation in our planning. We have pressed for suitable financial assistance from the Senior Governments, and we have urged the establishment of new industries in the Province, the shortening of hours of labor and many other things that we thought help ul in meeting our Post War problems.

Still there remains unsolved, the greatest of our problems, "an equitable way to finance the schemes."

We must continue to press for cheaper money say 1 or 2%. The money to be raised by the Federal Government, by the same methods that the War Loan has been raised, or issued as a direct loan from the Central Bank.

Your Committee feel that Peace and full employment is just as important as was the winning of the War. It is on that basis that we press our claim for National Funds for Public Works. Perusal of the annual Municipal reports will show that many municipalities with fine plans (and certainly great need) for post war developments, are already heavily burdened by bonded indebtedness, in some cases, having almost reached the limits of their borrowing power.

As these centres will have their quota of men and women to be rehabilitated, as well as the more affluent towns and cities, it will cause them some embarrassment to provide the necessary labor outlets, unless special Government funds are available. To avoid this difficulty, some substantial adjustment must be made between us and the Provincial Government in our fields of responsibility and taxation.

The recent Dominion-Provincial conference was held to bring about a closer co-operation between these governing bodies and no doubt important adjustments will be made.

We as municipalities claim that we have a more urgent cause for re-adjustment and co-operation than had the senior governments.

It is urgent because we are limited in our taxation field, and static of income in spite of the vast growth within urban areas, involving greater responsibilities.

We would again urge the Union to request a Round Table conference with the Provincial Government, with the object of re-adjusting our various fields of Taxation and responsibility. In the U.B.C.M. report to the Cameron Commission you will find a record of the arbitrary way in which our Municipal income has been encroached upon and new responsibilities imposed, without our consent. A good case can be made to substantiate our claim for a Round Table Conference, and this adjustment has a vital bearing on our ability to take full part during the rehabilitation period. Your committee in their previous report, recommended the setting up by the Provincial Government of a separate department of Rehabilitation, with a Minister of Cabinet Rank in charge.

His duties would be to develop new industries and help to provide working capital for them, either from Government sources or interest outside capital to come in to the Province.

Further, to co-operate all the known post-war plans, such as those already prepared by Provincial Government municipalities, Board of Trade Unions, transportation and industry in general, thus bringing a cohesion that would avoid overlapping and waste. Also, to place industries throughout the Province, as the resources and labor needs warrant.

In general to create industrial prosperity for our Province, and prevent the recurrence of the condition prevailing in the 30's. However, this has not been done, therefore we now suggest that the various Municipalities, through the U.B.C.M. could with profit appoint a permanent committee to induce new industries to come to this Province, leaving the choice of location to the industry concerned, but at the same time endeavouring to bring some industry to every settled locality.

This committee could assist in organizing new industries by interesting Capital to invest in them by offering suitable sites and other facilities

Following is a list of suggested manufacturing industries that could profitably be started in B.C.

- 1 Plastic and Plastic Products
2. Prefabricated Houses, Boats etc.
3. Boots and Shoes.
4. Baggage and Leather Goods.
5. Clothing.
6. Steel Mills.
7. Ranges and Stoves.
8. Farm Machinery.
9. China and Earthenware in general.

10. Rayon Products.
11. Coal Bi-products.
12. Fruit Bi-products.

These are but a few items that are now imported from other countries. It is possible to broaden the scope and powers of the trade and Commerce Department of the Government to do this work, by the admission of Municipal industrial and labour representation to the department. Sufficient finance should be found to explore potential markets, and to contact suitable new industries and new capital. We suggest something like this, as the present efforts by individual towns and Boards of Trade lack the necessary power and drive to meet the ever growing needs of our population. We have both skilled and unskilled labor available, added to our natural resources, and combined with direction and leadership we can easily meet the challenge of Peace-time conditions. If this report is adopted the Executive should make immediate arrangements to discuss the various methods suggested with the Government.

It is our opinion that the Orient is about to develop into the world's greatest market for export trade.

The geographical position of B.C. places us in a very favorable position with regards to this market, therefore a close study should be given to the possible needs of the Orient, after a careful survey is made, steps should be taken to produce those needed goods in B.C.. Instead of being the victims of high freight rates, we should, as far as the Orient is concerned, be in a more favorable position than Eastern Canada. Employment could be found for thousands of people producing machinery and other commodity goods for the Orient, providing steps are taken immediately to contact and develop this potential market.

While it may be argued that all this is beyond the scope of municipal activities, we claim that both public works, and long range industrial planning have a vital bearing on our future, so we urge the Government to co-operate with Industry, labour, and municipalities aiming to bring great industrial prosperity to our Province.

Your committee has noted the absence of Resolutions bearing on rehabilitation at this convention, and trust that it is an indication that plans are already advanced and ready to be put into practice.

If such is not the case, we urge you to recheck our various reports for guidance, especially the one issued in 1942, as these deal in detail with various possible schemes, suitable for municipalities.

We again urge the reduction in hours of labor to meet post-war needs, as well as lowering the age for eligibility for old age Pensions, providing the pension is made adequate to maintain a decent standard of living.

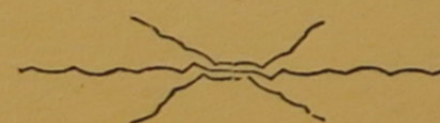
Above all, we urge a concerted effort to bring prosperity to our people, by ensuring as far as possible, full employment.

This calls for bold action on our part, but we are quite satisfied that it can be done, if we pull together to that end.

M-10-D

MINUTES
OF
41st Annual Convention

Union of
British Columbia Municipalities



City of Nelson . . . Sept. 12 & 13, 1944

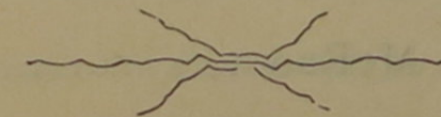
Secretary, R. R. F. Sewell,
576 Obed Avenue, Victoria, B.C.

Invest in Victory
BUY VICTORY BONDS



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Secretary, R. R. F. Sewell,
576 Obed Avenue, Victoria, B.C.

Invest in Victory
BUY VICTORY BONDS



EXECUTIVE FOR 1944-45

President—Ald. John Bennett	Vancouver
First Vice-President—Mayor N. C. Stibbs	Nelson
Second Vice-President Mayor W. C. Hamilton	Port Alberni
Solicitor—Harry J. Sullivan, K.C.	New Westminster
Secretary—R.R.F. Sewell 576 Obed Avenue, Victoria, B.C.	
Mayor V. B. Harrison, Past President	Nanaimo
Commissioner A. D. McRae	Mission
Ald. O. L. Jones	Kelowna
Reeve J. T. Brown	Surrey
Reeve A. Hope	Langley
Reeve R. M. Grauer	Richmond
Ald. C. Jones	Vancouver
Mayor W. M. Mott	New Westminster
Mayor G. R. Williams	Kamloops
Mayor J. E. Gordon	Rossland

MINUTES OF THE 41st. ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES.

Held in the City of Nelson, B.C. 12th. and 13th. September 1944

The Convention was called to order at 10 a.m. September 12th. 1944.
President V.B. Harrison in the Chair.

O CANADA

The Convention stood in silence for one minute in memory of

Hon. A. Wells Gray
former Minister of Municipal Affairs

and

Alex Lockley
of Esquimalt, a Past President of the Union

Mayor N.C. Stibbs welcomed the Convention to the City of Nelson.

The President replied.

The Hon. Herbert Anscomb, Minister of Municipal Affairs then addressed the Convention.

Moved and seconded "That the Minutes of the Convention held in the City of Port Alberni on September 16th. and 17th. 1943, as printed, be taken as read and **ADOPTED**."

The President reported the appointment of the following committees:

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE — Ald. John Bennett, Chairman, Vancouver; Ald. O.L. Jones, Kelowna; Clerk R.F. Blandy, Oak Bay; Mayor N.C. Stibbs, Nelson; Reeve J.T. Brown, Surrey; Reeve R.M. Grauer, Richmond; Mayor G.R. Williams, Kamloops; Mayor D. Howrie, Vernon; Mayor F.J. Miller, Grand Forks; Mayor A.M. Patterson, Prince George; Mayor H.M. Daggett, Prince Rupert; Ald. Geo. C. Miller, Vancouver; Mayor W. Hardman, Revelstoke; Mayor Wm. M. Mott, New Westminster; Reeve P.W. Field, West Vancouver; Reeve A. Hope, Langley; Mayor H. Clark, Trail; Reeve H.S. Cunningham, Maple Ridge; Reeve D. Chapman, North Cowichan; Commissioner A.D. McRae, Mission; Mayor R.J. Skelton, Salmon Arm; Reeve W.T. Willson, Burnaby; Mayor W.C. Hamilton, Port Alberni; Mayor A. McGavin, Victoria.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE — Reeve R.M. Grauer and Reeve A. Hope.

AUDITORS — Clerks S. Leslie Brice and E.A. Fountain.

On Motion the Appointments were confirmed.

The Convention was then addressed by R.C. MacDonald M.L.A. Past President, Thos. H. Love M.L.A. Past President, Mrs. Tilly J. Rolston M.L.A.

The President reported the following as present:
C. Hagman, Vancouver Fire Department Union.
M.O. Howell, B.C. Provincial Fire Fighters,
H. Bird, Vancouver Civic Federation.
W. Black, Joint Council, Vancouver.

The Report of the President was read as follows:-

Nelson, B.C.
12th. September, 1944.

To:

The Members of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

Gentlemen:-

I beg to report as President for the term 1943-1944, on the activities of the Union as follows:

At the outset let me say, that the Union has, as heretofore endeavoured to render service to its members and to the people of British Columbia in general

Owing to war conditions it has been extremely difficult to obtain any action in regard to legislation in general. We have been successful in regard to amendments to the Municipal and kindred Acts.

I would point out that an amendment has been made along the lines that we, and others have pressed for in the past, that is, in regard to the Old Age Pensions Act and as to Blind Pensions. I am sure the increases provided by the Amendments will be of material assistance to the recipients.

Your Executive submitted some twelve resolutions and requested the support of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. I requested Alderman George C. Miller of Vancouver, B.C., to represent our Union at the Canadian Conference of the latter organization, in the East for June 12th. to 16th. last. Alderman Miller's report is hereto annexed.

I am sure we are all pleased to see the reception given to our resolutions as presented to the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities except as to the resolution dealing with Japanese.

Considerable work and discussion has been occasioned the Union by the consideration of the Public Utilities Commission and the B.C. Electric Railway Co., and associates, along the suggested lines that the Government establish a Hydro Electric Commission to take over the manufacture of electricity, etc. The Hydro Scheme as used in Ontario is apparently the model for this proposed innovation.

Your Executive appeared before the Premier and Cabinet of this Province and presented a brief, dealing with resolutions as passed at our Convention at Port Alberni in September last. In the brief we presented: Resolutions 1, 6, 13, 17, 18, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 62, 63, 64, 67., and the report of the Insurance Committee, the report of the Committee on Blind Pensions, also the report re Educational Costs.

Undoubtedly the most important matter dealt with a reference to the Old problem of Educational Costs, and this subject your Executive spent most of its time and effort.

Firstly:- A Communication on the subject was forwarded to every member of the Provincial Legislature.

Secondly:- The matter was presented to the Cabinet and discussed at length.

Thirdly:- At a meeting held at Vancouver at which there was present your Executive, and other Municipal Representatives, a Petition re the Cost of Education was prepared and signed, for presentation to the Legislative Assembly. It is to be regretted that the Legislature refused consideration of our petition, apparently taking the ground that this petition was out of order. For your information, the petition as presented to the Legislative Assembly on the 7th. March 1944, reads as follows:

In the Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia.
Session 1944.

To the Honourable Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia in Parliament Assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the undersigned representatives
of the Municipalities of British Columbia.

SHOWETH as follows:-

(1) That the property owners in the Municipalities of British Columbia are unduly and inequitable taxed for the costs of education.

(2) That education costs have little or no relation to the ownership of real property.

(3) That education costs have progressively risen in the Province and while the Municipalities pay a major part of such costs they have practically no control over the expenditures.

(4) That the Municipalities derive the greater part of their tax revenue from real property thus causing the inequities mentioned in clause (1) hereof.

(5) That where income is confined largely to taxation on real property inequities cannot be avoided but taxing authorities having wider taxing powers can avoid such inequities.

(6) That the Province has many sources of revenue which are not available to the Municipalities.

(7) That Provincial income has risen in much greater proportion than Municipal income.

(8) That where investigations have been held in this Province the unanimous finding has been that taxation for school purposes should be revised.

(9) That such revision should be made at this Session of the Legislature.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly adopt as a principle that the educational system of the Province should be revised and further that it be stated as a principle that taxation for educational costs be raised on a Provincial basis.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

Dated this 25th. day of February, 1944.

R.C. MacDonald. M.L.A.
V.B. Harrison, President Union of B.C. Municipalities.
John Bennett, First Vice President, Alderman, Vancouver.
J.W. Olliver, President Fraser Valley Reeves Association.
R.M.C. Grauer, Reeve, Richmond M.M.
W.C. Hamilton, Mayor, City of Port Alberni.
E.C. Warren, Reeve, Saanich.
J. Oliver, Councillor, Saanich.
O.L. Jones, Alderman, Kelowna.
W.L. Woodhouse, Reeve, Oak Bay.
W.L. Morgan, Alderman, Victoria.
Jos. T. Brown, Reeve, Surrey.
R.F. Blandy, Member of Executive, U.B.C.M. Clerk Oak Bay
Alex. J. Haugen, Reeve, Sumas Municipality.

W.G. Fadden, Councillor, Sumas.
A.D. McRae, Commissioner, Mission City, B.C.
Leonard J. Norman, Councillor, Langley.
Leonard J. Kettle, Councillor, Matsqui.
R. Sidle, Councillor, Matsqui.
Hector MacD. Morrison, Councillor, Langley.
R.R.F. Sewell, Secretary, Union of B.C. Municipalities.

The report of the Legislative Assembly reads as follows:

Nos. 30 and 31 — Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Tuesday March 7th. 1944:-

"Mr. R.C. MacDonald presented a petition from representatives of a number of the Municipalities of British Columbia praying that the Legislative Assembly adopt as a principle that the educational system of the Province should be revised, and further, that it be stated as a principle that taxation for educational costs be raised on a Provincial basis."

No. 32 — Votes and proceedings Wednesday, March 8th. 1944.

"On the order being called for reading and receiving petitions, Mr. Speaker read the following report from the Clerk of the House with reference to the petition presented on the 7th. instant by Mr. R.C. MacDonald:-"

Report of the Clerk of the House upon Petition presented to the House on Tuesday, March 7th., 1944.

"Mr. Speaker:-

In reporting upon a certain petition presented to the House yesterday by Mr. R.C. MacDonald (member for Dewdney) and signed by him and twenty other petitioners I conceive that it is my duty to point out that in my opinion the tenor of such petition as set forth in the recitals and prayer raises the question whether or not it conflicts with Standing Order 73 (8) which is as follows:-

"(8) No petition can be received which prays for any expenditure, grant or charge on the public revenue, whether payable out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund or out of moneys to be provided by the House."

