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G. S. WILSON BUSINESS MANAGER
HARRY BRAGG MANAGING EDITOR

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Niagara Power.

Hon. Adam Beck has done a good thing for Ontario by his careful and exhaustive enquiry into the position of the development of power at Niagara, and his speech in the Provincial Legislature contains a mass of information on the question of the development and distribution of power, and the reasonable cost. The three Canadian Companies who have secured rights to develop power at Niagara are the Can. Niagara Falls Co., 100,000 h.p.; Ont. Power Co., 250,000 h.p.; and Electrical Development Co., 125,000 h.p.; total 475,000 h.p.

Mr. Beck believes that the whole of this power will be required by the rapidly increasing industries of the Province, and that it will result in a saving to consumers of nearly \$11,000,000. He further believes, as a result of enquiries, that the present development of 120,000 h.p., can be supplied to a radius of 200 miles at a minimum average cost of \$15, per h.p., per annum, and that when the total h.p., is in use, the cost will be \$12.00.

Mr. Beck severely criticized the franchises given to the three companies and showed how the promoters got the shares for nothing, paying the cost of the plant out of the bonds; by this means, the promo-

ters of one company had cleared \$3,000,000. He showed how unfair the contract was with this Company and stated that the clause providing for the supplying of power to municipalities was a sop to public sentiment and claimed that the present Government would decline to ratify the agreement on the ground of public interest. He stated that the Government's interest was two-fold—an interest in the water powers as a source of revenue; and an interest in the commercial development of the Province. He concluded by saying that the Government would probably appoint a commission to study the question of the water-powers of the Province and their development.

Winnipeg.

Fifth Annual Convention of the U.C.M.

The Fifth Annual Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities will be held in Winnipeg, at the end of July.

The Executive Committee had a difficult task to decide on the place of meeting, as Kingston, Ont., and Halifax, N.S., had also tendered invitations. But, while appreciating to the full the hospitable suggestion of the Nova Scotia and Ontario cities, the Committee decided that the best interests of the Union for this year demanded that it should "Go West."

We would impress upon our readers not only the immense value of being present at a meeting where the municipal interests of Canada will be discussed by the men who are directing them; but the great interest that will be found, especially to our Eastern friends, in seeing the development of what promises to be a giant city in a very few years.

His Worship, Mayor Sharpe, promises that the Convention shall be a success, and that the delegates will be treated in the most hospitable way, and suggests that an opportunity may be arranged of seeing the wheat fields of Manitoba.

We are authorized to state that special rates will be given by the C. P. Ry., the G. T. Ry., and the C. N. Ry., particulars of which will be given later.

It is intended that the next issue of the JOURNAL shall give special information about the City of Winnipeg, so that our readers may have a better idea of the present position of this progressive city.