

## U. C. M. CONVENTION (Continued).

## Opening Session

Wednesday, 27th July, 1921, 11 a.m.

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is very kind indeed, of you, to give me a welcome, and we will now proceed. We are meeting under very happy circumstances with a warm welcome from the city of Ottawa. The particular duty and responsibility of properly expressing that fact will be left to another member who is appointed for that purpose. I mention it now because I have to inform you that our very genial friend, Mayor Plant, has been good enough to come here to express that welcome.

MAYOR PLANT: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The city of Ottawa extends to you to-day a most hearty and cordial welcome. Reckoned in the years of man, the Union of Canadian Municipalities is now entering upon its majority, or manhood estate. Many of you gentlemen here have been connected with this Union longer than I have, and have borne greater responsibilities in the battles for civic rights than I have. There are important matters to be dealt with; there always will be as long as there are municipalities; and these will require the best efforts of all men in municipal life. The Union of Canadian Municipalities found its birth in the fertile mind and the public-spirited brain of our good friend Mr. W. D. Lighthall, who has served this Union so well for years. Mr. Lighthall is not with us this morning, but I am pleased to know that he will be with us this afternoon and will continue here during the convention. There are very few, if any, of those who first attended the convention in 1901 in Toronto, who are still in public life. That there was a need of a Union of this kind I believe cannot be denied by anybody. Canada, reaching toward her boundless natural resources, was inclined to complacently see things gobbled up by private corporations, or selfish individuals. Too often did the unscrupulous use of money or the play of politics see the municipal rights alienated by private corporations; but thanks to a public-spirited and an honest press and a better stamp of men in public life, it is very hard to do a wrong to-day to the common people. The Union of Canadian Municipalities has played a very important part. It has been as a watch-dog in the larger sense of the word. It has endeavored to see that municipal rights have not been encroached upon and to fight those who would violate these rights. We in Ottawa have done our part in support of this Union. Being the capital of the Dominion and the seat of Parliament, we have been, perhaps, more fortunate in being in closer touch with these matters than have other municipalities. Parliamentarians are to be told the way in which we want them to tread; and it is for this Union, when municipal rights are being encroached upon, to show to parliamentarians the path of duty.

We have arranged a splendid and a strong programme; and, personally, I want to thank these gentlemen who have, at personal sacrifice and inconvenience, come here to give us of their ideas, their experience, and their observations. We hope that all of you will be able to enjoy the entertainment which has been arranged for you by the committee. I am particularly pleased to know that there are some ladies present. There are not very many here at the present time; but I understand that more have registered and more will register. The time has passed when the ladies can be crowded out of municipal politics. We owe much to the ladies, both directly and indirectly. As may of the city of Ottawa, I want to extend to you all the most cordial and hearty reception and welcome to Ottawa. I want you to take any license which you may choose of our unrivalled administration, our splendid streets, our beautiful parks; and everything that goes to make this city the finest city on the map. We give you this entertainment with a full heart; and I can assure you it is sincere. In conclusion, I want to assure you Mr. President and Gentlemen, that Ottawa will only be too pleased at any time to give you her advice in anything which may be in the interest of municipal advancement.

THE PRESIDENT:—Mr. Mayor, we are all very much indebted to you for your very kind words. Mayor Hardie, of Lethbridge, will express the sentiments of the convention more fully.

MAYOR HARDIE (Lethbridge, Alta.): Mr. President, Mayor Plant, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is indeed a very pleasant duty for me to reply to the address of the worthy mayor of Ottawa. No gentleman has, in my estimation, so

much to be proud of as he has to be able to take the high position of mayor of a city like this we are in to-day. You know I am from that land that was once the great lone land. I went to that country when land was selling for fifty cents an acre and whiskey for fifty cents a drink, and we all took a drink. But things are changing very rapidly, and we are getting into a different status; and we frequently come down here to see whether we can learn something that will help us. We are very candid in confessing that we have learned lots; but we think that all new countries can teach as well as they can learn. I think if some of you would come out our way and see what we are doing, you would appreciate as much what you will learn there as we appreciate what we learn here. Every time I have come to the city of Ottawa—and I have been coming backward and forward to this convention for the last eight years—I have learned something new; I have seen something that I did not see before; I have seen something which was beneficial to me; and I always hope that I will bring something with me which will be beneficial to you from the western country.

We have different conditions altogether from yours in the east. We are pioneers in a great, vast country. We live where the sun kisses the land of the prairie by the lowering of the great horizon. You stand on the brow of a hill and look far, far, and still have seen nothing of it but the broad expanse of the heavens above and the land at your feet. All these things exert an influence upon us and make us think that we, possibly, are the only people in the world. When we come down here we realize that there are other people who have viewpoints as well as we; and we must see each other and know each other and we must know what each other's viewpoint is. The west has not fully grasped that viewpoint. I think the western members here to-day are in harmony in their desire to get into closer touch with the east so that we will work with that unity which will bring great success to this Union. This Union has never filled the purpose it ought to have filled. There has been a certain amount of apathy, I think we should get together and realize each other's positions; and if we work together, this should be the greatest parliament in Canada to-day. Instead of having a membership of one hundred people or two hundred people, I believe there should be a thousand at every convention; and if we had that kind of prestige there would be nothing we could desire which is necessary for the province or the city that we could not get from our parliamentarians if we were in such numbers and strength at our regular conventions. Now, I want to say again to Mayor Plant that we appreciate the courtesy that he has extended to us. We know the kindness of the people of Ottawa. We have had it before. We have been here on different occasions, probably not altogether in convention, but in other connections and we have always found the people of Ottawa and the civic governors generous in giving us the best possible, and encouraging us to come again.

MAYOR THURBER (Longueuil:—Mr. Chairman, the next number on the programme is your address, and I would ask that this address be held over until there is a large representation. Say until to-morrow.

THE PRESIDENT:—Mayor Thurber has paid me the compliment at any rate to intimate that he expects something from the address. Perhaps it is desirable. They say that a man is not worthy of his office unless he magnifies it, and, perhaps, the President has something to offer from his experience, and perhaps it is worth while to give it to the delegates. However, this matter will stand for the present.

(Motion to defer reading of president's address seconded by Ald. Rondeau. Carried.)

The secretary-treasurer, A. D. Shibley, submitted the financial statement for the period of eleven months ending 30th July, 1921.

## CASH STATEMENT

## Receipts

Balance from Assistant Secretary.....	\$ 715.61
G. S. Wilson, balance expense.....	73.03
G. S. Wilson, account advertising.....	75.00
Annual subscriptions . . . . .	5,590.15

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\$6,453.79