From the perusal of the recitals it will be seen that they relate almost exclusively to the question of Education costs and taxation and consistently following upon the same, the petitioners pray that the Legislative Assembly adopt as a principle that the educational system of the Province should be revised and further that it be stated as a principle that taxation for educational costs be raised on a Provincial basis.

In these circumstances it seems to me that a grave question arises as to whether or not such petition can be received by the House in view of the provisions of the above standing order.

For the information of the House and to avoid any misconception it should be added, I think, while the petition is headed as from the "undersigned representatives of the Municipalities of British Columbia," the fact of the matter is that it is signed by twenty-one individuals describing themselves either as members or officers of bodies of a municipal, and in one instance of a legislative, character, but in no case does it appear that any one of such bodies has actually signed the petition or even authorized any signature to such petition on its behalf. Accordingly while not questioning to any degree the good faith of the petitioners, it would appear that the petition is not only misleading but irregular in describing the petitioners as representatives of such bodies.

"All of which is respectfully submitted,"

W.H. Langley, Clerk, Legislative Assembly."

A close reading of the report will disclose that it does not say that the petition is out of order and as before stated it is regrettable that the Legislative Assembly chose not to pay more attention to the petition.

The above clearly shows all the points mentioned by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly were given scrutiny by the Executive of the Union.

The petition distinctly states that it is submitted by Municipal Representatives and it does not purpose to be a petition from the Union as such, but from Municipal representatives all of whom, in signing, have given their respective affiliations.

In so far as the Union is concerned the petition was passed by a properly called and representative meeting of the Executive, to which meeting other Municipal representatives were present on invitation. Surely a petition can be presented by unattached citizens, praying for instance, for anything that they deem a reform for the public benefit, and they are surely entitled to have their petition heard. Any other view, it seems to me, would be a denial of the democratic principles which are now being so strongly contended for in another sphere of action. In making these remarks it must, of course, be understood that a petition must not offend against the rules, and this brings us to the point. Did the prayer of the petition so offend? to which the obvious answer is distinctly "no".

The petition was carefully drawn with competent legal advice and fully considered with full knowledge of the rules of the Legislature in regard to the presentation of petitions. The rules were with us at our meeting and we most studiously avoided any specific suggestions or any request for expenditures on this account.

The prayer of the petition is distinct and unmistakeable. It is a well known principle that the prayer of a petition stands by itself. The clauses 1 to 9 are statements of fact, none of which have in any way been questioned by the Legislative Assembly or any member thereof.

In any event these statements are apart from the prayer of the petition, as may be seen from the above, the objections to the petition are not sound and it should have been heard.

I recommend that the petition, with its preamble as presented to the Legislative Assembly on the 7th. March 1944, be again presented, and such presentation be made by the Union as such, together with other Municipalities who may wish to join with us.

Our thanks are due to Mr. R.C. MacDonald, member for Dewdney, who presented the petition

I also wish to thank Mr. E.H. Bridgman and Staff for assistance at all times.

I regret to report that our own Solicitor Mr. H. Sullivan, K.C. was not able to act for the Union owing to illness. I am sure we all join in wishing him speedy recovery.

The City of Victoria has kindly permitted their Solicitor, Mr. F.L. Shaw to act for us, and I would request the Union to go on record as appreciating the work that he has done, and also to thank the City of Victoria for their kindness in this matter.

I express appreciation of the excellent work done at all times by our hard-working Secretary, Mr. R.R.F. Sewell, who has rendered such valuable service to the Union.

I am sure that it is with the deepest regret that we note the passing of the Honourable A. Wells Gray, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and for many years, Secretary of this Union.

I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the City of Kimberley on its incorporation as a City.

In conclusion, after thanking you for the honour conferred upon me by electing me President, I want to emphasize that in my opinion the matter of Educational Cost and Civil Service Cost are paramount questions, and that if necessary, we should deal with these questions to the exclusion of all other matters which may come before us.

In other words, concentrate on these major issues so that the record of our intentions and endeavours is absolutely clear, and that all persons in public office may realize that we are absolutely earnest, in our contention

that Educational Cost and Social Service Cost, must be equitably distributed, and that the present unequitable and haphazard system for such purposes be a thing of the past.

Respectfully submitted,

V.B. Harrison,

President 1943-1944.

Alderman Geo. C. Miller.

Vancouver, B.C.
July 13th. 1944.

Mayor V.B. Harrison,
President, Union of B.C. Municipalities,
Nanaimo, B.C.

Dear Mayor Harrison:

As you have honoured me with the appointment of representative of the Union of B.C. Municipalities to the Conference of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, I have much pleasure in informing you that virtually all our resolutions were endorsed by the Conference, with the important exception of the one dealing with repatriation of Japanese at the close of the war. Unfortunately there was considerable difference of opinion amongst the delegates present and the following resolution was brought in and finally passed.

"10. JAPANESE RESIDENTS IN CANADA.

A resolution urging the Federal Government to give immediate thought and study to the possible solutions to the problems which have developed in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada with members of the Japanese race, arising from the present conflict".

This was in substitution for our resolutions Nos. 2 and 3.

This action was not agreeable to me but was possibly the best resolution that could secure anything like unanimous support. It does seem too bad that many of our Canadian citizens seem to feel that the Japanese problem is purely one for British Columbia and they appear to be of the opinion when the war is over, these people will be returned to their former domicile in B.C. I think we must continue to battle to see that the Japanese are repatriated, otherwise there is little doubt that B.C. will again become their domicile. To say the least, I am a little disappointed in the apparent lack of interest displayed by our fellow Canadians on this subject.

Taking the Conference as a whole I feel the agenda is very comprehensive and many worthwhile resolutions were considered, and several very fine addresses by some of the American Mayors were given. The City of Montreal left nothing undone in looking after our welfare and those responsible for the Conference are to be congratulated on the smooth working of the whole affair.

British Columbia was represented by Mayor Stibbs of Nelson, Mayor Williams of Kamloops, Mayor Cornett of Vancouver, Mayor Mott of New Westminster, and Alderman Jones of Kelowna who was a member of the Resolutions Committee and was most helpful in having our resolutions brought forward.

I am enclosing a copy of The Listening Post for your information. It contains a list of the resolutions finally adopted.

Yours faithfully,

Geo. C. Miller,
Alderman.

GCM/MP
Encl

On Motion the Report of the President was Received.

The Report of the Acting Solicitor was read as follows:

His Worship V.B. Harrison,
President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities,
Nanaimo, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I beg to submit herewith my report as Acting Solicitor and Parliamentary Agent.

The various recommendations of the Alberni Convention (1943) concerning a number of amendments to the "Municipal Act", "Municipal Elections Act", the Health Act", and the "Town Planning Act" were duly presented to the Municipal Committee of the Legislature with the results following:-

1. Resolution No. 6 of Victoria requested that provisions be made in the "Health Act" for the removal of persons, suffering from grave chronic diseases or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living under insanitary conditions owing to being unable to care for themselves to a hospital, nursing home, home for the aged or other suitable place. This was granted and the "Health Act" amended by adding thereto Sect. 67A.

2. Resolution No. 8 of Burnaby sought power to control mushroom growing. This was granted and a new clause (174A) of Section 59 was enacted to cover the situation.

3. Resolution No. 9 of Burnaby requested power to control and regulate the keeping of fur-bearing animals. This was granted and clause (31) of Section 59 which gives power to control the keeping of wild animals in captivity was repealed and a new section enacted giving power to control both wild animals and fur-bearing animals as defined by Section 18 of the "Game Act".

4. By resolution No. 10 Burnaby asked for an amendment to the "Sheep Protection Act" providing that no claim should be authorized unless the Council is satisfied that the owner of the poultry claimed for had taken all reasonable precautions for their protection. As the Minister did not wish to open up the "Sheep Protection Act" the necessary authority was placed in the "Municipal Act" as clause (40a) of Section 59, but the power was extended to cover claims for sheep, goats or poultry.

5. By resolution No. 13 Burnaby sought power to provide that no hospital should be exempt from taxation unless and until the Council passed a By-law describing the lands by metes and bounds, etc. and also that there should be no exemption of lands or buildings unless the hospital produced a licence under the provisions of the "Hospital Act".

Upon looking into the proposed amendment, I found that that part respecting production of a licence was not feasible in view of the fact that the existing exemptions provided by the "Municipal Act" including such buildings, as homes for the aged which are not licenced under the "Municipal Act". On pointing this out to Burnaby they agreed that the provision as to licences be dropped, and an amendment was made to Section 221, clause (c) which provides that if a portion only of the lands is exempt the Council may by By-law determine the area so exempted and file a plan with the By-law in the Land Registry Office.

6. By resolution No. 15 Burnaby asked for power by resolution of the Council to appropriate moneys either from revenue or from the sale of tax sale lands in trust for any specific purpose. I was informed by the Inspector of Municipalities that the Minister was opposed to Councils having such power exercisable by resolution. I therefore prepared a section corresponding to the existing sections allowing the municipalities by By-law to set aside money for the purchase of machinery, as a reserve fund for depreciation of machinery, or for the extensions of existing works, etc. This proposed amendment was submitted to Burnaby and as they were satisfied was submitted to the Committee and approved. The same was inserted in the "Municipal Act" as Section 213D.

7. By resolution No. 16 Burnaby sought power to tax cemeteries incorporated under the "Cemetery Companies Act". The necessary amendments were prepared and placed before the Municipal Committee of the

Legislature. The proposed amendments were strenuously opposed by representatives of the two cemetery companies operating in Burnaby and being the only cemeteries incorporated under "Cemeteries Companies Act" carrying on within a Municipality in the Province. The Municipal Committee spent considerable time on this and there was a difference of opinion on this question. It was pointed out that the Cemetery Companies commenced their operations under agreements with the Municipality, and this fact was strongly urged by the representatives of the Companies concerned. The Committee consulted the Attorney-General who stated he was bringing in an amendment to the "Cemetery Companies Act" that would protect the Municipality. It might be pointed out that by the provisions of this Act taxes are insured in perpetuity. For that reason the proposed amendment as requested by Burnaby was not allowed, but amendment to the "Cemetery Companies Act" has strengthened the Municipalities position.

8. Resolution No. 21 of Oak Bay sought an amendment to the "Municipal Elections Act" which would permit a voter who was unable to walk to mark his ballot paper within the polling station but without having to proceed into the balloting compartment. The necessary amendment was presented to the Municipal Committee and allowed, and is now contained in a proviso to Section 61 of the "Municipal Elections Act".

9. Resolution No. 24 of Penticton requested power to compel the emptying, cleaning out and disinfecting of privies, septic tanks, etc., and making provision for the charge of such work to being added to taxes on the land.

This was granted and clause (124) of Section 59 was repealed and a new clause enacted.

10. By resolution No. 26 the Association of Kootenay Municipalities asked that power be granted to Municipal Councils for the joint ownership and management of cemeteries. This was granted and clauses 63 and 64 of Section 59 were amended and two new clauses known as 64A and 64B were added.

11. Resolution No. 27 of West Vancouver sought power to prevent any person carrying on business at two or more places under one trade licence. In view of the present powers contained in the "Municipal Act" I could see no necessity for this legislation and upon inquiring from West Vancouver it was found that they were concerned with licencing amusement machines for which an amendment was made to the "Municipal Act" last year. Upon learning of this amendment West Vancouver agreed to drop the application.

12. Resolution No. 29 of New Westminster sought power to prevent the keeping of more than two dogs in any house or other building within the City and preventing the keeping or housing of dogs for commercial purposes except in a hospital or infirmary for dogs. The amendment sought was drawn up by the Solicitor for New Westminster but met with objections in the Committee and after being amended twice was disallowed.

13. Resolution No. 31 of the Municipality of Saanich asked that district municipalities of over 20,000 population be given the same powers to regulate plumbers as is provided for cities of over 2,000 persons. The necessary amendment was presented before the Municipal Committee which allowed the same to both city and district municipalities irrespective of population, and also approved of such regulations applying to such area or areas of the Municipality as may be prescribed by By law. The necessary amendment was made to clause (135) of Section 59.

14. Appropriate amendments were prepared and submitted to the Municipal Committee covering the following recommendations made by the special Committee on assessments namely:-

That only owners who are bona fide farmers be entitled to the benefit of subsection 6 of Section 223 of the Act, that the assessor have the right to demand information from the owners of property, that the assessor have a right of entry on property, that right of appeal be given to the Court of Appeal on questions of fact as well as law, that the costs of any appeal be limited to an amount not exceeding \$75.00 including disbursements, and no assessment be reduced on appeal to an amount below 90% of that of the preceding year, and that no assessment be reduced if the value is equitable as compared with other similar property, that an extract from the assessment roll certified by the Clerk be deemed sufficient evidence in any Court.

Many of these recommendations were opposed by one municipality and by certain owners of property. The Committee gave two full mornings to hearing representations with the following result:

The clause limiting the benefits of assessment under subsection 6 of Section 223 to owners of property who are bona fide farmers was disallowed. The right of appeal to the Court of Appeal on questions of fact was disallowed as was also the limitation on costs of an appeal. The Committee intimated that by limiting the reduction of assessments to not more than 10% there would be little advantage in going to the Court of Appeal.

The Committee approved of the following amendments. —

- (a) Giving a right of entry to the Assessor.
- (b) Providing that no assessment be reduced on appeal to an amount less than 90% of the assessment of the previous year.
- (c) That no assessment be reduced if the value of the property involved bears a fair and just relation to the value to which similar or neighbouring property in the Municipality is assessed.

The request that an extract from the roll be considered as evidence is already covered by the "Evidence Act".

15. The Committee appointed by the Union to act in conjunction with the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Municipal Officers Association brought in a report relating to the qualifications of municipal officers providing for the setting up of a Board of Examiners and for granting certificates to Municipal Officials. The necessary legislation was prepared and placed before the Municipal Committee and allowed with some slight amendments and is now enacted as Sections 520 to 524 inclusive of the "Municipal Act". I might point out that the enactment has no effect on the status of present officers, nor does it in any way compel municipalities to employ only persons holding such certificates.

16. Resolution No. 57 of the City of Victoria requesting an amendment to Section 393 of the "Municipal Act" providing that the consent of the Municipal Council be obtained before any person is appointed to the office of Police Magistrate was placed before the Committee. The Committee appeared favourable to this amendment but dropped the same when it was opposed by the Attorney-General.

17. Resolution No. 60 of Oak Bay asking for an amendment to the "Town Planning Act" permitting the Zoning Board of Appeal to impose conditions temporary or otherwise on the granting of relaxation of the provisions of the "Zoning By-Law", was stood over for one year at request of that Municipality.

18. By resolution No. 61 West Vancouver sought an amendment of the "Municipal Elections Act" by striking out the word "fifteen" where it appears on the fourth line of subsection 3 of Section 89 and substituting therefor the word "thirty". By the said subsection the Council is required within 15 days after the date on which a vacancy occurs in the Council to give notice of a by-election. The Committee granted the request and the time is now extended to 30 days.

