

# WANT ALIEN ENEMIES' HOMESTEAD ENTRIES STOPPED DURING THE WAR

Resolutions by Union of Manitoba Municipalities Asking Action by Dominion Authorities Roundly Endorsed—Protest Against Employment of Weed Inspectors for Five Full Months—Urge Literacy Test for Candidates for Municipal Offices—Income Tax Urged—Taxation of Income-Deriving Church Property Proposed

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A long string of resolutions were rushed through at the closing session of the fifteenth annual convention of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities on Thursday evening, and following the election of the executive, and resolutions of thanks to the City of Brandon, the railway companies, the press and all who had contributed to make the sessions a success, the delegates dispersed to meet again in Winnipeg, where it was decided that the annual meetings of 1917 will be held.

The executive officers elected were: Reeve Ivens, of Wallace; Reeve Willis, Morton; Mayor Arundel, Stonewall; Reeve Wilson, St. Vital; Reeve McColl, Assiniboine; Ald. Davidson, Winnipeg and Reeve Haddow of Rosser.

Over fifty resolutions were discussed at the meetings and there was a sufficiently busy next session of the Manitoba Legislature a very busy one if an attempt is made to put half the requirements of the municipalities into legislative effect. One of the last strokes of business done at the convention was to instruct the executive to pay \$200 of the funds of the Union to the British Sailors' Relief Fund.

Reeve Sutherland, of Rockwood, who was on his feet more than any other delegate at the convention made a hit when he submitted a resolution calling upon the Dominion Government to close all homestead entries to alien enemies during the duration of the war. "It will seem strange," he said "that when our boys are away fighting for those very properties, they will come back to find that the lands have been given to our alien enemies. Our soldier boys will want that land and it is for us to see that it is kept for them until they come home."

The motion was carried with a thunderous "Yea."

Interesting discussion took place both in committee and in open convention when a resolution was considered re the testing of qualifications of candidates for municipal offices. It transpired that foreign residents were liable to become members of municipal bodies without being able to do more than write their names. One delegate remarked that he knew men in good business circles in Brandon who could not write their own names. A Winnipeg delegate went one better by stating that he knew that one of the most successful business men in Winnipeg who was unable to write his name. The delegates were at a difficulty in deciding by whom the test of writing from dictation should be applied or whether before, during or after election.