

THE CONVENTION BANQUET.

U. C. M. CONVENTION—Continued.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 28th, 1920.

THE BANQUET.

In the evening, free from the restrictions which had surrounded them since they began business in connection with the Convention, the delegates met at a most enjoyable function when they were entertained to a banquet at the City Hall, tendered them by the Mayor and the City of Quebec.

They enjoyed the entertainment immensely and expressed themselves as more than delighted with the extreme kindness shown them by the city and the citizens of Quebec, since the very first day of the meeting there.

A number of speeches, all of them expressing the pleasure and satisfaction of the delegates at being treated so generously during their stay there, were made after the good things provided had been disposed of.

At the table of honor were seated Hon. Mr. Galipeault, Minister of Labor; Mayor Sampson, Quebec; Mayor Fisher, Ottawa; Mayor Clarke, Edmonton; Mayor Beaubien, Outremont; Alderman Dubeau, Montreal; W. D. Lighthall, K.C.; General Tremblay, of the Quebec Harbour Commission, and Alderman Lantier, Quebec.

After "The King," proposed by Mayor Samson, the first toast proposed was that of "The Province of Quebec," by Reeve Pearson, of Point Grey, B.C. He said he would carry away with him the best memory of his stay in Quebec, of the kindness of the Mayor and Aldermen and the fine reception he had received everywhere in the old city. He had been told what to expect when he came to Quebec, but he had received much more than any one could possibly hope for.

Quebec Always Ready to Extend Hand of Fellowship.

Hon. Mr. Galipeault replied to the toast. He first expressed regret that the Prime Minister, owing to very pressing business, could not be present at the banquet. He wished the delegates a most hearty welcome in the name of the Province of Quebec. He had no doubt but that all of them would carry away the very best impression of their stay in Quebec, and those who had come there with some apprehension would certainly go home entirely converted and would act as apostles and preachers of good entente and kind feeling between the various parts of the Dominion. They would all learn that it was in the Province of Quebec that true tolerance and justice were practiced and that it was there that the people lived in the best and most complete harmony. There existed in this Province a deep respect for the belief and convictions of all people. There were certain labor problems in this province like in every other portion of Canada, but they were much easier of solution because the worker of Quebec was born there, lived there, even owned his little home there, and had all his interests vested in the City and Province of Quebec. Besides, the labor man in Quebec was most respectful of law and order, and this was probably due to the fact that he was really more Canadian than the laborer of many other provinces.

Hon. Mr. Galipeault then dealt with the splendid results obtained by the careful and wise policies of the Quebec Government, which had resulted in obtaining for the Province of Quebec the highest credit on the markets of the world. He strongly advised the delegates to be very careful in the making of loans and to watch very closely the sale of their municipal bonds. He also paid a very high tribute to the former Premier of the Province, Sir Lomer Gouin, who had made of Quebec what it was to-day, the

foremost Province in the entire Dominion. Quebec, he said, was, or had been, isolated, it had known a great deal of persecution and injustice but it was waiting for the day when the rest of the country would call for true patriots and then Quebec would be able to say, "We are ready." He concluded his masterly address by referring to the stability of capital and the security for investments in the Province of Quebec.

After the Minister of Labor had spoken, two regular old style "fiddlers" played a number of reels and jigs.

Alderman Fiset, of Quebec, proposed the toast to "The Union of Canadian Municipalities" in both French and English, speaking very briefly. He considered that the large number of distinguished officers and delegates paid a delicate compliment to the oldest municipality in the Dominion for which the city thanked them and the citizens of Quebec would long remember his visit.

No Unrest in Quebec.

Mr. Roberts, Vice-President of the Union, responded to the toast. He referred to a previous visit when he had had the great pleasure of listening to a speech by Sir Lomer Gouin and another by the Hon. Mr. Beland. In the course of an interesting address he said that the visiting delegates would take away from Quebec the kindest recollections of the city and would look forward with lively anticipation to a second visit. They had had that day an excellent opportunity of viewing the city, the harbour and the Quebec Bridge. In the people of Quebec they had the safest guarantee of the future of the country, because of the absence of any discontent or unrest. He hoped the Province would long continue to prosper and maintain its great position in the Dominion of Canada.

Mayor Fisher, of Ottawa, was the next speaker, and he followed along the lines taken up by the others, expressing his delight at being able to assist at a convention in the ancient city of Quebec, which was so full of great memories and souvenirs.

He was followed by Mayor Clarke of Edmonton, who paid a high tribute to the patriotism and loyalty of the people of Quebec. He did not believe that "God Save the King" could be sung with greater fervor anywhere than it had been right there at the banquet when His Majesty's health had been proposed. He did not believe there were any truer Canadians anywhere in the Dominion than in Quebec, and if Quebec was misunderstood in some provinces, it was simply because it was not well enough known.

Quebec Harbour Neglected by Exporters.

Alderman Martin, of Edmonton, proposed "The Harbour Commissioners of Quebec." He said he was very much astonished to hear that so little of the western grain went through this port for export to Europe, when there were such splendid facilities for handling it right there in Quebec. Something certainly must be wrong somewhere, as Quebec should in the very near future become one of the greatest ports in the Dominion of Canada.

General Trambley replied to the toast, and first apologized for the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of the Harbour Board, Sir David Watson. The General described the great advantages offered by Quebec as a port, and spoke of the immense expenditure to make this harbour one of the most modern in the world. There was berth room there for at least twenty-two steamers. There was immense storage facilities both in sheds and elevator, but owing to the very high railway rate between Winnipeg and Quebec, there was very little, if any, grain shipped through Quebec. Sixty per cent of the grain was shipped, for some strange reason, through American ports. It was most important that every effort be made to get more favorable rates for Quebec and thus make this port attractive to exporters.

The proceedings concluded with a few remarks by His Worship Mayor Samson, Controller Ramsden of Toronto, and Mayor Beaubien of Outremont, and the singing of "God Save the King" and "O Canada."