19. The executive of the Union recommended an amendment to clause (34) of Section 59 providing for the establishment of pounds outside of a Municipality. An appropriate amendment was placed before the Committee and was approved.

20. Amendments were made to the "Village Municipal Act" to cover the changes made in the "Municipal Act" which were thought to be of value to the Villages.

21. The following amendments were made to the "Municipal Act" at the request of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Section 34 which provides for the holding of meetings of the Council outside the limits of the Municipality was repealed and a new section which clarifies the procedure where such meetings are held and in order to overcome previous difficulties this amendment was made retro-active.

Provision was made by clause (119A) of Section 59 giving Municipalities the power by By-law approved by the electors to prohibit the delivery or sale of milk in the Municipality unless such milk is pasteurized within the meaning of the "Milk Act".

Clause (252a) of Section 59 which gives power to prevent the removal of soil without the consent of the Council was amended by adding the words "Consent shall not be unreasonably withheld".

Sections 213A, 213B, were amended by striking out the words "surplus funds of current revenue in any financial year" and by substituting therefor the words "surplus general revenue funds". This was to overcome the difficulty of identifying surplus funds of any one year. The said sections were also amended to provide that the interest earned on any such funds be made subject to the provisions of the By-law. Section 213C was amended by striking out the provision which required the passing of a By-law in the same year and was also amended by making interest earned on the funds subject to the provisions of the By-law.

Section 341A was enacted to provide that disqualifications now applicable to members of Municipal Councils apply to Boards of Park Commissioners.

Section 416 was enacted to provide that disqualification now applicable to members of Municipal Councils apply to members of the board of Police Commissioners.

The following amendment of the "Village Municipalities Act" were made at the suggestion of the Department.

Granting power by By law for entering into agreements for the use of public highways for supplying gas services.

Section 20 of the Schedule was amended by permitting the granting of franchises for the supplying of electric light, electric power, telephone service, gas or water.

An amendment was made to the "Public Libraries Act" granting power to the Minister of Education to determine grades and classes of certificates for librarian and library assistants. You will remember that this Union approved the idea of standards being established by a board consisting of four persons, namely, the Superintendent of Education, a representative of the Public Library Commission and two representatives of the Public Library Association. It should be noted that no library board is under any obligation to hire only persons holding a certificate.

A group of representatives from the Fraser Valley Municipalities appeared before the Municipal Committee and presented a brief advocating far reaching changes in Town Planning which they asked to be made obligatory for all Municipalities. As the matter affected all Municipalities I pointed out that this Union had not considered the same, and thereupon the delegation agreed to their request being postponed and brought before this convention.

As this is the first time I have acted as Solicitor for the Union I would like to suggest that each Municipality submitting resolutions for the

consideration of the convention give a short statement setting out the circumstances which have given rise to the need for an amendment of an Act. This would simplify the work of the draftsman and obviate the necessity of making enquiries from the Municipality to ascertain just what is intended to be covered.

I noted that during the year there were instances in which Municipalities made their own submissions direct to the Government even when such submissions if given effect to would affect all municipalities. It is my opinion that except in extreme urgency such action is not desirable as it has a tendency to weaken the Union.

I would also like to point out the importance of all resolutions being placed in the hands of the Secretary in ample time so that they may be printed for the information of all representatives of Municipalities as this would insure that all parties concerned or in any way affected could place the same before their respective Councils and be prepared to deal with them when they come before the Convention.

I wish to express my appreciation for the courtesies extended to me by the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Deputy Minister, and the members of the staff in connection with the above legislative programme. I also wish to acknowledge the very great assistance of Secretary Sewell and the members of the executive who assisted in the preparation of our agenda before the Municipal Committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
F.L. Shaw,
Acting Solicitor.

12th. September 1944.

On Motion the Report was Received.

An invitation from the Pebbles Motors Ltd. for delegates to inspect their plant was read.

Mayor Cliff Swan, Mayor of Kimberley, and Mayor P. Swan of Slokan addressed the Convention.

The President pointed out that the two previous speakers were son and father and expressed the good wishes of the Convention.

Mayor H.M. Daggett, Prince Rupert and Mr. Oliver H. Bell, Regional Superintendent of Rationing addressed the Convention.

The Convention adjourned at 12 o'clock and reconvened at 2 p.m.

The Credentials Committee reported as follows:

143 Delegates present, 19 Visitors and 5 Members of Legislature, making a total of 167 present. Also there was represented 27 Cities, 20 District Municipalities, 3 Villages making a total of 50.

On Motion the REPORT WAS RECEIVED and the Committee thanked.

THE AUDITORS REPORTED AS FOLLOWS.

Cash Statement for the Year 1943.

Balance from 1942	\$ 319.32
Receipts	2206.64
Total	2525.96
Total Receipts	2525.96
Expenditures	1947.36
Balance	578.60

Distribution of Payments

Exchange	\$ 15.10
Postage and Telegrams	50.76
Solicitor	600.00
Secretary	600.00
Travel Expenses	297.20
Printing, etc.	384.30
Total Payments	\$1947.36

Re-capitulation

Balance as per Bank	964.40
Cheques Outstanding:	

	\$ 50.00
	5.00
	11.30
	9.50
	300.00
	10.00
Balance as above	578.60
	964.40

Checked and certified correct according to the books and vouchers produced by the Secretary and including statement of moneys in the Bank as certified by the Manager.

Audited and found correct, Sept 11th, 1944,

S. LESLIE BRICE,

E.A. FOUNTAIN,

Auditors.

On Motion the Report was Received and the Auditors thanked.

Mr. A. Scutter, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs for the Province of Alberta addressed the Convention.

E.H. Bridgeman, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs Addressed the Convention as follows:—

I have pleasure in again addressing you briefly in connection with matters affecting municipalities throughout the Province and their relation to the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Your Minister, the Honourable Mr. Anscomb, has already made fitting reference to the passing of our late Minister the Hon. A. Wells Gray, and I can only endorse the sentiments expressed by Mr. Anscomb and add to that my personal feeling of loss, as Mr. Gray and I had been personal friends for over fifty years.

In Mr. Anscomb assuming the duties as Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs I feel that we all are more than satisfied that with his past municipal experience as Reeve of Oak Bay and Mayor of Victoria every consideration will be given to any fair requests and recommendations passed by your Union.

Details of the operations of the several municipalities will be contained in the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st. 1943. This report is now in the hands of the King's Printer and should be ready for distribution early in October. It has been the hope of the Department that the report would have been in print before the annual Convention of the Union, although to make it as complete and accurate as possible requires extensive checking. The getting out of the report by the end of August can only be accomplished if all the Municipalities will do their very best to have the returns in our hands early in the year. The statutory date, as you all know, is the first of March, but some municipalities have not yet been able to have them in our hands by that date. I am convinced that after the war is over more attention will be given to the completion of your annual statement at an earlier date.

It is evident from the many resolutions which are being presented at this Convention that the trend of thought in the minds of many municipal administrators is along the lines of betterment of living conditions and making preparations for necessary post-war expenditures. I would like to suggest, in reference to the planning for the future, that the municipalities would hold a "give and take" attitude and not all try to carry out the same class of work at the same time. In other words, if the Union through an internal check-up could determine the relative importance of things to be taken care of, I feel that there would be a more even distribution of labour and use of the necessary materials required in the proposed undertakings. I believe that it would be the wish of our Minister to give as much assistance as possible to municipalities in this connection.

Mr. Bracewell and I, as time permitted, have been working on a summarization of the municipal situation in the Province, particularly with regard to the improved financial situation, and the following tables will be of interest to you all.

ASSESSMENTS:

Total Assessed Values

	1922	1932	1942
Land and Improvements	\$614,755,941	\$837,370,983	\$290,115,607
			501,848,374
Totals	\$614,755,941	\$837,370,983	\$791,963,981

Value of Exemptions

	1922	1932	1942
Land Improvements	\$60,547,356	\$149,274,900	\$ 75,831,103
			\$100,679,700
Totals	\$60,547,356	\$149,274,900	\$176,510,803

Assessed Values Less Exemptions

	1922	1932	1942
Land Improvements	\$332,789,774	\$303,667,022	\$214,284,504
	\$221,418,811	\$384,429,061	\$401,168,674
Totals	\$554,208,585	\$688,096,083	\$615,453,178

From the foregoing it will be noted that it was not until after the year 1932 that a complete separation of the assessed value of lands and improvements was made, for as you know it was not until 1934 that the Department of Municipal Affairs was created by the Government. Prior to that time the Inspector of Municipalities, the late Mr. Robert Baird, did not have the facilities or the help to properly analyze and compile the statistics of the various municipalities.

Gross Municipal Debt Per Capita:

	1922	1932	1942
Debenture Debt	\$98,761,629	\$129,332,791	\$108,698,947
Debenture Debt Per Capita	\$246.67	\$248.80	\$176.46

Population

Cities	127,870	141,228	157,989
Districts	153,680	124,381	169,633
Villages	1,825	7,621	13,014
Vancouver	117,000	246,593	275,353
Total Organized	400,375	76.32 % 519,823	74.87 % 615,989
Total Unorganized	124,207	23.68 % 174,440	25.13 % 201,872
		Unorganized	99.55 %
Total for Province	524,582	100.00 %	694,263 100.00 % 817,861 100.00 %

Area of Province

Organized	45 %
Unorganized	99.45 %
	100.00 %

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS:

R E C E I P T S			
	1922	1932	1942
	%	%	%
Land Taxes	62.66	60.22	61.03
Other Taxes	.63	.73	1.08
Licences	2.32	2.40	3.40
Permits and Fees			2.20
Administration of Justice	1.29	.49	.42
Prov. Gov. Grants - Schools	5.15	5.85	5.74
Prov. Gov. Grants - Other	6.35	4.82	3.34
School Receipts			.63
Utilities	13.13	13.88	17.91
Other	8.47	11.61	4.25
Total Revenue Receipts	100.00	100.00	100.00
	(\$23,147,223)	(\$28,111,219)	(\$30,688,894)

D I S B U R S E M E N T S			
	1922	1932	1942
	%	%	%
Debt Charges	20.75	19.80	14.30
Board of Works	10.91	7.77	10.29
Street Lighting	1.17	1.51	1.57
Parks and Cemeteries	.72	1.22	1.46
Fire Protection	3.64	3.99	4.94
Health and Sanitation	.55	.48	1.51
Hospital and Social Welfare	2.80		6.60
Donations and Grants	.93	.83	1.05
Administration of Justice	4.50	4.46	5.61
Administration	3.66	3.84	6.13
Schools	24.21	23.73	27.51
Utilities	13.76	11.72	14.63
Capital and Revenue			.59
Other	12.40		3.81
Total Revenue Disbursements	100.00	100.00	100.00
	(\$23,100,187)	(\$31,013,520)	(\$30,612,190)

Comparisons of Tax Collections:

1915, 1916 and 1917 with 1940, 1941 and 1942.

Base:— Current Levy for year quoted.

Collections:— Total Current and Arrears as Percentage of foregoing.

1915	71.92 %	1940	102.65 %
1916	77.27 %	1941	103.38 %
1917	83.66 %	1942	103.02 %

The difference in the percentage of taxes collected in the earlier years is no doubt partly accounted for by the fact that compulsory tax sales did not come into the picture until the year 1919; also that during this war the same advantage has not been taken of moratorium legislation. In addition there have been very heavy expenditures for materials of war. This puts in circulation vast sums of money enabling property owners in the majority of cases to keep up their tax payments.

I am again glad to report that the financial situation in the Province continues to show improvement and it is gratifying to see a general trend in setting aside reserves. These amounted at the end of the year to over \$700,000.00. This setting aside will be of great assistance in post-war activities.

Another interesting feature is that with the exception of five Cities and one District sinking fund shortages have been overtaken. In addition to this the majority of those municipalities owing the Provincial Government for Relief, Better Housing and other advances have made definite arrangements covering repayment of the loans. Also, you will appreciate the fact that all payments in connection with loans made by the Dominion Government and guaranteed by the Province under the "Municipal Improvements Assistance Act" of 1938 have been taken care of on the due dates. Further, all obligations under the Refunding Acts passed by the Province are in good standing.

These are all indications that there has been a general improvement in financial conditions which naturally enhances the general credit of municipalities.

In conclusion I would again like to express my appreciation of the continued assistance and co-operation of municipal councils and officials and it will be the desire of the Department to continue to render every assistance possible to the municipalities.

Thanking you for this opportunity of addressing you.

The President expressed the thanks of the Convention to the speakers.

The telegrams following were referred to the Executive.

September 8, 1944

Minister of Pensions and National Health, Ottawa.

Current rumour here that Harrison Hot Springs Hotel being discontinued fifteenth instant as convalescent home and training centre for men of active forces in order to make room for women members of army, stop. This causing much adverse comment and may be subject of discussion at Convention of B.C. Municipalities first half next week stop Present location and surroundings considered ideal for purposes of present use and an explanation of proposed change is requested stop Please wire me care of City Hall, Nelson, B.C. in time for Convention.

(Signed) J.T. BROWN,

Reeve, Surrey Municipality.

OTTAWA ONT. Sept. 9th. 1944 1204 pm.

J.T. Brown, Savoy Hotel,
Reeve, Surrey Municipality,
Care City Hall, Nelson, B.C.

Your telegram received and enquiries made from National Defence stop Informed Harrison Hot Springs not large enough for casualty retraining centre for men and rather than establish separate centres decision made to turn over Harrison Hot Springs as a casualty and retraining centre for women of three services and establish all men elsewhere in larger centre

Miss A. DIXON

Private Secretary to Minister of Pensions and National Health.

Ald. John Bennett, Chairman of Resolutions Committee then reported and resolutions were dealt with as follows:

No. 1—OKANAGAN VALLEY MUNICIPAL ASSN.

Re FIRE DEPT.

Whereas Section 2 of the "Fire Department Hours of Labour Act"

being Chapter 97, of the "Revised Statutes of British Columbia 1936" provides that the Act shall apply to all places in which there is a paid fire department;

And whereas this provision imposes a hardship on smaller municipalities where fire calls are infrequent and duties of the paid members of Fire Departments comparatively few and light;

Be it resolved that Section 2 of the "Fire Department Hours of Labour Act" being Chapter 97, of the "Revised Statutes of British Columbia 1936" be amended by striking out the words "and to any other place in which there is a paid fire department" where they occur in the third and fourth lines of the section.

Was on Motion NOT ENDORSED

Resolution 2 also 9, 13, 29, 61 and 63 were referred to a Special Committee of Messrs. O. L. Jones, Brice, Daggett and Willson.

The Committee recommended the adoption of all resolutions after amendment to Resolutions No. 9 and 61.

On Motion the Report was Received and the resolutions dealt with in numerical order.

No. 2—OKANAGAN VALLEY MUNICIPAL ASSN.

ELECTIONS ACT, ADVANCE POLLS.

