

President:
E. W. J. HAGUE, Winnipeg
Vice-Presidents:
Quebec—
A. R. WHITE, Montreal
Ontario—
H. McINTYRE, Kirkland
Lake
Manitoba—
B. C. BROUGH, Winnipeg
Saskatchewan—
H. G. BUCK, Saskatoon
Alberta—
J. BEWICK, Calgary
British Columbia—
J. F. C. B. VANCE, Vancouver

The
Sanitary Inspectors' Association
of Canada

Secretary-Treasurer—ALEX. OFFICER

Executive Council:
PRESIDENT,
SECRETARY-TREASURER,
A. RIGBY, IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENTS, and
S. J. SCHEVING,
B. DAVIES,
A. BARCLAY,
F. C. AUSTIN.

Health Department, City Hall,

Winnipeg, Man., May 20th, 1930.

J. F. C. B. Vance, Esq.,
Vice-President for B.C.,
Vancouver, B.C..

Dear Sir:

I received Mr. Skinner's letter of April 26th in which was enclosed your letter of April 24th, regarding the matter of obtaining a Dominion Charter for our Association.

This matter was considered as far back as March 1920, and for your information I enclose a copy of a letter received at that time from Mr. Francis H. Chrysler, K.C., of Ottawa, on the subject. This legal advice was obtained on instruction, after this course had been suggested, and some of our members were of the opinion that some advantage might be gained by obtaining a Charter.

The Executive reported on this matter to a subsequent meeting of the Association held at Ottawa in 1921 and it was allowed to drop, largely on account of the expense involved, which the Association was not in a position to meet, and is not even yet.

What particular advantages would accrue to the Association by incorporation has however never been clearly set forth by those advocating such a step; nor does your letter attempt to do so. A Charter might possibly give the Association a better legal standing and perhaps some added superiority in the eyes of the Public. In 1920 it was felt that we still had a good deal of educational and organization work to do before taking this step. Just what more we could do as a chartered Association than we can under the present constitution has never been made clear.

Mr. Skinner's letter refers to the "establishment of a purely Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors with a view to placing public health officials on a professional basis." Your Executive has omitted no opportunity, (notably with the Alberta

and Saskatchewan Government) of advocating the grading of Sanitary Inspectors as technical experts.

We do not think however that at the present time, and in view of the low professional standing of so many Sanitary Inspectors in Canada, the lack of qualifications, and the hap-hazard way in which men without any education and training on the lines which our association is working for are, or have been until recently, given employment as Sanitary Inspectors, we could hope to establish a professional Institute requiring a high standard of technical ability such as for instance the Engineering Institute of Engineers, or the Institute of Architects, or by means of a Charter to try to prevent Sanitary Inspectors not connected with such an institute from obtaining or holding appointments.

Our first aim has rather been to bring all Sanitary Inspectors into our organization, not even excluding those who are backward and not studious; and then by means of education to so raise the standard that we may eventually be able to establish an Association or Institute fully equal to those of other Societies requiring professional qualifications. This work is slow, but we have without doubt made progress in the direction indicated since 1920 when incorporation was first mooted. There is however much yet to be accomplished.

In any event any move to obtain incorporation should be taken by the membership as a whole after the matter has been fully discussed at an Annual Convention.

If the members of the B. C. Branch knew how difficult it is to obtain the united support of all the Sanitary Inspectors in Canada they might revise their ideas as to rushing this matter of incorporation.

For instance, you are aware that until a few years ago we had little or no standing in B. C.. Then, quite suddenly as it seemed, your Branch became quite active and increased greatly in numbers much to the delight of members in other Provinces who had kept the Association alive during the dull war, and post-war years. We still have to obtain a footing in Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces.

The further West one goes in Canada the more do we find a progressive spirit developed, and an impatience at slow development. The Executive Council however would rather deal with live Branches which are evidently devoting some consideration to the Welfare and future progress of the Association than with Branches which lie more or less dormant between conventions.

Perhaps if the ^{Head} Health Office were moved to Vancouver for a time the responsibility thus given would convince your members of some of the difficulties involved. We must carry the Eastern members with us, and they are certainly hard to move.

for
We do stand however a strong, united Association for the whole of Canada. The only question is how best to obtain it as quickly as possible.

Fairly strong Provincial Associations might be, in fact are, being formed but these cannot be as effective as a Canadian Association.

The Executive is prepared to bring this matter before the forthcoming Annual Convention in September for discussion, and hopes that those who advocate this step so strongly will produce some strong arguments in favor of incorporation.

The question of Canadian examinations and certificates is another matter. Some of our members are in favour of purely Canadian certificates; others are satisfied with the present system.

