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Guests at Barker House  
Among the guests at the Barker House today are: W. Monahan, New York; J. K. Villicirk, Montreal; D. R. Cassabean, St. John; Julius Chevolly, New York; J. Solm, New York; George Price, Moncton; Mrs. Campbell, Boiestown; S. L. Delong, St. John; Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Humphrey, Montreal, Quebec.  
Miss Edith Richardson who is studying nursing in Montreal is spending her vacation with her parents Bishop and Mrs. Richardson.

## C. N. R. TAXATION A THEME FOR DISCUSSION AT MEETING OF MUNICIPALITIES UNION

**Evidence of Political Partizanship Displayed in the Report of a Special Committee Presented to the Meeting—Premier Baxter Who Was Called on for an Address Had No Difficulty in Locating the Colored Gentleman in the Woodpile.**

Moncton, Oct. 9.—The twenty-second annual convention of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities opened in the City Hall here today with the president, Louis P. A. Robichaud, occupying the chair. Following a civic welcome extended by Mayor Taylor and a general welcome to delegates by the president the opening session was given over to business. A resolutions committee was selected, consisting of Messrs. Mayor W. G. Clark, Fredericton; Warden Arthur Michaud, Madawaska; Councillor W. G. Whipple, York; Councillor H. H. Reid, Kings; Councillor P. P. Morais, Gloucester; Councillor J. W. Howard, Campbellton, and Alderman R. A. Frechet, of Moncton. All of the counties in the province were represented at the convention, with the exception of Sunbury county.

Following the address of welcome to the delegates by Mayor Taylor, President L. P. A. Robichaud extended a welcome to the delegates, especially mentioning the ministers of the Provincial Government present as ex-officio delegates, and particularly expressed his pleasure at being able to also welcome the representatives of new Municipalities who had recently joined the union.

He paid tribute to the splendid work their new secretary, J. B. McNair, of Fredericton, had accomplished since he took office, and particularly complimented him on the fruit of his endeavours in bringing nine new municipalities into the membership of the union.

### C. N. R. Taxation.

Upon calling for the reports of special committees, Warden A. T. LeBlanc of Westmorland presented the report of the committee appointed by the 1927 Union of N. B. Municipalities' convention to go into the question of the division of Canadian National Railways' moneys paid to the province for taxation purposes, among the municipalities. This commission was headed by Warden LeBlanc and was composed of C. E. Whipple, of McAdam, and J. B. McNair, of Fredericton, as members.

The report, after reviewing the terms of reference given to the committee by the convention, went on to relate the arrangements made to meet the provincial government at Fredericton in March last, when the committee asked that the government apportion sums to the various municipalities out of the annual amount of \$119,000 to be paid annually by the Canadian National Railways in the years 1925 to 1930 inclusive to the government of New Brunswick for provincial taxation, as it was felt by the municipalities that some division of these moneys should be made to them.

The report of this committee in conclusion states: "That the premier's answer was that there was no intention on the part of his government to grant any share of the taxes to municipalities. That the matter had been worked up for political propaganda. That the endeavors of the municipalities throughout had been to make political capital out of the matter and if they wanted a fight they could get it at the polls at the next election. He further stated, that the government had made up its mind in the matter and the only purpose he had in granting your committee an interview was in order to get a rap at them and to tell them what he thought of them and those they represented. He particularly requested your committee to go back to those who had sent them and make all this clear and that he was fully alive to the fact that this demand of the tax was nothing but a political move by opponents of the government."

The other two members of the committee, Messrs. Whipple and McNair spoke to the report following Warden LeBlanc. Mr. Whipple stating that it was substantially correct, and that there was nothing said therein which did not actually occur. Mr. McNair

also endorsed the report, and pointed out that while there were probably several omissions in regard to the interview, the only one he could recall, however, was the statement of the premier with respect to the conversation he (Hon. Mr. Baxter) had with Sir Henry Thornton on the question when the latter had told him there was no use of the municipalities coming to him.

### Hon. A. J. Leger.

Hon. A. J. Leger, provincial secretary-treasurer, after hearing the report of this committee read, spoke in regard to it, saying that the statement contained therein, that the premier said he was willing to have this question decided by the electorate, was incorrect. He went into the railway taxation question in the different provinces, and reviewed the history of the railway taxation problem since its first introduction in New Brunswick in 1913, when the act then put in force gave to the provinces the right to tax the property of all railway companies owning or operating lines in this province.

The provincial secretary-treasurer pointed out that the order-in-council passed by the federal government in regard to the C. N. R. taxation stated clearly that authority was given to the C. N. R. to pay taxes to the provinces, and that nowhere in the recommendations did it appear, neither could it be construed, that said taxes were paid in lieu of municipal taxes. He said, that if we could accept an explanation from the letter of the C. N. R. tax commissioner advising the provincial secretary-treasurer of the arrangement arrived at, that said letter stated clearly that authority had been given for the payment of provincial taxes by the Canadian National Railways.

Hon. Mr. Leger further stated, that the provincial government was always willing and was yet disposed to treat fairly and justly the municipalities of New Brunswick, and that the warden of Westmorland (Mr. LeBlanc) knew very well that the present government had paid thousands of dollars to his municipality since it came into power in August 1925, to settle affairs which the government preceding it had neglected to pay.