Whereas the Municipal Elections Act provides, that in the case of advanced polls, the polls shall close at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on the Saturday following the day of nomination;

And whereas it is found that the said closing hour is the cause of misunderstanding among voters in that time of closing the poll is one hour earlier than that provided for when no advanced poll is held;

Therefore be it resolved that Section 23 (a) of the Municipal Elections Act be amended by deleting the word "seven" in the last line thereof and substituting therefore the word "eight"

Was on recommendation ADOPTED

No. 3—OKANAGAN VALLEY MUNICIPAL ASSN.

TRANSIENT LICENSES

Whereas the Municipal Act gives a Municipal Council the right to tax a Transient Trader doing business within the limits of a Municipality a

sum not exceeding Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars, for every six (6) months or part thereof.

And whereas under the Municipal Act a Transient Trader is confined to those persons who are in the business of offering goods or merchandise of any description for sale.

Be it resolved that this Convention favours an amendment to the Municipal Act by amending the definition of the expression "Transient Trader" as set out in Subsection 22 of Paragraph 1 of Section 308, as follows:

"In this clause the expression "Transient Trader" means a person who on commencing the business of offering goods or merchandise of any description for sale by auction or otherwise, in the Municipality, or who on commencing business as a Contractor in a recognized trade in the Municipality, and being requested by a Municipal Constable or by the Clerk, Collector, or Licence Inspector of the Municipality to give security to the Municipality in the amount of the Licence fee required by the By-Law, that he will carry on business as a trader in the Municipality continuously for not less than six months, refuses or neglects to give such security to the satisfaction of the Clerk, Collector, or Licence Inspector."

Was on Motion NOT ENDORSED

No. 4—CITY OF NELSON.

RE GASOLINE, amended as follows:-

"That the Provincial Gasoline Tax be removed from Gasoline and Oil Products purchased for use by Municipalities."

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 5—ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY MUNICIPALITIES.

RE FEDERATION OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPALITIES

"That this Association endorse the recommendation of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, suggesting greater representations to the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities as per their letter of February 7th. 1944, addressed to all Municipalities."

NO ACTION

No. 6—ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY MUNICIPALITIES

RE EDUCATION COSTS.

Also Resolutions 11, 19, 21, 33, 52, 62 and 87.

Referred to a Special Committee of Messrs Brown, Blandy, Chapman, Miller, Daggett, McGavin, Mott and Stibbs.

For report see page 63-64.

No. 7—ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY MUNICIPALITIES.

RE GASOLINE.

Dealt with, see Resolution No. 4.

No. 8—TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY.

RE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

"Whereas under the provisions of the "Protection of Children Act" being Chapter 5 of the 1943 Statutes of British Columbia, a local area is liable for the payment of maintenance charges of any child belonging to that local area committed to the custody or control of any Children's Aid Society;

And whereas we believe that this charge should be borne by all the citizens of the Province and not the land owners;

Be it therefore resolved that the said Act be amended, whereby the maintenance charges of any child committed to the custody or control of any Children's Aid Society shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province of British Columbia, and not levied against the local authority, as now provided"

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 9—TOWNSHIP OF CHILLIWHACK.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT. Amended as follows:-

That every Municipal Council be empowered by By-law to enact that at every election for offices of Alderman, Councillor, School Trustee, Police

Commissioner or Parks Board Commissioner in such Municipality each elector, in the exercise of his or her franchise shall be required to vote for the full number of candidates to be elected at the poll then being taken; and that every ballot not so utilized to its full legal extent shall be deemed to be a spoilt ballot; PROVIDED that no such by-law shall come into effect unless and until a majority of the electors shall have approved the principle of such a by-law at a plebiscite upon such question duly taken.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 10.—DISTRICT OF NORTH COWICHAN.

RE-AFFORESTATION.

Whereas certain tracts of timber land situated in District Municipalities formerly covered with dense forests have now been cut over and the timber values have been removed;

And whereas the former owners of these lands have allowed them to revert to the Municipality;

And whereas these lands are not suitable for agriculture being submarginal in structure, and are not at present capable of supporting human life, but are suitable for reforestation;

And whereas certain Municipalities own tracts of timber lands forming water-shed property;

And whereas it is highly desirable to promote our National Forests for future generations;

Therefore be it resolved that the "Municipal Act" be amended to empower Municipalities to set aside lands owned by them and which in their opinion are suitable for reforestation purposes by inserting therein the following sections:—

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the "Municipal Act" or any law to the contrary it shall be lawful for any Municipality by By-law, to set aside as Forest Reserve, reverted Tax Sale Lands or Water-shed Lands, or other lands owned by the Municipality which in the opinion of the Council are suitable for reforestation purposes.

(a) Every By-law passed pursuant to this Section, shall before the final passing thereof, receive the assent of the electors of the Municipality in the manner provided in Part VI of the "Municipal Act."

(b) Upon the passing of the said By-law it shall be lawful for the Municipality to set aside from time to time any lands thereafter acquired and which in the opinion of the Council should be placed in Forest Reserve.

(c) It shall be unlawful for the Council to sell or lease any lands set aside as a Forest Reserve.

(d) It shall be lawful for the Council by resolution or by By-law to withdraw any lands from a Forest Reserve after notice thereof shall have been published once each week for four consecutive weeks, in a newspaper circulated in the Municipality, stating the intention of withdrawing the lands from the Forest Reserve, the purposes for which they are to be withdrawn and in the event of sale the price which is to be received therefor. Provided that if any ratepayer objects to the withdrawal of any or all of the lands from the Forest Reserve (which objection may be presented to the Council orally or in writing) it shall be unlawful for the Council to withdraw such land from the Forest Reserve except by By-law which before the final passing thereof has received the assent of the electors in the manner provided in Part VI of the "Municipal Act."

(e) It shall be lawful for the Council to cut, sell, remove or otherwise dispose of any or all timber or other forest products from a Forest Reserve and the Council may by resolution or by By-law enter into contracts with any person or corporation for the cutting and removal of timber but all contracts shall provide that only selected trees shall be cut, provide for the protection of young growth and other trees and timber, for fire protection, and may limit the use to which the cut timber may be put.

(f) It shall be lawful for the Council to enter into contracts with the Dominion or Provincial Governments for the employment of Forestry Engineers or Foresters or to employ Foresters or Forestry Engineers to survey such timber, select trees for cutting, supervise re-forestation and to carry out any plan or plans the Council may deem desirable for the development and preservation of the Forest Reserve."

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 11.—DISTRICT OF NORTH COWICHAN.

RE EDUCATION COSTS.

Referred to Special Committee.
For Report see pages 63-64.

No. 12—DISTRICT OF NORTH COWICHAN.

RE PRIORITIES ON EQUIPMENT.

As the war years pass by it is becoming harder for Municipalities to keep their trucks and machinery on the road, owing to being classed in a category as to priorities which is both unfair and unjust, seeing that they are not operating for gain, but for the welfare and health of the people;

Therefore be it resolved that this Union of B.C. Municipalities place the matter before the Minister of Munitions and Supply and request that Municipalities be given a higher Priority Rating for the purchase of new trucks and equipment;

And further be it resolved that the Executive of this Union be requested to communicate with the Minister, and to press and follow this resolution until results have been obtained.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 13.—VILLAGE OF GIBSON'S LANDING.

RE ELECTIONS.

Whereas Section 9 of the Schedule to the Village Municipalities Act provides that nomination for the office of Village Commissioners shall be held on the second Monday of December; and that polling if required shall commence on the following Thursday;

And whereas the time interval thus provided is scarcely sufficient to permit the printing and delivery to the returning officer of ballots required; this difficulty being greatly aggravated in cases of Municipalities with no printing establishments within their boundaries, and further aggravated in cases of some Municipalities who by their geographical position must depend on mail services to receive the ballots;

And whereas it is very doubtful if any significant number of votes are polled on the first two days of the polls thus provided that could not have been polled on the final day of the poll;

Therefore be it resolved that the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia be petitioned to so amend the Schedule to the Village Municipalities Act that more time will be provided between nomination day and the opening of the polls and to eliminate the necessity holding open the polls for two days during which few if any votes are cast.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 14.—DISTRICT OF MISSION.

RE AFFORESTATION AND CROWN LANDS IN MUNICIPALITIES

WAS WITHDRAWN

No. 15—NANAIMO.

RE OLD AGE PENSION. Amended as follows:

Whereas the Old Age Pension authorities have power to sell the property of a pensioner after the death of such pensioner and to retain out of the proceeds of such sale the amount of all payments made to the pensioner by the Board;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities be urged to petition the Provincial Government for the removal of such power where the value is \$3500 or less. In the case of any pensioner who is survived by any immediate relatives.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 16—NANAIMO

RE OLD AGE PENSIONS, ETC.

Whereas there are quite a number of persons who have resided in this country for 10 years or more and who have reached the pensionable age of 70 years, but who are unable to obtain the Old Age Pension owing to the regulation requiring 20 years' residence in the country; and

Whereas such persons are forced in their old age to go through the humiliating ordeal of asking for Social Assistance for periods varying up to 10 years before becoming eligible for the Old Age Pension;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities be asked to urge the Provincial Government to make representations to have the period of residence required to qualify for the Old Age Pension reduced to 10 years.

On Motion NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

No. 17—DISTRICT OF MAPLE RIDGE.

RE ASSESSMENT RETURNS.

That Chapter 199 of the R.S.B.C. be amended by inserting the following as Section 219 "A".

Every owner of a manufacturing or industrial concern, shall on the written request of the Municipal Assessor, transmit, on or before the first day of October in each year, to the assessor of the municipality in which such concern shall operate or carry on business, a statement showing:

(a) Every parcel of land owned or leased and used by such a concern within such municipality and the value thereof, and the improvements (including all fixed machinery and equipment), upon each parcel (if any) and the value thereof; provided that in case a building is situated upon two or more parcels of land under a single ownership, those parcels of land may be grouped as one parcel and all improvements thereon shall be considered in like manner;

(b) An address to which all notices to be given on behalf of the municipality may be addressed.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 18—DISTRICT OF LANGLEY. Re Telephone Rates.

WAS WITHDRAWN

No. 19—DISTRICT OF LANGLEY. Re Municipal Finances etc.
See Report of Committee, pages 63-64.

No. 20—LANGLEY.

RE MUNICIPAL MACHINERY FROM GOVERNMENT POOLS.

Whereas most Municipalities are handicapped by the lack of Machinery;

And Whereas at the end of the War, the Government will have on its hands, huge quantities of Machinery suitable for Land Clearing, Road Building and Ditching;

And Whereas only real Rehabilitation can be accomplished by improved Rural and Urban living conditions;

And whereas if the War carried on only a few months after the coming cessation of hostilities a great deal of this Machinery will have either been destroyed or worn out;

And whereas this Machinery delivered to the Government will have been paid for by the Federal Treasury;

Therefore be it Resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities urge upon the Federal Government, to further the cause of Re-habilitation, and adopt for a certain period a Lend Lease Policy to all Municipalities, as is in force today amongst the United Nations.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 21—DISTRICT OF LANGLEY.

RE EDUCATION, Referred to Committee.

For Report of Committee see Pages 63-64

No. 22—LANGLEY.

RE REHABILITATION OF PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES AND WAR WORKERS. Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation.

Whereas we realize the most crucial time will be changing from War to Peace conditions, and

Whereas War has proved this Country has unlimited wealth at its disposal;

And whereas, we must insist Post War Canada must be a Nation worthy of the unlimiting sacrifices of her noble men and women, and that the Freedom we want and Security for which her youth have bled and died becomes a reality;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities endorse the following:

1. That no member of the Armed Forces shall be discharged until such time as they have obtained gainful employment.
2. The Dominion Government be urged to set up adequate and consolidated training facilities throughout the Province for members of the Armed Forces and War Workers, and adequate subsistence allowances be provided.
3. That to ensure full employment, it must be recognized that hours of labour must be reduced;
4. To create employment, the development of Health centres, Provincial and Municipal Parks and Recreational centres.
5. Dominion, Provincial and Municipal bodies must co-operate together to provide adequate housing, roads, reforestation, drainage schemes, and hydro-electric projects, to make this a progressive Nation.

On Recommendation of Rehabilitation Committee ADOPTED.
See page 39 &c.

No. 23—LANGLEY.

RE REHABILITATION OF RETURNED MEN.

Whereas at present the Dominion Government have made no provision for Veterans entering the Retail, Wholesale, Manufacturing or Industrial Businesses;

And whereas the Dominion Government have already made provisions for Veterans under the "Land Settlement Act" to the tune of \$5,000.00;

And whereas members of the Armed Forces have been trained as Cooks Mechanics, Store Clerks, etc.;

Therefore be it resolved that the Dominion Government set up an Act similar to the "Land Settlement Act" allowing the same benefits for Veterans who wish to follow a trade or other commercial venture.

On Recommendation of Rehabilitation Committee ADOPTED.
See page 39 &c.

No. 24—LANGLEY.

RE SOCIAL SECURITY.

Whereas the prosperity of any Nation depends on the Social Security of its masses;

And whereas many forms of Health Insurance have been operating in many countries and have proven more or less a failure;

Therefore be it resolved that we endorse the principle of the Social Security Schemes covering all phases of Health Treatment, Hospitalization and Prevention of Diseases as presented to the Dominion Government by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture; the costs of such scheme to be paid from the Consolidated Federal Treasury, and administered by the Provincial Government.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 25—LANGLEY.

RE HEALTH.

Whereas there is no provision to enforce the isolation of any person who has developed Tuberculosis;

And whereas such cases not being isolated, are a menace to public health;

Therefore be it resolved that we ask the Provincial Government to so Amend the Health Act to provide for compulsory isolation of all people who have developed Tuberculosis.

Was on Motion REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE

No. 26—LANGLEY.

RE INDIGENT AND INSTITUTIONAL CASES.

Whereas the Provincial Government does not contribute any share of the costs for the care of Indigent and Institutional Cases;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities urge upon the Provincial Government that they contribute to the costs of Indigent and Institutional Cases on the 80-20 basis as they are now doing for Social Assistance Cases.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 27—TOWNSHIP OF LANGLEY.

RE PER DIEM CHARGE 70¢ RE ARMED FORCES.

I have been directed by the Langley Municipal Council to enter strong protests against the principles of hospitals charging Municipalities 70¢ per diem on residents who are members of the Armed Forces and have become hospitalized, as we feel that it is the duty of the Dominion Government to pay all charges in connection with any member of the Armed Forces

On Motion NO ACTION TAKEN
See Report on page 48.

No. 28—VILLAGE OF WESTVIEW.

RE HOSPITAL COSTS, ETC.

Whereas the present system of hospital finance not only involves too big a strain upon the municipalities but also is inadequate to meet present needs, be it resolved that:

(1) This Union of Municipalities recommends to the Government of British Columbia that it includes in its annual budget an amount necessary for the upkeep of hospitals and kindred institutions;

Or, Alternatively, if the present system be considered advisable of continuance—that the Union of Municipalities recommends:

(1) That the Government of British Columbia assumes a larger proportion of the cost involved in the maintenance of hospitals; and that

(2) where local hospitalization schemes already contribute to hospital expense, the levy on municipalities be not enforced; and that

(3) in maternity cases, inasmuch as the sickness and the issue thereof are of unitary cause, no levy shall be collectable upon the new born child for the first fourteen days of hospitalization.