As you know from the Bulletin an attempt was made recently to interest the various Provincial Governments in this matter through the Dominion Council of Health (See Bulletins of April, May, September, and Dec. 1929 and February 1930). Owing probably to lack of support from the Deputy Ministers of Health of the Eastern Provinces the scheme was not at that time adopted.

The matter cannot rest there indefinitely however, and no doubt it will again be brought forward. Now we have no brief for the Royal Sanitary Institute, but it might be pointed out that it is at present the only body conducting examinations for Sanitary Inspectors in Canada. The certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute is not an English certificate, but British, as the Institute, which is the foremost of its kind in the British Empire has been the pioneer for 50 years in Public Health work. Its certificates are recognised all over the Empire. In Canada the questions are set, the examinations conducted, and the decision as to whether any candidate shall pass or fail are made by the Boards of Examiners in the various provinces and these Boards are composed of Canadians of standing in the field of Public Health work.

However if our members feel that there should be an entirely Canadian Board to conduct examinations and grant certificates this should not prove impossible to obtain, but the matter should first be fully discussed by the whole membership.

Any Examination Board or Boards thus set up however must be composed of men at least fully equal in professional standing to that of the men on existing boards of the R.S.I.

This Association has already power to establish an examination Board of its own, but it is questionable whether it is at all advisable to do so. The value of any certificate or diploma depends largely on the ability and standing of the examiners composing such board. They should be men of such outstanding ability that employing authorities and the public will have confidence in their findings. In our opinion therefore an Examination Board for Sanitary Inspectors should not be composed of Sanitary Inspectors alone, although without doubt Sanitary Inspectors should be represented on such boards.

The English Sanitary Inspectors' Association with 2500 members, after having an Examination Board, holding examinations and awarding certificates for many years, has recently discontinued the same, and the only qualifications now accepted for new appointments of Sanitary Inspectors in England and Wales is the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board appointed by the Ministry of Health, which includes representatives of the Government, the R.S.I., the Universities, The Medical Health Officers, and the Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

The Sanitary Inspectors' Association cheerfully dis-continued holding their examinations because they knew the profession was being given a much higher standing under the new system.

It is something of this kind which we need in Canada, but because of the nine separate Provinces, each with its own views and customs this may not be easy to attain.

This subject also will be brought before the Convention at Winnipeg, and if the B. C. Branch has any views on this matter that is the place to advance them. The decision does not rest with the Executive Council as you seen to think.

This letter is perhaps unduly long, but we felt that it was well to make you acquainted with some of the difficulties involved.

If each Province went ahead and got its R.S.I. Examination Board into working order, it would perhaps be much easier to arrange eventually for the amalgamation of these as a Dominion Board.

It may be mentioned that since this letter was commenced Mr. Hague, who is Hon. Secretary of the Examination Board for Manitoba, has received a letter from the Secretary of the Royal Sanitary Institute enclosing a copy of a letter which is being sent to some 400 Sanitary Inspectors in Canada, together with a prospectus of the Examinations.

Your Executive has been in correspondence for some time with the Institute, as you know from the Bulletin. It is evident from the terms of the letter that the Royal Sanitary Institute, probably through the initiative of our own Association, is making a strong effort to get all Sanitary Inspectors in Canada interested in the matter of better facilities for training and examination. Your Executive feels that we should not at the present time do anything to discourage this effort now being made by the Royal Sanitary Institute but should rather seek in every way to take advantage of and encourage it.

Yours truly,

Assoc. Officer

Secretary-Treasurer.

Encl.

(COPY)

FRANCIS H. CHRYSLER, K. C.,
CENTRAL CHAMBERS
OTTAWA, CANADA.

March 9, 1920.

Alexander Officer, Esq.,
City Hall,
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Sir,-

The Sanitary Inspectors' Assn.

I have your letter of the 4th of March and I think there should be no difficulty in the above Association obtaining a charter of incorporation under The Companies Act of Canada as amended by the Companies Act Amendment Act, 1917. Under section 4 of that Act the following provision is made -

"When the application is made for the creation of a corporation to carry on in more than one province in Canada, without pecuniary gain, objects of a national, patriotic, religious, philanthropic, etc. character, or the like -"

Application may be made and a charter may be granted subject to the conditions set forth in that section with which I have no doubt your Association will be able to comply.

I have obtained Letters Patent incorporating the Official Bureau of Railway Time Service, under this Act last year.

My recollection is that the amount of fee payable to the Department is the sum of \$100, and I think the fee for services of a solicitor should be not less than \$150, for the preparation of the papers and obtaining the patent, say \$250 in all. In addition there is the cost of advertising in the Gazette which should be about \$15.

If you find, upon examining Section 4 that there is any difficulty in fitting your proposed incorporation within the lines of this section, your Association will have to apply for an Act of Parliament which will be much more expensive.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) F. H. Chrysler