### Asks Resolution.

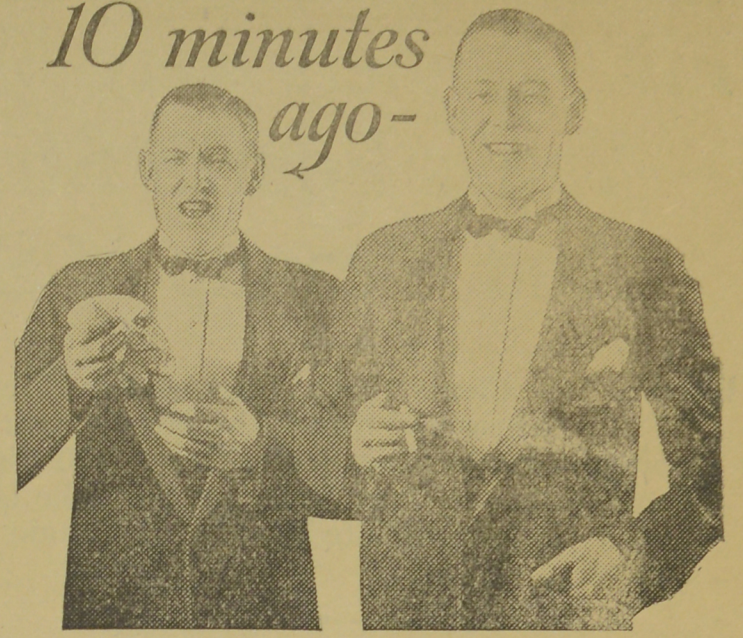
President Robichaud then spoke in regard to the report of the committee. He thought the convention should bring in a very strong resolution censuring the Premier for the reception he gave the committee when they met the government to discuss this question. He contended that the Provincial Act of 1916 in regard to railway taxation had nothing to do with Dominion property. He said the Dominion authorities (or the C. N. R.) had settled the matter by giving the province a lump sum for provincial and municipal taxation, these taxes, he said, were intended for municipal as well as provincial authorities.

Mayor W. G. Clark, of Fredericton in moving an amendment to the motion, said it seemed fairly reasonable to him this tax should be divided. He also felt that as the report was an unanimous one it should be adopted. His views were seconded by another delegate, after which three other delegates spoke briefly regarding the question.

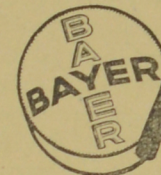
### The Premier Heard.

Hon. Charles D. Richards, Minister of Lands and Mines, then addressed the convention, asking that the Premier who would arrive in the city soon be given an opportunity to express his views. At this point, Hon. Dr. Baxter entered the council chamber, and the chairman, after welcoming him to the convention, spoke of the report regarding railway taxation that was now under discussion. He invited the Premier to address the convention regarding the report. Hon. Dr. Baxter said he had not had the opportunity of hearing the full report, but only heard one remark about it, concerning himself. He would like to hear that part

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of the report read and he would then discuss it.

Warden A. T. LeBlanc then read the part of the report, as quoted previously.

Premier Baxter declared that with the exception of what he had said at the meeting with the committee in regard to what Sir Henry Thornton had said in conversation with him regarding the taxation question and municipalities, the rest of the report was a fabrication. The Premier then went on to say that the agitation appeared to start following the question of C. N. R. taxation, taken up at the inter-provincial conference. He reviewed points taken up there and of the differences on the question between various provinces which had outstanding interests, particularly British Columbia. There were marked differences between the I. C. R. and other component railways that were consolidated into the National Railways system, the Premier declared, and pointed out that it was not within the power of the Province of New Brunswick to tax the I. C. R., because it was crown property, whereas the other railways making up the consolidation were company lines previously and were taxed by the various provinces.

It not being within the power of the three Maritime Provinces to levy taxation on the I. C. R., he continued, other forms of securing taxation from the Canadian National were gone into with the tax commissioner of the C. N. R., who were willing to make a settlement in suitable form, and in the end an agreement was reached whereby the three provinces would get \$250,000, and Premier Rhodes, of Nova Scotia; Premier Stewart, then representing Prince Edward Island, and the speaker representing New Brunswick, accepted same, and with the C. N. R. agreed as to the distribution of the amount to the three provinces. But there was nothing as to how the sum given each province was to be disposed of.

### Provincial Tax.

The report of the Privy Council in connection with the sum awarded by the C. N. R. the Premier declared, stated it was in lieu of provincial taxation.

Turning back to the imposing of the railway taxation in this province 12 years ago the Premier stated that the tax practically fell entirely on the C. P. R., the money taken in being used for the benefit of the entire province, there was no request received then by

the government to divide the taxation among the municipalities.

Money that has been received from the C. N. R. has been going into municipalities as a whole. "We have applied it to the general public services of the province," he declared.

In conclusion the Premier said the division of C. N. R. taxation question had been used by one man for political purposes. He stated that he did not think provincial politics should enter into municipal affairs, just as federal politics do not enter into provincial affairs.

The statement in the committee's report that he had said the question would be met by the people at the polls was an entire fabrication and injected into the report by one gentleman, and that was the gentleman who had read the report, declared the Premier. He exonerated Mr. Whipple and Mr. McNair from placing any such statement in the report.

Hon. Dr. Baxter, in closing, said he had issued no challenge to any one at the polls and never insulted the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities. "I put my finger on the one man who was responsible for the report," he declared, "and I say so again."

### President Replies.

After the Premier took his seat, President Robichaud then addressed the convention, stating that Hon. Dr. Baxter had not paid the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities any compliment by inferring that this union was being led by any one man. "I think we must stand by our rights," said Mr. Robichaud, "for if we let it go out that this union is being made a political tool by any one party we might as well go home. I do not think the Premier should take this stand and put the union in this place."

Warden A. T. LeBlanc stated the report as presented was correct and it recorded what took place. President Robichaud then put the amendment to the convention and M. G. Siddall, M. L. A. for Westmorland, arose to ask him if the procedure he was following was correct. He thought a new motion should be made, but the president stated he did not see there was anything wrong with the amendment and it was then voted upon and carried by 21 votes in favor with 12 against.

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