On Motion NO ACTION TAKEN

See Report on page 48.

No. 29—CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT.

RE VOTING.

Whereas under the existing, legislation, the wife or husband of a property owner is debarred from voting at municipal elections unless he or she pays or tenders to the Collector the sum of two dollars annually;

And whereas the wife of a poll tax payer is also required to pay or tender a similar amount before being privileged to exercise her franchise;

And whereas these citizens would not be called upon to make any contribution towards municipal revenues if they refrained from registering as voters, and are therefore penalized if they take an active and intelligent part in the election of persons to represent them as Mayor, Reeve, Aldermen, Councillors, School Trustees and Police Commissioners;

And whereas this discrimination is undemocratic.

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to urge the legislature to amend the definition of "Householder" under the Municipal Elections Act to read as follows:—

Householder includes any person of the full age of twenty-one years who is:

(a) The wife or husband of a person qualified to vote under Clause (a) of Subsection (1) of Section 7 of this Act.

(b) A resident of the municipality who has resided therein from the first day of January of the current year, and who has, unless exempted by the provisions of clause (194) or clause (195) of Section 59 of the "Municipal Act," paid to the municipality direct all rates, taxes and assessments which are not chargeable on land and are due by such person to the municipality for the current year to an amount of not less than two dollars, exclusive of water, electric light, gas and telephone rates and taxes, and license fees for dogs.

(c) A resident of the municipality who has resided therein from the first day of January of the current year and who is not required by the provisions of any by-law of the municipality to pay road tax or poll tax.

Was on Motion NOT ENDORSED

No. 30—THE VILLAGE OF TERRACE.

RE HOSPITALS AND PER DIEM.

Whereas the hospitals are charging this Village Corporation the per capita payment in the case of newly born infants;

And whereas a newly born infant is not a resident within the meaning of the Residence and Responsibility Act;

Therefore be it resolved that the Village Municipalities be exempted by Statute from payment of per capita payments to the hospitals in the case of newly born infants.

On Motion NO ACTION TAKEN

See Report on page 48.

No. 31—VILLAGE OF TERRACE.

RE LIQUOR GRANTS.

Whereas the revenue of the Village of Terrace is inadequate to meet the costs of maintaining the roads and sidewalks in good condition;

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial Government be urged to restore to the Village Municipalities the grant formerly paid out of the proceeds of the business directed by the Liquor Control Board.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 32—VILLAGE OF TERRACE.

RE ROAD CONDITION, ETC.

Whereas there has been a large influx of soldiers and civilians into the Village of Terrace during the past two years, with the result that there is much increased traffic on the roads and sidewalks;

And whereas the cost of material has substantially risen during the same period;

And whereas the Village revenue is inadequate to cope with the increase in costs;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of B.C. Municipalities be asked to urge both the Dominion and Provincial Governments to provide funds for the Village of Terrace that will be sufficient to maintain the roads and sidewalks in good condition.

As this has been dealt with by the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

Moved and Seconded THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN

No. 33—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE EDUCATIONAL COSTS.

Referred to Education Committee.

For Report See Page 63-64.

No. 34—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE OLD AGE PENSIONS. Amended as follows:

Whereas the amount of \$660.00 has been fixed by the Federal Government as the amount of income for a single person without dependents which should be free from income tax;

And whereas the old age pension allowance is inadequate to meet the cost of food, clothing, shelter and fuel for a single person;

Resolved that the Federal and Provincial Governments be urged to provide for the payment of old age pensions to men at the age of 65 and to women at the age of 60 years, and to increase such pensions to a minimum of \$50.00 per month, and further that this allowance be called the "Senior Citizens' Pension."

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 35—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE.

That the Provincial Government be requested to increase the allowance for "Unemployables" to not less than \$50.00 per month per adult, with an increase in the allowance for dependents sufficient to provide a decent standard of living.

Was on Motion NOT ENDORSED

No. 36—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE MEDICAL CARE FOR SOCIAL SERVICE CASES.

Whereas the present Old Age Pensions, Mothers' Allowances and Social Service Grants to "Unemployables" are insufficient to enable the recipients to pay for medical services, after providing for the absolute necessities of life, and the existing Provincial-Municipal Medical Scheme does not make sufficient provision for cases requiring major operations or specialized treatment;

And whereas the time has come when the tax on land and improvements in municipalities for social service and education must be reduced rather than increased, if the ordinary public works and services of the municipalities are to be adequately maintained;

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial Government be pressed to extend the present scheme so as to provide for such specialized medical attention as may be required in these cases, without further cost to the Municipalities, and to bring pressure upon the Dominion Government for the early provision of a complete scheme of National Health Service to provide Hospitalization, Medical and Dental Services, either contributory or state financed, to relieve the prevailing uncertainty and anxiety of all citizens and reduce the burden of municipalities.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 37—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE STATE HOSPITALIZATION AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Resolved that this Union again go on record as favoring the institution of a National Health Scheme for the provision of Hospitalization and Medical and Dental Services for all citizens of Canada

See No. 36.

On Motion NO ACTION TAKEN

No. 38—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE INDIAN WELFARE.

Moved and Seconded that this Convention re-affirm the Resolution No. 47 of the Convention of 1943, said Resolution being as follows:—

"That the Federal Government be urged to institute a thorough survey of the Indian population of Canada with the object of evolving some plan, after consultation with Indian Leaders and other interested parties, for improving the condition of the Reserves and the home life of the Indians, and whereby the latter may hope to become self-supporting Canadian Citizens"

and further that the Secretary be instructed to write to the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities in regard to this question.

CARRIED

No. 39—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE TRAINING SCHOOLS ETC.

WAS WITHDRAWN

No. 40—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE FEDERAL GRANTS FOR ROAD DAMAGE.

Whereas heavy trucks and other massive machinery being used by contractors in the construction of air-ports, landing fields and other Dominion war projects have done and are doing much damage to municipal roads and highways;

Therefore be it resolved that the Federal Government be requested to assist the municipalities in which heavy equipment is operating for the purposes mentioned by making special grants for the repair and restoration of the roads and highways so damaged.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 41—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE PHYSICAL CULTURE.

Resolved that the Provincial Government be pressed for the institution of Health and Physical Culture Centres.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 42—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE BETTER HOUSING.

Resolved that the Provincial Government be urged to make a survey of homes and housing requirements in this Province with a view to setting some fair standard of housing for the people to include electric light and power, proper plumbing and sanitary conveniences, kitchen equipment and other modern necessities and comforts; and that, during rehabilitation after the war, the building industries be given a definite plan or plans to work upon, rather than engage in haphazard competition, with an orgy of super-salesmanship.

Was on MotionLaid over to be considered with No. 64.

No. 43—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE STANDARDS FOR IMMIGRATION AND CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP.

Resolved that the Provincial and Dominion Governments be urged to require of immigrants coming into Canada a strict physical, moral and intellectual test; that a reasonable knowledge of the English language be required, and that, within five years of their entry, such immigrants, other than British Subjects, be required to pass a written examination covering the Canadian form of Government and democratic ideals, and to apply for Canadian Citizenship, on penalty of being deported to the land of their birth.

Was on Motion Laid over to be considered with No. 89.

No. 44—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE INTEREST ON LOANS UNDER THE "VETERANS' LAND ACT."

That the Dominion Government be asked to reduce the rate of interest on loans made to returned men under the provisions of the "Veterans' Land Act" to not more than 2% per annum.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

Alderman O.L. Jones, Chairman of the Re-habilitation Committee presented a Report as follows:—

Your Rehabilitation Committee begs to report as follows:—

The large number of resolutions to be presented at this Convention bearing on rehabilitation would indicate a general condition of uncertainty, to say the least, regarding the ability of Municipal bodies to take a major part in the period of resettlement following the termination of the War.

This uncertainty is based mainly on the financial problem facing us rather than on the unwillingness of Municipalities to do their part.

Your Committee therefore wish to stress the point of financing Post-War schemes.

It has already been pointed out to you that our Municipal Income has remained static for twenty years while both Dominion and Provincial Income have increased several hundred per cent.

We therefore suggest that now is the time to approach the Provincial Government with a firm request for a round table Conference with a view to realigning and adjusting our various taxable fields, also the matter of various responsibilities.

Much of the Provincial Income is derived directly from the Municipal area. We refer to income derived from:

Sale of Liquor,	Entertainment Tax,	Motor Vehicle Licences,
Gasoline Tax,	Chauffeurs, etc.	Fishing Licences,
Licences,	Marriage Licences,	(Indirectly Income Tax).

In many cases exceeding the income of the Municipality itself.

From this basis and on this argument we feel that we have a just case that could be amicably settled by such Conference. Your executive have already suggested this to the Cabinet but have had no reply. An increase of revenue from this source would assist in our long term rehabilitation schemes.

At the present time very few Municipalities are in a position to finance any scheme over and above their ordinary commitments. In fairness to the returned men and women they should be treated alike by all centres to which they may return. Therefore any plan must encompass the whole Province, giving every Town equal access to any funds that may be available.

Your Committee has estimated the Plans tentatively prepared for Post-War by B.C. Municipalities as involving a sum of \$220,000,000.00. This includes Vancouver, Victoria and all Municipalities, the work to cover a period of five years. We assure you this sum is none too large. As a burden on our people it would only be approximately \$250.00 per capita, in actual practice very much less, as many of the projects are self liquidating. Our problem therefore is to have access to this amount of money. We suggest the Province, on our behalf, should approach the Federal Government requesting a loan for this amount at a low interest rate — suggesting 1%. The Province plus Municipalities guaranteeing the loan would make it gilt edged. The repayment to be on a serial basis. The loan to be administered by a joint body of the Province and Municipalities whose duty it would be to check up on all proposed schemes and authorize the expenditure and reallocate some monies as conditions warrant. We feel that the Federal Government has already set the precedent for such

financial transactions by the method of advancing large sums to the various War enterprises such as the Aluminium Company of Canada.

To depend on the sale of our own Bonds would be a doubtful method as we feel that after the War there will be such a demand for money that the interest rates will be much higher than at present.

Money will be needed by Manufacturers to re-tool and to rebuild, also to provide Capital for manufacturing all the goods at present in short supply. (Taxation has prevented accumulation of surpluses for this work.) such as Cars, Radios, Washing Machines, Clothing, etc., also to replenish Retailers Stocks.

Railways, Mines and Shipping Companies will be on the market for large sums as well. Our Bonds will not appear as attractive as many of this type of Commercial issues.

May we also point out that numerous demands and resolution have been sent to both Governments requesting a definite promise that money would be made available to us for Post-War developments. So far we have no promise of any money whatsoever.

This creates an alarming situation, especially in view of the imminent termination of hostilities.

If some more tangible plan is not made available at once, we stand in danger of returning to the dark days of relief and work camps.

In resolution No. 49 you have a good suggestion whereby the hours of work by the Firemen would be reduced to 48 per week. This is a sound principle and could easily be enlarged to embrace all Municipal Workers, Policemen and others who are now employed much longer hours. Approximately 2000 good permanent jobs as Firemen and Policemen would be available if this resolution was put into practice. It would be an excellent idea to have the Hours of Work Act reviewed & revised to make possible shorter hours of labour for all workers, and thereby opening up many new jobs. This point should be taken up with the Provincial Government. Such a request should be accompanied by a brief statement on the development of Mechanical and Scientific knowledge during the last five years plus its application, causing the elimination of much manual labour.

The history of Canadian production gives a sidelight on future labour needs.

In 1932 our production was \$3,700,000,000.00. 1937 \$4,500,000,000.00. last year over \$10,000,000,000.00. in other words we have more than doubled our production with half our man power engaged in the various non-productive War Services.

We have studied the Kitchener-Waterloo Survey made by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and would recommend it for your consideration as the findings could easily be applied to any district in B.C.

The Dominion Government has produced a valuable report on the Housing needs of Canada and has outlined its immediate proposals re assisting Municipalities to develop their own Housing Scheme. So far very few centres in B.C. have taken advantage of the Dominion Government offer, perhaps through lack of knowledge. If so, Dr. Curtis has already presented this report to the Mayors Convention at Montreal. Copies can be had from our Headquarters there.

We suggest that Municipalities advance their proposed plans a little further by preparing same in detail so that they could be implemented at short notice.

As 75% of B.C. people live in urban areas it would be reasonable to assume that the same percentage of men and women in the Services would return to Urban areas. This being so we again stress the urgency of having carefully prepared plans ready and urge you at this Convention to act on the suggestions made.

1. To make a definite application for approximately Two hundred and fifty Million Dollars at 1%.
2. To request a Provincial-Municipal Conference empowered to readjust our administrative relations, including Educational Costs, etc.
3. To review and revise the hours of Work Act bringing it in line with modern developments.

We have omitted from this report many things that could well be discussed such as the Education and necessary training that must be made available to Ex-Service Men and Women as we feel that the Dominion Government is definitely liable for all that kind of responsibility.

Your Committee has not dealt in detail with the various proposed Post-War projects as we feel that these were amply dealt with in previous reports.

In conclusion we urge you to give careful consideration to all the reports that we have issued, namely, the 1942, 1943 and this one. We feel that a great deal of valuable information is contained therein. They are meant to serve you by offering guidance in the solving of your Post-War problems. If nothing else has been achieved we feel our work has helped to stimulate interest in the Economic Welfare of our British Columbia people and has been the means of bringing us closer together through our Common Cause.

On behalf of the Post-War Committee,

O.L. JONES, Chairman.

JOHN BENNETT

R.M. GRAUER

JOS. T. BROWN

On Motion the Report was Received andADOPTED

The Rehabilitation Committee further recommended the Adoption of Resolutions 22, 23, 45, also a Resolution submitted by Maple Ridge. See 45A, 68, 78 and 90.

On Motion the Report was received and the above Resolutions were

ADOPTED

The Convention Adjourned to 9:30 a.m. September 13th. 1944

No. 45—DISTRICT OF SURREY.

RE WORKS PROGRAMME FOR REHABILITATION.

Whereas during pre-war depression and since that time owing to War Time restrictions and shortage of material, municipalities have, for many years, been forced to curtail and hold in abeyance many necessary works of construction and maintenance, with the result that, at the close of the war, a very heavy expenditure will be called for to provide essential services and replace depleted machinery and equipment;

And whereas the sharp increases in the costs of material and labour, coupled with the extra costs imposed on the municipalities by necessary war services, have made it impossible to set up, out of revenue, sufficient reserves to meet the heavy post-war expenditures which will inevitably be required;

And whereas the municipalities have, at the request of the Provincial Rehabilitation Committee, submitted recommendations of works suitable as rehabilitation projects, but have been unable to obtain any information as to the Government's proposals for financing any such projects;

Therefore be it resolved that, in order to enable municipalities to plan for post-war rehabilitation, the Provincial and Dominion Governments be asked to outline a scheme for the assistance of the municipalities in the carrying out of necessary public works in the post-war period, making it known what class of works they will be prepared to finance and the terms upon which such financing will be available.

