

Incorporated

THE SANITARY INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

Monthly Bulletin.

July 1931.

Vol. 4.

No. 7.

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Notes on proposed Incorporation of the Association
under a Dominion Charter.

This was strongly urged by Mr. John F. C. B. Vance, Vice-President for B. C. at the Convention held at Winnipeg last year. The matter was laid over for further consideration and the Executive Council instructed to obtain as much information as possible and report to the next Convention. The Executive Council did obtain more information and intended to compile the same and send a copy to each member. It was found however, that this would cost a considerable sum, and in view of the finances it was decided to condense the matter and publish it in the Bulletin.

The views of our members in B.C. who are sponsors for this proposal that we should become Incorporated were set forth by Mr. Vance at the last Convention. He urged that Incorporation be proceeded with at once before the adoption of the revised Constitution. Apparently the B.C. Branch has not seen fit to take up with the Royal Sanitary Institute the question of the appointment of an Examination Board in that Province, or rather of re-organizing the Board already supposed to exist, but which is inactive. The result is that Sanitary Inspectors in that Province are not able to sit for examination and obtain qualifying certificates. Mr. Vance stated that there were candidates waiting in Vancouver. It was brought out in the discussion

that what the B.C. members have in mind is to make the Association into a Professional Institute along the lines of the Architects, Surveyors, Civil Engineers, and other similar Associations, and that this Association should appoint or cause to be appointed an Examination Board which shall examine all members and prospective members, and issue certificates of proficiency and membership. This, Mr. Vance thought could be done by becoming Incorporated under a Dominion Charter. If necessary or thought advisable, Charters might also be obtained in each Province where the Association has a Branch, from the Governments of such Provinces. In this way, it was urged, the Association and the members thereof would be materially raised in the estimation of Health Authorities and of the general public, and that we should be able when so Incorporated to insist on the appointment of only fully qualified men as full-time Sanitary Inspectors. Mr. Vance suggested that the subscription fee should be raised to \$5.00 per annum and that it would be worth while to the members to do this. Even an increase to \$4.00 would, he said, help. The cost of obtaining a Dominion Charter (estimated at \$265.00 approx.) would be provided for if the annual subscription fee were raised. Mr. W.C. Millar, Chief Sanitary Inspector for Ontario, said that he did not think the Ontario members would vote for an increase in the membership fee. The President pointed out our small membership--about 140--and thought that we should at least double our number before attempting Incorporation. Mr. Arkle of St. James moved, seconded by Mr. Sime of Fort William:--"That the Executive Council obtain as much information as possible and report to the next Convention, in the meantime the full membership to be consulted either direct or through the Branches." Mr. Vance moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. McQuillan of Winnipeg;--"That the matter of Incorporation be proceeded with at once." Mr. Cartlidge of Moose Jaw thought there might be something in the idea of Incorporation but expressed the need for further information before the Saskatchewan members could vote on the matter. Mr. Allan, Branch Secy. for Saskatch-

ewan took up the matter of the Association becoming an Examining Body. He pointed out that in Saskatchewan the Royal Sanitary Institute Board is working satisfactorily. On the question being put, the amendment favouring immediate action was defeated and the motion instructing the Executive to inquire further was carried by a very large majority. The cost of a Dominion Charter is estimated at \$265.00. The question is whether this would be sufficient for the purpose. The idea of the B.C. Branch evidently is that possession of a Dominion Charter would enable the Association to demand in each Province that only fully qualified persons--possibly only members of the Association--should in future be appointed as Sanitary Inspectors anywhere in Canada. On this point the Executive obtained advice from a K.C. in Winnipeg who pointed out that whilst a Dominion Charter is paramount, any Society or Corporation doing business under such a Charter is still subject to regulation by the Government of any Province in which it is carrying on business. We thus find that other Societies such as the Architects, Civil Engineers, Land Surveyors, Chartered Accountants, etc., in addition to their Dominion Charter have also Provincial Charters or are subject to special Acts of the Provincial Legislatures. If therefore in addition to obtaining a Dominion Charter it became necessary to obtain Provincial Charters or Acts in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, it will be seen that the expense on our small membership would be prohibitive. The K.C. above mentioned also pointed out that the Accountants, Surveyors and other professions mentioned above consist of men who are in business and hold themselves out as competent in their respective callings. The Acts of the Provincial Legislatures respecting these Associations are Public Acts and were passed to protect the public and to enable them to have confidence in employing men of these professions. The case of the Sanitary Inspector, he says, is different. He is a Civil Servant employed either by Provincial or Municipal Authorities. If then this Association can obtain recognition from the various Governments in the form of definitions in the various Public Health Acts

of a qualified Sanitary Inspector, and a further requirement that none but properly qualified Sanitary Inspectors shall be appointed, this would accomplish our ends. We could not, he says, by virtue of a Dominion Charter impose any obligation on Provincial or Municipal Authorities to employ none but qualified Inspectors or only members of the Association. The Saskatchewan Health Officials Association consisting of various kinds of Public Health workers in that Province appointed a special committee to look into the question of incorporation. From the report of this committee we quote the following: "The question of Incorporation of the Association does not appear to be of any value under the B. S. Act, at a cost of \$10.00 other than the right to hold property in the Association's name, and neither does it appear to give the right to grant diplomas. The only other procedure for Incorporation is by Private Bill in the Legislature which might cost anything from \$200.00 to \$300.00. If the Association is willing to consummate this, diplomas could be issued under the authority of the Act but it is doubtful whether the Legislature would be willing to pass such legislation prohibiting other than certificated Inspectors holding the position of Sanitary Inspectors or Officers. The Provinces of Canada and all the overseas Dominions appear to recognize the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Scottish Association, but the certificate does not appear to be a compulsory requirement generally." The Association voted against Incorporation at the present time. There are many other points on which we would like to touch but our space is used up. The Executive Council is not opposed to Incorporation provided that the step is shown to be practicable but with our present membership this does not seem to be the case. Neither when the time is opportune does it object to this Association becoming an Examining Body and issuing diplomas. However, the whole matter will be discussed and voted on at the Convention in August. We invite the members who cannot attend the Convention to write the Secretary giving their view of the matter.