

"BNA Act Now Obsolete" Says Speaker

The BNA Act in its philosophy as well as form and content reflect Canada as a rural, non-urban society based on a farming economy recently emerged from Colonial status, said Peter Oberlander of the University of British Columbia, a delegate to the recent Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

Two local municipal officials attended the 25th annual conference of the federation held in Winnipeg June 11 to 15. They were Floyd Perkins, reeve of Richmond Hill, who acted as a commissioner to Warden W. Sellers of York County and Reeve Albert Rutherford of Vaughan Township, also attended as commissioner. There were 15 delegates from York County.

Two seminars were of special interest to local ratepayers. They discussed Problems of Mixed Rural-Urban Regions and The Future of Local Government.

Two discussion leaders spoke

during the seminar on Problems of Mixed Rural-Urban Regions.

James W. Wilson, executive director of the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board of British Columbia, emphasized the artificiality of present municipal boundaries. He stressed that in municipalities which have both urban and rural parts, a taxation policy must be developed which will permit the farmer to survive.

He suggested highways and transportation lines should be used to effect a certain development pattern, since development usually follows lines of communication. To be effective, such lines of communication must be planned on a regional basis, according to Mr. Wilson.

Frank Marlyn, director of the Edmonton District Planning Commission, was a speaker during the same seminar. He emphasized the problems arising from the rapid urbanization of Canada.

According to Mr. Marlyn,

most of Canada's population increase of 10,000,000, forecast in the Gordon Commission report, will be concentrated in urban areas.

In his own province of Alberta, Mr. Marlyn said that 85 to 90 per cent of the population increase in the last 10 years has been in the Edmonton and Calgary districts.

The city of Edmonton took 40 years to reach the first 100,000 in population, but only 13 years for the next 100,000, and eight years for the last 100,000, according to Mr. Marlyn.

Mr. Marlyn also mentioned transportation, industrialization and automation as problems of urban areas. The motor car has made it possible to separate residential and industrial areas, he said.

The value of regional planning is especially evident in promoting a good climate for industrialization, he said. Communities must work together to maintain an environment free from dirt, noise and pollution.

Automation has created three new strains on the local government pocketbook, explained Mr. Marlyn. It has increased the need for higher education, speeded up the change from rural to urban employment problems, and has put stress on the need for more local recreational facilities.

Mr. Marlyn suggested that while some urban population is being absorbed in new downtown high density residential areas, more have moved into urban fringe areas. Such fringe areas eat up farm land at the rate of 100 acres per 15,000 population, he said.

The speaker described the whole trend of urban growth. "It is apparent that we are not dealing with growth — such as a tree which each year adds a thin layer to its perimeter, but something more analogous to a stone dropped in water sending out waves of varying intensity from an area of impact."

Three speakers took part in the seminar on The Future of Local Government. Dr. H. Peter Oberlander of the University of British Columbia discussed The Future of Local Government in Relation to Federal-Provincial-Municipal Relations.

It was Mr. Oberlander who suggested that the BNA Act was obsolete. He said that municipal governments were constantly frustrated by agendas which were burdened with irrelevant minor details at the expense of the more crucial, central issues; by lack of resources and power and by pre-emption of legitimate political and administrative responsibilities by the federal governments.

"The three levels of government are really expansions of one central public power which resides in the individual voter and his respective pocket book," he said. "The federal, provincial and municipal government should represent three ways of attacking a joint problem and each ought to do what it can do best."

He suggested that present municipal political boundaries are at best artificial, and at worst hopelessly out of date. He said a complete revision of the federal-provincial-municipal relations would make a good present for municipalities for Canada's 1967 birthday celebrations.

P. G. Davies, a lawyer from Clyde, Alta., discussed the future of Local Government in Relation to the Central City and Suburbs. He said that metropolitan areas such as those formed around Toronto and Winnipeg have worked out well.

Mr. Davies suggested urban counties as still another way of handling the urban sprawl.

He criticized the failure of Canada's largest cities to expand in recent years. Montreal has not expanded since 1919. Vancouver since 1929 and Toronto has added only 205 acres since 1914, according to Mr. Davies.

Rural-Urban Relationships and the Future of Local Gov-

Sisters Graduate




CATHERINE TURTON
Recent graduate of McMaster University and Brantford General Hospital School of Nursing. Her sister Catherine graduated June 6 from Brantford General Hospital School of Nursing.

MARGARET TURTON
May 21, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Her sister Catherine graduated June 6 from Brantford General Hospital School of Nursing. Their father, Kenneth Turton is administrator for the local public health unit.

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