Was on Recommendation of the Rehabilitation Committee.....ADOPTED
See page 39 &c.

No. 45A—DISTRICT OF MAPLE RIDGE.

RE HABILITATION.

That no Veteran be established on farms until such times as market returns, or floor prices, be established, which will permit, at least, cost of production plus a fair margin of profit.

That no one shall be employed as a Field Supervisor except qualified and practical farmers, conversant with the district they serve.

That all responsible officials of the Board shall be, as far as possible, returned veterans of the present conflict.

That all officials shall, at all times, work in the closest co-operation with approved Committees of local Rehabilitation Councils, and that no settler shall be placed on any property within the districts concerned without the approval of such Committees.

Was on the Recommendation of the Rehabilitation Committee. **ADOPTED**
See page 39 &c.

No. 46—DISTRICT OF SURREY.
RE CLOTHING ALLOWANCE TO SERVICE MEN.

WAS WITHDRAWN

No. 47—DISTRICT OF SURREY.
RE "GOVERNMENT LIQUOR ACT" AND "LIQUOR CONTROL PLEBISCITES ACT."

That the Provincial Government be requested to amend the "Liquor Control Plebiscites Act" and the "Government Liquor Act" so as to provide that any vote to be taken in any municipal area, under the first mentioned Act, be based upon the Municipal Voters' list and taken in or over such portion of the municipality as may be determined by the Municipal Council; and to provide that, in the event of a favourable vote, any license under the "Government Liquor Act" be granted to the municipality concerned, with power to establish, operate or lease, or to license and regulate places for the sale of beer by the glass.

Was on Motion **NOT ENDORSED**

No. 48—DISTRICT OF SURREY.
RE ASSESSMENT.

See No. 57, Oak Bay

WAS WITHDRAWN

No. 49—CITY OF KELOWNA.
RE FIREMENS' HOURS.

Resolved that the hours of work of firemen be reduced to 48 hours per week by Amendment to Chapter 97, Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1936, and that this change shall come into effect not later than one year after the termination of major war hostilities.

Was on Motion **ADOPTED**

No. 50—TOWNSHIP OF RICHMOND.

RE CIRCUS LICENSES, ETC.

That Section 308, Subsection 24 of the Municipal Act be amended to read:

"From any person who exhibits a public circus, managerie, hippodrome, horseshow, dog or pony show or horse-racing an amount not exceeding five hundred dollars for each day of such exhibition or horse-racing, notwithstanding the provisions of any act and this resolution be submitted to the Convention of the U.B.C.M.

Was on Motion **ADOPTED**

No. 51—CITY OF PORT ALBERNI.

RE INQUESTS AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

Whereas pursuant to the Municipal Act a municipality is charged for the costs of a coroner's inquest or enquiry upon the dead body found in the municipality;

And whereas the Workmen's Compensation Board pays all the doctors, medical, hospital, ambulance and funeral costs of any workman killed while coming within the scope of the "Workmen's Compensation Act";

Therefore it is resolved that the Workmen's Compensation Board also bear the costs of a coroner's inquest or coroner's enquiry of any workman who has been killed while coming within the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Board..

Was on Motion **ADOPTED**

No. 52—DISTRICT OF SAANICH.

REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION COSTS.

For Report see pages 63 and 64.

No. 53—DISTRICT OF SAANICH.

RE CONTROL OF PIGEONS.

Whereas Municipalities have no control over the keeping of pigeons as was demonstrated in a recent Saanich Court Case and control, particularly in residential areas, is deemed necessary;

Therefore be it resolved that a subsection be added to Section 59 of the Municipal Act, R.S.B.C. to read as follows:

"For regulating and prohibiting the keeping of pigeons or doves or any

birds of the family "Columbidae" and for defining the limits and conditions within and under which the same may be kept."

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 54—DISTRICT OF SAANICH.

RE DRUGS AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO OLD AGE PENSIONERS,
ETC.
WAS WITHDRAWN

No. 55—CITY OF VICTORIA.

RE EASEMENTS, ETC.

"That the 'Land Registry Act' be amended to provide that covenants in favour of Municipalities permitting the laying of water mains, sanitary sewers, storm sewers and surface drains shall run with the land, and also provide for the registration thereof in the Land Registry Office as a charge against the lands and for the validating of all such covenants heretofore registered."

(Note: In order to save expense it is often necessary for Municipalities to acquire rights over private property for the purpose of laying public sewers, water mains, surface drains and storm sewers.

Such rights are not legal Easements inasmuch as they are not appurtenant to other real property owned by the Municipality but are merely licenses valid only between the immediate parties.

Some Land Registry Offices refuse to register these so-called Easements while other Registry Offices have allowed registration; but such registration does not validate the same).

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 56—OAK BAY.

RE LAND REGISTRY ACT, Section 105.

Amend to provide that the Registrar may not accept a description of a new parcel in any municipality if the parcel does not conform to the relevant by-laws of such municipality.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 57—OAK BAY.

RE MUNICIPAL ACT (b), paragraph 6, See also No. 48.

Resolution 57 referred to a Special Committee of Messrs. Warren, Brown, Blandy, and Grauer. The Committee reported recommending the following amendment:

"That sub-section (6) of Section 223 be amended by striking out of the proviso the words "in city municipalities" and by substituting therefor the words "except in the Municipality of Saanich."

On Motion the recommendation of the Committee was ADOPTED

No. 58—OAK BAY.

RE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACT, Section 27.

Amend by adding after the word "street" in third line, "or the extension of a system of water works."

(This section gives power for the Corporation at large to absorb part of the cost of street paving, etc. There is no similar provision in the Act now for water mains).

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 59—BURNABY.

RE HOSPITALS.

That the Provincial Government be requested to set up a special Legislative Committee to inquire into all phases of operation of Private Hospitals and Welfare Institutions in its relationship to Municipal taxation, said Committee to include representatives of Municipalities.

On Recommendation of the Hospital Committee the resolution

WAS ADOPTED.

See page 48 for Report.

Report of Special Committee with regard to Resolutions Nos. 27, 28, 30, 59, 75 and 82 dealing with the matter of Hospitalization.

To the Chairman and Members of the Resolutions Committee.

Gentlemen,

Your Special Committee appointed in the above connection, after due consideration, beg to report as follows:

1. We recommend that no action be taken with regard to resolutions Nos. 27, 28, 30 and 82 on the grounds that very soon after the war, it is expected that the Dominion Government will adopt legislation covering all Hospital and Health Services.
2. We recommend approval of resolution No. 59.
3. We recommend that resolution No. 75 be endorsed in principle.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee: Ald. Geo. C. Miller, Mayor W. C. Hamilton, Mayor H. Clark, Reeve E. C. Warren, Councillors E. G. Flowerdew and W. B. Hughes Games.

On Motion the Report was received and the Recommendations **ADOPTED**
N.B. References 27, 28, 30, 59, 75, 82.

No. 60—BURNABY.

RE TAX SALE LANDS.

Whereas lands and improvements within the Municipality have been acquired by the Corporation by virtue of Tax Sale proceedings;

And whereas the former owners are still residing on the said properties;

And whereas it is deemed advisable that the said persons should be able to re-acquire the said lands upon payment of the sums standing against the said lands;

And whereas under the provisions of sub-section 179 of Section 59 of the Municipal Act the Corporation is obligated to advertise lands upon which there are buildings of any kind in a newspaper circulating in the Municipality;

And whereas the insertion of this advertisement disturbs the said former owner both in mind and by prospective purchasers viewing the property;

And whereas it is deemed advisable that the provisions of sub-paragraph "b" of Section 179 of Section 59 of the Municipal Act Chapter 199, R.S.B.C. should not be observed where a former owner is desirous of re-acquiring the property;

Therefore be it resolved: "That the Provincial Government be requested to amend the said sub-paragraph "b" by adding the following:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this clause, the Council may, by a by-law passed by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of all the members, and without obtaining the assent of the electors, dispose of lands which have become the property of the Municipality through Tax Sale proceedings at any time within six years of the date of the Tax Sale at which the said lands were acquired to the former owner thereof upon payment of such sum as will equal the upset price plus taxes accruing since the date of Tax Sale, and in such cases, the provisions of the preceding paragraph hereof shall not apply, provided further however that the provisions of this section shall apply only where the said property is used as the residence of the said former owner."

Was on Motion **ADOPTED IN PRINCIPLE AND REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE.**

No. 61—BURNABY.

RE ELECTIONS ACT. Amended as follows:

The Municipal Elections Act be amended to provide that:—

"The Presiding Officer **MAY** require every person who tenders his vote to sign his name, present address, and occupation in a book to be kept in the Polling Booth for that purpose, and any person being so required who, unless unable to write, refuses to sign his name, address, and occupation, shall not receive a ballot paper or be allowed to vote."

On recommendation of Special Committee **WAS ADOPTED.**

No. 62—DISTRICT OF BURNABY.

RE EDUCATION COSTS, REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

For Report see pages 63 and 64.

No. 63—BURNABY.

RE ELECTIONS ACT.

That the Municipal Elections Act be amended to provide that any person, male or female of the full age of twenty-one years, and who is resident within a Municipality shall be entitled to vote at any Municipal Election.

Was on Motion **NOT ENDORSED**

No. 64—DISTRICT OF BURNABY.

RE REGIONAL PLANNING.

Moved and Seconded.

"That this Union approves in principle a Provincial Planning Act and recommends to the careful consideration of the Provincial Government the proposed Provincial Planning Act of the Vancouver Town Planning Commission; to facilitate Regional Planning and controlling the development of an unorganized territory adjoining Municipalities; and, That pending the enactment of a Provincial Planning Act the Provincial Government be requested to provide a Town Planning Engineer in a part time advisory capacity to the Municipalities, Cities and Villages should the request be made."

CARRIED.

No. 65—OKANAGAN VALLEY MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

RE LOGGING TRUCKS.

WITHDRAWN.

No. 66 OKANAGAN VALLEY MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

RE WAR MEMORIALS.

That in place of the construction of hundreds of War Memorials after the war, a series of Universities be constructed across Canada and the United States, at the International Border, such Universities to be 50 per cent within each country and to stand as a token of Peace and Goodwill to the nations.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 67—OKANAGAN VALLEY MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION.

RE SHACK TOWNS, ETC.

Whereas on the borders of many Municipalities, there have sprung up considerable areas of small habitations, popularly known as "Shack Towns," and

Whereas such areas do not come up to the standards of construction or sanitation imposed by the adjacent municipality, and

Whereas such areas frequently have the most primitive sanitary arrangements and are a continued threat to the health of adjacent municipalities, who have spent considerable money and much effort to build up standards within their borders, and

Whereas in some cases, streams running through these areas often become polluted by lack of sanitation, and

Whereas such areas depreciate the property in adjacent areas within the municipality and defeat the effort of town planning and city beautification by both municipality and individuals;

Therefore be it resolved that such areas be compelled to conform to the standards of property adjacent to it within the borders of municipalities, and that these areas be under jurisdiction of a department of the Provincial Government, qualified to see such standards are conformed to, and permits to build be issued by such department and not by Provincial Police, and

Further be it resolved that immediate measures be taken to prevent the pollution of streams, particularly those that flow through built up areas.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 68—VILLAGE OF SMITHERS.

RE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, ETC.

Whereas the smaller organized communities in British Columbia are both by circumstances and legislation unable to levy funds for enquiry into projects which might not only be beneficial to their members but self supporting as well;

And whereas for this reason a large number of worthwhile projects such as water systems, sewage systems, electrification projects, parks, roads, and other projects which are contemplated by various communities are not initiated;

And whereas it is the manifest duty of this province to provide worthwhile post-war projects for the rehabilitation of our armed forces;

Be it therefore resolved that an independent consultative board be established by the Provincial Government comprised of skilled engineers whose duty it shall be to plan projects which are contemplated by organized municipalities in British Columbia, to estimate the costs of such projects, and to report on their merits;

And be it further resolved that this board shall send their representatives to any municipality for the aforementioned purposes at the request of the municipality and that the expenses of this board shall be paid from the consolidated revenue fund of the province and not by the municipality which requests the survey.

On recommendation of Rehabilitation Committee this Resolution WAS ADOPTED.

See page 39 &c.

No. 69—CITIES OF ROSSLAND AND TRAIL.

RE MILK ACT. Amended as follows:

Whereas the "Milk Act" being Chapter 173, R.S.B.C. 1936, and amendments thereto, is administered by the Minister of Agriculture and through Provincial Inspectors appointed under the said Act;

And whereas the "Health Act" is administered by the Provincial Board of Health through Provincial Health Officers and local Medical Health Officers of a Municipality;

And whereas the "Milk Act" provides for the appointment of Provincial Inspectors for the operation of the Act whose duties are to inspect the dairy premises and cattle of each dairy farmer and to allot a certificate in accordance with the condition of the said dairy farm classified as "A", "B" and "C" according to merits;

And whereas a dairy farm might be allotted a grade "A" certificate by the said Provincial Inspector but the milk actually produced and sold from such dairy farm might be unfit for human consumption as shown by tests performed by the Medical Health Officer;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities at its next convention recommend to the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia that legislation be brought down to amend the said "Milk Act" as follows:—

"Clause (e) of subsection (1) of Section 10 is amended by adding the following thereto:—

"And for prohibiting the sale or use for human consumption of milk from any source whenever a sample thereof is found to be below the standard of sanitary quality as set forth in regulations passed, pursuant to the 'Milk Act', dealing with the sanitary quality of milk, and as these may be amended from time to time, until such time as the medical health officer of the municipality is satisfied that the cause of contamination has been discovered and remedied."

Was on Motion referred to the Executive to take up with the Departments of Health and Agriculture.

No. 70 CITY OF ROSSLAND AND CITY OF TRAIL.

RE ADOPTION ACT

Whereas under Section 6 (4) of the "Adoption Act" Chapter 6, R.S.B.C. 1936, it is provided that no order of adoption shall be made unless the report of the Superintendent has been filed;

And whereas there is no time limit set in which the Superintendent should file his report, whereby long delay has frequently been caused, necessitating many adjournments of the hearing of the application in the Court and causing inconvenience and anxiety to the adopting parents, thus discouraging voluntary adoption;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities at its next convention recommend to the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia that legislation be brought down to amend the said "Adoption Act" as follows:—

"Subsection (3) of Section 6 is hereby repealed and re-enacted as follows:

"The Superintendent shall complete his investigation within six months from the time of being served with the Petition referred to in subsection (2) and shall forthwith file a written report thereon with the District Registrar of the Court and shall therein either recommend the granting of the application or its refusal, and in either case shall state the reasons for his recommendation."

"Subsection (4) of Section 6 is hereby amended by striking out the words "one year" at the end of the third line of the said subsection and substituting therefor the words "six months."

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 71—THE CITY OF ROSSLAND AND THE CITY OF TRAIL.

RE INFANTS ACT.

Whereas under the operation of the former Part 111 of the 'Infants Act' and the present Statute being "Protection of Children Act" Chapter 5, B.C. Statutes 1943, and the "Children of Unmarried Parents Act" Chapter 36, R.S.B.C. 1936, Municipalities have been compelled to bear the burden and expense of the maintenance of illegitimate children;

And whereas this burden has in many instances been unfairly imposed upon said Municipalities partly by reason of the inequitable manner in which the said Statutes are administered and partly by the condition of the legislation above referred to;

And whereas the present practice results in not only throwing the said maintenance costs upon Municipalities but also in infringing and encroaching upon previous legislation such as Part VI of the Criminal Code of Canada, and Section 5-21 of the "Equal Guardianship of Infants Act," and common law, which previous legislation has been intended to give infants the proper natural protection of their parent or parents;

And whereas the parent or parents under the present conditions above referred-to escape the long recognized responsibility and natural duties of parents and escape the liability of fulfilling the obligations placed upon them both by Statute and common law to protect their infant children, often with a result that a premium is placed on sexual immorality and it is not only condoned but encouraged;

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities at its next convention recommend to the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia that legislation be brought down to amend;

1. "The Protection of Children Act."

(a) by adding to Section 32 (1) thereof the following: Providing that no such Order shall be made unless the Children's Aid Society or Superintendent making the application prove to the satisfaction of the Judge that all reasonable efforts have been made to obtain all information possible concerning the putative father and show why an affiliation order against him has not been made, or an agreement entered into pursuant to Section 26 of the "Children of Unmarried Parents Act."

(b) by repealing and re-enacting Clause (k) of Section 7 as follows:

"Whose home by reason of neglect, cruelty, or depravity is an unfit place for the child, or who has no proper guardianship, or who has no parent capable of exercising proper parental control."

2. "The Children of Unmarried Parents Act"

(a) by inserting after the word "wedlock" in the third line of Section 4 the words "and with respect to the putative father of such child."

Was on Motion **ADOPTED**

No. 72—CHILLIWACK.

RE SUBDIVISION APPROVAL.

"That the powers of a Council under Section 60 of the "Municipal Act" be widened to provide that approval of a subdivision may be refused where the plan would establish a 'dead-end' road."

Was on Motion **ADOPTED IN PRINCIPLE** and referred to the Solicitor.

No. 73—CITY OF COURTENAY.

RE TAXATION IN EXTRA MUNICIPAL SCHOOL AREAS.

WITHDRAWN

No. 74—KENT.

RE JAPANESE.

Whereas a study of the history of the Japanese people in British Columbia, for the last half century discloses that:—

1. Rural Districts: With their capacity for multiplying and their desire to congregate together, they make a wholly Japanese colony out of some of our better rural districts, thereby making a blot on the country side and filling the schools to nearly one hundred per cent.

2. Fishing: In gaining control of the Fishing Industry and at the same time becoming so well acquainted with our coastal waters, they tend to create a potential menace as an organized spy ring.

3. Citizenship: It is impossible to absorb them into a common Canadian Race, as history has proven, and no matter where they may be they always hold allegiance to Japan.

Be it therefore resolved that in view of these and other findings we the Municipality Council of the Corporation of the District of Kent would ask the Union of B.C. Municipalities to request the Government of Canada that after this war **ALL JAPANESE BE DEPORTED TO JAPAN.**

On Motion **NO ACTION TAKEN**

No. 75—KENT

RE CORONERS' INQUESTS AND HOSPITAL CHARGES FOR "INDIANS."

Whereas a large portion of Indians of the British Columbia Indian Reserve Temporary leave their Reserve; and

Whereas, these Indians meet with **ACCIDENT** quite often now that so many have automobiles; and

Whereas in such cases the cost of hospital care and in the case of death, coroners' inquests amount to considerable sums; and

Whereas, Indians are a charge of the Dominion Government and pay no taxes;

Be it therefore resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to take such steps as will bring about the costs of inquest and hospital care in connection with Indians to be paid by the **DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.**

Was on the recommendation of the Committee.

ADOPTED IN PRINCIPLE

See Report on page 48.

No. 76—KENT.

RE MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES, THROUGH INDIAN RESERVES.

Whereas, Municipalities throughout the Province of British Columbia have large tracts of Indian Reserve Lands within the Municipal Limits; and

Whereas, these Indian Lands contribute nothing towards the Revenue of the Municipality; and

Whereas, it is necessary to construct roads and build bridges through these Reserves; and

Whereas, the Indians of the said reserves use these roads and bridges for hauling wood and logs cut for sale on the Reserves and do nothing towards the maintenance of these roads or bridges;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Union of B.C. Municipalities be requested to make application to the Department of Indian Affairs to bear at least a portion of the cost of maintenance on roads and bridges constructed by Municipalities through INDIAN RESERVES.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 77—KENT.

RE DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Whereas noxious weeds are becoming a serious problem for the individual farmer throughout the lower mainland of this Province; and

Whereas there are certain chemicals now that may be used for the destruction of weeds but owing to the cost of these materials it is beyond the means of the ordinary farmer to procure;

Be it therefore resolved that the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the District of Kent, request the Union of B.C. Municipalities to make application to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, to make available through his Department at a reasonable cost to the Farmer, such material as his Department would recommend, and that the distribution of such material be made through the District Agriculturists, and that the District Agriculturists make a survey of the NOXIOUS WEEDS and make available, the necessary control.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 78—KENT.

RE SOCIAL SERVICE COSTS.

Whereas Social Service costs are steadily increasing the taxation of lands; and

Whereas the greater portion of these costs are for the care of Wards of the Provincial Government;

Be it therefore resolved that the Municipal Council of Kent views with alarm these increased levies and would request that the Union of B.C. Municipalities take such steps as will have the Government take care of these costs.

On recommendation of the Rehabilitation Committee this was ADOPTED

See page 39 &c.

No. 79—KENT.

RE DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES ACT.

Whereas under the "Ditches and Watercourses Act" provision is not made whereby a ditch constructed under the Act can be reduced to size if any objection is made, making it a One Man Act; and

Whereas in all Government procedure a majority should rule; and

Whereas an additional Section should be added to the said Act (under maintenance) whereby the engineer may reduce the size of the original award of the ditch:

Be it therefore resolved that the application be made to the Union of B.C. Municipalities to have an additional Section added to the DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES ACT.

Section 50a. With the consent of three-fifths $\frac{3}{5}$ of the Assessed Value of Land and Property Owners within the Ditching Area: The ENGINEER may change the Original Award by REDUCING the size of the Ditch so Constructed; Provided always that the extent of the work and cost thereof and Assessment therefor shall not exceed the limitations imposed by Section SIX (6) of this Act.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 80.—CORPORATION OF DELTA.

RE HOUSING ACT, ETC.

Whereas under the provisions of the "Hospital Act" and the "Residence and Responsibility Act" Municipalities are called upon to pay the statutory charge of 70c per day for hospitalization;

And whereas the imposition of the charge of 70¢ per hospital day was made with the object of taking care of the losses of the hospitals in respect to treatment of a percentage of the general public who are unable to pay for their hospitalization;

And whereas the Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Vancouver General Hospital request the Municipalities to guarantee payments of accounts in full for patients admitted to such hospitals in addition to the hospitalization charge of 70¢ per hospital day;

Therefore be it resolved that this Convention request the Provincial Government to enact such amendments to the "Hospital Act" and or the "Residence and Responsibility Act" as may be necessary to clarify any interpretation respecting patients admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospitals.

Was on Motion NOT ENDORSED

No. 81—CITY OF PORT ALBERNI.

RE STANDARDS.

That the Dominion Government be requested to establish a Bureau of Manufacture and Standards. Said Bureau to have full power to set standards and maximum prices for all manufactured goods and that no person be permitted to manufacture, import or offer for sale any such goods unless and until said goods have been approved by the said bureau. The bureau to have full power to enforce penalties and to make regulations for the carrying out of its intentions.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 82—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE HOSPITALS.

Whereas the present method of municipal aid to Public Hospitals is unfair to those organized areas which maintain the said Hospitals in as much as a large proportion of the capital costs of providing such Hospitals is borne by the taxpayers of the municipal area in which the Hospital is situated and where the per diem assessment of 70 cents is also paid by such area;

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend the Hospital Act so as to provide that a more equitable share of the costs of maintaining Public Hospitals be borne by those areas which use the facilities of such Public Hospitals and do not maintain a Public Hospital within their own area.

On recommendation of Special Committee this Resolution was:

See page 48 for Report.

NOT ENDORSED

No. 83—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE DEATH DUTIES. Amended as follows:

Whereas Probate and Succession Duties are a lien against any land of a deceased person and are usually protected by the filing of a caveat against all the land of the deceased person which prevents a clear title of such land passing until such duties are paid;

And whereas such caveats are not usually filed until an application is made for Letters Probate or Administration which may not be for some time after the death of the owner;

And whereas in the meantime such land may be sold for taxes;

And whereas the filing of a caveat after a tax sale has taken place affects the title to the property sold;

Be it resolved that an amendment to the Succession Duty Act be requested which will provide that the filing of a caveat after a tax sale has taken place shall not affect the title to the land sold.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 84—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE CEMETERIES.

Whereas at the present time a Municipal Council is only empowered to accept, purchase, and hold land for public cemeteries;

And whereas it might be advantageous for a municipality to enter into an agreement with one or more Cemetery Companies for the purpose of establishing a public cemetery for the municipality;

Be it resolved that the Municipal Act be amended so as to empower a municipal council to enter into agreement for such purpose.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 85—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE CHILDREN.

Whereas the provisions of the "Protection of Children Act" compel a local area to provide for the maintenance charges of any child from that local area committed to the custody of a Children's Aid Society;

And whereas the parent or parents of such child may not have resided in the local area for some time and as a result many municipalities are charged for the maintenance of children who at the time of the committal are no longer residing within the municipality;

Be it resolved that the said Act be amended so as to provide that the maintenance charges for any child committed to the care of a Children's Aid Society should be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 86—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE INDIGENTS.

Dealt with See Resolution No. 26.

No. 87—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE EDUCATION.

Referred to Special Committee on Education.
For Report See Page 63-64

No. 88—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE CONTRCL OF DOGS. Amended as follows:

"Add as Clause 171a of Section 59 of the "Municipal Act" the following:-
171a. For prohibiting the keeping of more than two dogs in any house or other building or on any land within the Municipality and for prohibiting the use of any building or land within the Municipality for the keeping or housing of dogs for commercial purposes except as a hospital or infirmary for dogs.

For the purpose of the clause "dog" shall mean any animal of the canine species of over the age of four months. Nothing in this clause shall prohibit the keeping of dogs for guests or lodgers in any hotel, apartment house, or similar type of building."

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 89—NEW WESTMINSTER.

Also see No. 43. Amended as follows:—

Whereas it is desirable that all immigrants coming into the Dominion of Canada should within a reasonable time make known their intentions as to become citizens of the Dominion;

Be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to approach the Dominion Government through the Provincial authorities petitioning such amendments to the Naturalization Act of Canada as to provide for a physical, moral and intellectual test of all immigrants entering the country; also requiring such immigrant to declare his intentions within one year and a written or oral examination (within five years of entry) regarding Canadian forms of Government and Democratic ideals; also to swear allegiance to our Canadian Government as a requisite of Citizenship.

2. There should also be required that during the five year probation period a fair knowledge of the English language.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

No. 90—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE REHABILITATION.

Whereas in the planning for post-war rehabilitation it is essential that the municipalities of the Province of British Columbia should receive the co-operation and assistance of the Dominion Government;

And whereas to properly plan such rehabilitation it is necessary that the municipalities should be advised clearly and in some detail what type and the extent of the assistance which will be forthcoming from the Dominion Government;

Be it resolved that the Dominion and Provincial Governments be urged to make known at the earliest possible moment the type of public or other work which they are prepared to assist in financing and the extent to which that assistance will be forthcoming.

On Recommendation of Rehabilitation Committee this was ADOPTED
See Page 43.

No. 91—NEW WESTMINSTER.

RE AIR PORTS.

Whereas the Aeronautical Institute of Canada is interested in the establishing of airports throughout the Dominion with a view to post-war communications;

And whereas it is in the interests of the Municipalities of the Province that air ports should be established in centres which will serve the maximum of the population and where facilities are available;

Be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities go on record as being willing to co-operate with the said institute in establishing air ports in such locations throughout the Province as will best serve the interests of the respective local communities.

Was on Motion ADOPTED

Your Committee on Mutual Insurance Reports as follows:-

When your Executive met the Cabinet early this year we again took up the matter of Municipal Insurance, but the stand of the Provincial Government remains the same, i.e., that this matter must be left over until after the War.

We have a written promise from the Government that the rate reductions enjoyed by Municipalities will be protected, and should an effort be made to increase the rates we can reopen the question at once without waiting for the War to end. Protected by this promise we feel that little more can be done at the present time.

Since our last Convention we have gathered a lot more information regarding Insurance as it affects Public Institutions.

A great deal was gleaned from a Brief prepared by the City of Edmonton from which I propose to quote.

QUOTE:-

We recommend that this Committee continue its work and be ready to press its claims on the Provincial Government immediately the War is over.

The Mayors and Municipalities Conference dealt with this subject and have authorized the Executive to investigate its possibilities. While a Dominion wide Company has some advantages we feel that there are many disadvantages as well, mainly the poorer risks that are to be found in the older settled communities of the East. Many of the buildings are very old and were built long before Canadian Fire Protective Laws reached their present high standard.

We find that in B.C. our Insurance record is about the best in Canada, I refer to Public Risks, thus we feel that such profits derived from the premiums collected should accrue for the benefit of the Taxpayer. It is

he who has brought about this favourable condition by supporting his Fire Brigade, accepting a rigid inspection of all fire risks and contributing through taxation towards all forms of Fire Protection.

Respectfully submitted,
O.L. JONES.

On Motion the Report was Received.

THE CONVENTION ADJOURNED TILL 2 p.m. SEPTEMBER 13th.

Special Education Committee Reported as follows:—

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NELSON, B.C. September 13, 1944.

Report on Committee on Educational and other Financial matters for adoption by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities;

1. We submit that a petition should be submitted to the Legislative Assembly and resolutions passed in accordance with drafts herewith;
2. We note with appreciation the statement of the Hon. the Premier made to the Legislature on February 7th. 1944 that "the Government now proposes to hold an exhaustive inquiry into the cost of education and all other fields of municipal endeavour and responsibility";
3. We request the Provincial Government to proceed with such inquiry as speedily as possible;
4. We repeat our declaration that no part of the cost of education should be furnished by a direct school tax on real property, and that the cost should become a charge on the consolidated revenue of the Province;
5. We affirm that the Dominion of Canada should participate to a large extent in the costs of education.

On Motion the Report was ADOPTED

In the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia.
Session 1945:

To the Honourable Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia in Parliament Assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the undersigned representatives of the Union of Municipalities of British Columbia and the undersigned Municipalities.

SHOWETH as follows:

- (1) That the property owners in the Municipalities of British Columbia

Are unduly and inequitably taxed for the costs of education.

- (2) That education costs have little or no relation to the ownership of real property.
- (3) That education costs have progressively risen in the Province and while the Municipalities pay a major part of such costs they have practically no control over the expenditures.
- (4) That the Municipalities derive the greater part of their revenue from real property thus causing the inequities mentioned in clause (1) hereof.
- (5) That where income is confined largely to taxation on real property inequities cannot be avoided but taxing authorities having wider taxing powers can avoid such inequities.
- (6) That the Province has many sources of revenue which are not available to the Municipalities.
- (7) That Provincial income has risen in much greater proportion than Municipal income.
- (8) That where investigations have been held in this Province the unanimous finding has been that taxation for school purposes should be revised.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly adopt as a principle that the educational system of the Province should be revised and further that it be stated as a principle that the cost of such system should be a direct responsibility of the Province.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

Dated this day of 1945.

Moved and seconded.

"That this Union of British Columbia Municipalities associate itself with the presentation of a petition to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia in respect of the educational system of the Province, as set forth in the draft hereto attached, and that the President and the Secretary of this Union be authorized to sign the same on behalf of the Union."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED AND SECONDED

"That the petition to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia approved by the Convention be presented at the next session of the said Legislative Assembly, after the signing thereof by Municipalities associating themselves therewith."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded

"That in the event of its being determined by Mr. Speaker that introduction of our Petition by a Private Member is not permissible for the reason that it contravenes the rules of the House, that the Hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs be respectfully requested to introduce the subject matter of our Petition for consideration of the members of the Legislative Assembly at the next Session."

CARRIED

Moved and Seconded:

Whereas during recent years changing and fluctuating responsibilities have been imposed upon Municipalities by the Provincial Government;

And Whereas these burdens have been imposed without the consent of the Municipalities and bear no relationship to the ability of the Municipalities to absorb them:

And Whereas the Municipal income having remained static, these added burdens have had to be met by neglecting Roads, Sewers and Health Services.

And Whereas in spite of this static income condition these conditions have been further aggravated by the withdrawal by the Government of grants from profits and pari mutoel and the imposition of higher educational and social service costs.

And Whereas the Municipalities feel that they have reached the peak of their ability to meet these costs and that this burden precludes them from entertaining any idea of participating in Post War schemes.

Therefore, in justice to Municipal taxpayers and on their behalf we demand an immediate conference with the Government to adjust our various taxable fields and other pressing matters pertaining to our various responsibilities.

CARRIED

No. 91a.

Resolutions from Cities of COURTENAY AND NELSON.

RE ELECTRICITY ETC.

Moved and Seconded:

"That the Provincial Government be requested to refrain from the expropriation of Municipally owned or operated public Utilities, without previous conference with the Municipalities concerned.

CARRIED

91 B.

Moved and Seconded:

Whereas some Municipalities have paid the Provincial Government the amount due under the contracts under the "Better Housing Act" although default was made by the returned soldiers, and the contracts abandoned by him.

Be it Resolved that where a Municipality has paid the Provincial Government the amount of a contract under the "Better Housing Act" and all other pertinent requirements of the Act have been complied with, that the Government allow the Municipality a rebate of Three Hundred (\$300) dollars for each house paid for under the Contract.

CARRIED

No. 92.

Resolution of the CITY OF KIMBERLEY.

RE POLL TAX COLLECTION ETC. Section 303 etc.

Was on Motion Referred to the Solicitor

No. 93.

Moved and Seconded:

"That this Convention re-affirm Resolution No. 63 as passed. (1943)
The said Resolution being as follows:—

Whereas All Hospitals object to keeping Aged and Infirm Cases.

And Whereas All Provincial Homes for such people are overcrowded.

And Whereas the average cost to send a patient to Vancouver or Victoria is around \$70.00.

And whereas it is obvious that accommodation for taking care of Aged and Infirm Persons is desirable.

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial Government be respectfully requested to provide accommodation in this District for Aged and Infirm Cases in the Kootenays.

CARRIED

No. 94.

Moved and seconded:

That Whereas: Sub-Section 2 of Section 248 of the Municipal Act provides that any Water Rates outstanding on December 31st. are to be deemed arrears and that the total of such rates are to be added to and be deemed to form part of the taxes due upon any land or lands and improvements or upon which the water has been supplied or used.

And Whereas: Sub-Section 4 provides that notice is to be served upon the owner of every parcel of land or lands and improvements in the Municipality with respect of which rates are in arrears for a period of three months. But there is no interpretation of arrears except in Sub-Section 2 and owing to the fact that the Water Rates By-Laws of Municipalities are not uniform in that some make water rates payable annually, some quarterly and others monthly, it is not clear if notices should be served annually or monthly.

Therefore be it resolved: That Sub Section 4 of Section 248 of Chapter 199 be amended by substituting the words:

"It shall be the duty of every Municipality to cause notice to be served on or before March 31st. in each year upon the owner of every parcel of land or lands and improvements within the Municipality with respect to which such rates are in arrears as defined in Sub-Section 2.

And further: That Sub-Section 5 be amended by adding the following words, "which has been added to taxes" after the word "Thereof", in the second line of said sub-section."

CARRIED

Letter from Journeymen Barbers' Hairdressers and Cosmelologists Union read re CLOSING FULL DAY ON PETITION ETC.

Moved and Seconded "That no action be taken"

CARRIED

Moved and Seconded "That the Executive be the Committee to meet the Provincial Government in any discussion on relations etc.

CARRIED

Letter from BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION FIRE
FIGHTERS Read as follows:—

Vancouver, B.C. 22nd. August 1944

Mr. R.F. Sewell, Secretary of B.C. Municipalities,
576 Obed Avenue,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

This is to inform you that this Association together with the Vancouver Civic Federation, The B.C. Joint Council and other employee groups interested in the B.C. Municipal Superannuation Act will seek at the next sitting of the B.C. Legislature to have more liberal allowances granted under the Act. As the policy of the government demands that the B.C. Municipalities shall have an opportunity to consider the requests of any group who may seek legislation which would affect the municipalities please accept this as the notice of our intentions.

We intend to ask that retiring allowances be increased sufficiently to permit a superannuant to live in reasonable comfort. We contend that the principle of superannuation is that when an employee has spent the greater part of his working life in the service of an employer and reaches the time when by reason of age, sickness or accident he can no longer fulfill the duties of his position that an allowance be then made suitable to keep him or her for the rest of his or her life. A glance at the list of superannuants allowances show that such is not the case with present allowances.

We submit that the experiences of the past five years will show that generally higher wages and also superannuants who, by reason of working in other jobs have forfeited their allowances for some time, will have increased the fund and reduced indebtedness to where a better deal can be given. Further that what might be called the social costs of the Act, that is the part of the employees contribution used as insurance against his early retirement by reason of accident or sickness should be borne by the provincial government as it is relieved of the responsibility that it has for a citizen who is not covered by superannuation and becomes indigent for those reasons. Further that some contribution should be sought from the Dominion Government since by reason of the employee and employer assuming the responsibility of his financial welfare they are freed of the responsibility for providing old age pensions which they bear for other citizens. We also wish assurance that contributors rates will not be reduced until an adequate pension is assured. There are other particular matters such as the drastic cuts on widows pensions when a member dies before reaching the minimum retiring age.

We will have someone present at the Convention who will be pleased to explain further the changes that we consider necessary to make the Act fulfil the place that was intended for it at its inception.

Yours Respectfully,

M.O. HOWELL, Sec. Treas.
B.C. Prov. Ass'n of Firefighters.

Moved and Seconded:

That the letter be referred to the Executive and a copy sent to all Municipalities. **CARRIED**

Moved and Seconded:

"That the Executive appoint a Committee on Constitutions" **CARRIED**

Moved and Seconded:

"That the Executive make a recommendation for appointment to the Board of Examiners re Municipal Officers." **CARRIED**

Moved and Seconded:

That the Resolutions Committee be thanked and discharged" **CARRIED**

Moved and Seconded:

"That the time and place of the next Convention be left to the Executive" **CARRIED**

Elections being in order, Scrutineers were appointed as follows:—

Comptroller Jones — Vancouver.

Clerk Davenport — Maple Ridge.

Clerk Bradley — Port Alberni.

Moved and Seconded "That in the event of a tie the Scrutineers have the casting vote" **CARRIED**

Moved and Seconded:

"That the person securing the highest number of votes shall be elected" **CARRIED**

The Elections resulted as follows:—

President—Ald. John Bennett Vancouver
First Vice-President—Mayor N.C. Stibbs Nelson
Second Vice-President—Mayor W.C. Hamilton Port Alberni
Solicitor—Harry J. Sullivan, K.C. New Westminster
Secretary—R.R.F. Sewell 576 Obed Avenue, Victoria B.C.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Mayor V.B. Harrison Past President	Nanaimo
Commissioner A.D. McRae	Mission
Ald. O.L. Jones	Kelowna
Reeve J.T. Brown	Surrey
Reeve A. Hope	Langley
Reeve R.M. Grauer	Richmond
Ald. C. Jones	Vancouver
Mayor W.M. Mott	New Westminster
Mayor G.R. Williams	Kamloops
Mayor J.E. Gordon	Rossland

Moved and Seconded:

"That Past President, Mayor V.B. Harrison be made a Life Member of this Union"

CARRIED

Moved and Seconded:

"That a hearty vote of thanks be given to The Ladies and the City of Nelson"

CARRIED

Moved and Seconded:

"That a vote of thanks be given to the Civic Employees of the City of Nelson"

CARRIED

Moved and Seconded:

"That a vote of thanks be extended to the Press"

CARRIED

"GOD SAVE THE KING"

The Convention then adjourned.

Certified correct,

R.R.F. SEWELL,
Secretary.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION OF B.C. MUNICIPALITIES

1. NAME—The Union shall be known as the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

2. OBJECTS—The Union of British Columbia Municipalities is a body formed for the purpose of representing in one organization the various Municipalities of the Province of British Columbia.

The objects of the Union shall be:

- (a) To secure united action in dealing with municipal affairs.
- (b) To co-operate with other organizations in dealing with matters under Federal jurisdiction.
- (c) To discuss and to deal with all problems of Municipal Government and Municipal Taxation.
- (d) To secure united action for the protection of individual municipalities and of municipal interests as a whole against Legislative or other encroachments.
- (e) To acquire, assimilate and distribute amongst the members, statistics, enactments, results of judicial findings and other general information that may be deemed of value to the members.
- (f) To hold meetings for promoting the above objects and for creating and fostering a fraternal spirit among those engaged in municipal work.

3. MEMBERS—

- (a) The membership shall consist of all Municipalities of British Columbia that make application to join the Union and pay the annual fee.

4. OFFICERS—

- (a) The officers of the Union shall be President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, and they shall be elected annually at the Annual Convention.

5. PARLIAMENTARY AGENT—

- (a) The Union may employ a Parliamentary Agent whose appointment shall be made, and whose remuneration shall be fixed by the Union in Convention. Nevertheless, it shall be competent for the Union, by a majority of votes, to delegate this power to the Executive.

6. EXECUTIVE—

(a) There shall be an Executive, which shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, 2nd. Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, the immediate Past President (provided he retains his position as an elected member of a Municipal Council), one representative of Village Municipalities to be nominated and elected at the Annual Convention, and eight others. These eight members shall be elected at the annual convention from among the delegates, preferably, but shall automatically cease to be members of the Executive on relinquishing municipal office.

(b) In the event of a vacancy in any office, or in the Executive, occurring during the year, it shall be competent for the President to nominate a council member with experience as a delegate to fill the vacancy.

7. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE—

(a) The Executive shall have the power and it shall be its duty to put into effect the will of the Union as expressed by resolution at any of its meetings. Between meetings it shall manage the affairs of the Union and shall report all the transactions of the year to the Annual Convention.

(b) The President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings.

(c) The Executive may appoint sub-committees, from within, and may delegate to such sub-committees, such powers as may be necessary for the proper carrying out of the duties delegated to the Executive by the Union.

(d) The Executive shall define the duties of the Parliamentary Agent and the Secretary-Treasurer.

(e) The Executive may confer and vote by correspondence for all ordinary expenditure.

(f) The Executive shall fix the fees of the members.

(g) It shall take six members of the Executive to form a quorum.

(h) The Executive shall meet immediately prior to each Convention and shall be responsible for preparing the programme.

(i) The Executive shall have power to fix a suitable remuneration for the Secretary-Treasurer and to incur such ordinary expenditure as may be necessary for the proper carrying out of its duties.

8. REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTIONS—

(a) The member paying the lowest annual fee shall be entitled to two delegates as representatives at the Convention; other members shall be entitled to two delegates plus one delegate for each additional complete \$25.00 paid. There shall be no more than six delegates from any one municipality.

9. CONVENTIONS—

(a) The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at all Conventions.

(b) One general meeting shall be held every year, which shall be known as the Annual Convention.

(c) Other general meetings may be called at any time by a three-fourths majority vote of the Executive.

(d) The place at which the next Annual Convention shall be held shall be decided at the Annual Convention, but the date shall be fixed by the Executive, who shall, in writing, give to members forty-two days' notice of such date.

10. SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AT CONVENTION—

(a) All matters for discussion at any convention shall be forwarded to the Secretary at least one month before the date set for the meeting of the Convention.

(b) The list of subjects, including the resolutions submitted by the members, shall be forwarded to all members at least fourteen days before the Convention meets.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, it shall be competent for any member of any Convention, to put forward any motion, which, if duly seconded, shall be dealt with as follows: The President shall put the question "shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for discussion?" and it shall require a three-fifths majority vote in favor of the question before the motion can be put. Should the question be decided in the negative, the motion shall, if the mover so desires, be referred to the Resolutions Committee.

11. HONORARY DELEGATES—

(a) Persons who have held Municipal office may be appointed by the Executive as honorary delegates. Honorary delegates shall have the privilege of the floor but shall not be entitled to vote.

(b) All Past Presidents shall be honorary delegates.

12. COMMITTEES—

- (a) It shall be the duty of the President to nominate all committees
- (b) Except during the Convention, fourteen days' notice shall be given of a meeting of any committee; provided, however, that such notice may be waived with the unanimous consent of the committeemen.

13. GENERAL—

- (a) It shall be the duty of all members to notify the Secretary-Treasurer of any action they propose to take that may in any way affect Municipal legislation.
- (b) The fiscal year of the Union shall terminate on the 31st. of July and all accounts shall be closed at that date.

14. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

- (a) Resolutions for amendments to the Constitution shall be referred to the Constitution Committee.
- (b) It shall require a three-fifths majority vote to adopt an amendment to the Constitution.

15. RULES OF PROCEDURE—

- (a) The Rules of Procedure shall be Parliamentary Rules of Procedure generally accepted in the Province of British Columbia.

