

Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities

City of Quebec, July 27, 28, 29.

The twentieth annual convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities opened at the City of Quebec at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday the Twenty-seventh July, Nineteen hundred and twenty, at the City Hall, Quebec.

There were present and registered; Harold Fisher, K. C., Mayor of Ottawa; President, Arthur Roberts, K.C.; Vice-President, W. D. Lighthall K.C. Honorary Secretary, G. S. Wilson Assistant Secretary, F. A. Acland, Deputy Minister of Labour for Canada, Ottawa; A. E. Sarra Bournet, Alderman, Lachine, P.Q.; A. J. Bannerman, Pictou, N.S.; President Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities; J. Beaubien, Mayor of Outremont, P.Q., President Union of Quebec Municipalities; J. N. Bayne, Commissioner of the Local Government Board, Regina, Sask.; Noel Belleau, K.C., Mayor, Levis, P.Q.; Dr. P. H. Bedard, Alderman, Quebec; J. R. Bournet, Secretary-treasurer, Longueuil, P.Q.; M. S. Baker, City Clerk, London, Ont.; T. D. Bouchard, Mayor, St. Hyacinthe, P.Q.; L. A. Cannon, K.C., Quebec; Jas. A. Dollier, Alderman, Quebec; Napoleon Champagne Controller, Ottawa; O. H. Cote, Industrial Commissioner, Quebec; R. H. Cameron Controller, Toronto; Joseph A. Clarke, Mayor, Edmonton, Alberta, (Vice-president Union of Canadian Municipalities); D. O. E. Denault, Mayor, Sherbrooke; Dr. Dubeau, Alderman, Montreal; Dr. J. A. Dufresne, Mayor Shawinigan Falls, Que.; C. Delgrave Alderman, Quebec; Daniel Denton, Mayor, Cobourg, Ontario; J. I. Dixon, Secretary-treasurer, New Liskeard; Chas. F. Furse, Treasurer, Union of Quebec Municipalities; Dr. Michel Fiset, Ald., Que.; D. O. Dennis, Mayor, Farnham, Quebec; F. W. Galbraith, Ex-Mayor, Red Deer, Alberta; Nap. Garceau Mayor, Drummondville, P. Q.; J. A. Gariépy, Alderman, Longueuil, P.Q.; P. A. Galarneau, Mayor, Courville, P.Q.; A. M. Jaques, Alderman, St. Lambert, P.Q.; P. E. Jarman, City Engineer, Westmount; L. P. Joubert, Mayor, Sayabec; C. C. Lapierre, Ex-mayor, LaSalle, P.Q.; A. Lavaie, Mayor, Megantic; J. A. Legault, Mayor, St. Jerome, P.Q.; J. H. Lamb, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, Edmonton, Alberta; H. Milton Martin, Alderman, Edmonton, Alberta; G. E. Marquis, Parliamentary Statistician, Quebec; Jos. Mercier, President Police Department, Quebec; A. W. Mexer, Mayor, Galt, Ont.; A. J. Meunier, Alderman, Shawinigan Falls, P.Q.; S. J. McCoppen, Alderman, Edmonton, Alberta; T. J. Moore, City Clerk, Guelph, Ont.; C. W. Mogridge, Alderman, Toronto, Ont.; C. W. McCrea, City Treasurer, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.; D. D. McDonald, Union of Manitoba Municipalities, Dauphin, Man.; A. A. McIntyre, Mayor, Peterboro, Ont.; Thomas Pearson, Reeve, Point Grey, B.C.; Frank H. Plant, Controller, Ottawa, Ont.; Alfred Prendergast, Alderman, St. Lambert, P.Q.; R. Prieur, Mayor, Pointe aux Trembles, P. Q.; J. G. Ramsden, Controller, Toronto, Ont.; W. E. Ran-

ger, Mayor, Lachine, P.Q.; G. Renaud, Mayor, Loretteville, P.Q. G. N. Reille, Alderman, Chicoutimi, P.Q.; S. Sabourin, Mayor, Hawkesbury, Ont.; J. D. Saunders, Secretary-treasurer, Camrose, Alberta, Sec.-treas. Union of Alberta Municipalities; P. H. Robien, Mayor, Bienville; J. L. Roberge, Levis, P.Q.; C. W. H. Rondeau, Alderman, Westmount, P.Q.; Ernest T. Sampson, City Clerk and Treasurer, Outremont, P.Q.; Robert L. Scott, Alderman, Westmount, P.Q.; H. M. Sutherland, Mayor, St. Boniface, Man.; Alex. Thurber, Mayor, Longueuil, P.Q.; Frank Whitmore, Alderman, Peterboro Ont.; Frederick Wright, Editor Canadian Municipal Journal, Montreal; H. S. Van Scoyoc, Engineer, Montreal West, P.Q.

The President, having called the meeting to order, the delegates were addressed by Mayor Joseph Samson, of Quebec, in the following words:

"In the name of the citizens, of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Quebec, I tender you the most hearty welcome.

We are exceedingly grateful to you for the honor conferred upon our city in selecting it to be the seat of your annual convention.

We offer you the hospitality of our City Hall, of our Council room. We sincerely hope that you will feel at home here, and that if you desire anything we can give you you will express your wishes.

Our municipal organization being the most ancient in Canada, we hope that we will provide you with such comforts that you will appreciate your stay in Quebec, and that you will visit the most interesting points of our City and enjoy the few recreations that we are offering you.

Tomorrow night, Wednesday, the Mayor and Aldermen invite you to a banquet in the City Hall, to give you an opportunity of fraternizing around an hospitable table.

Gentlemen—make yourselves at home here.

I now tender you our best wishes for the success of your convention and I leave you free to begin your serious and important work."

VICE-PRESIDENT ROBERTS of Bridgewater, N.S., in reply to Mayor Samson and on behalf of the Union referred to the pleasure felt by the delegates in having the opportunity of convening at the city of Quebec—one of the wonder cities of America—and as the cradle of Canadian civilization, one of the most fitting places for the meeting of representatives of Canadian cities. His remarks were followed by an address in French from ALDERMAN MARTIN of Edmonton who dwelt upon the real "bonne entente" enjoyed by the citizens of Alberta and other western provinces. In concluding the replies to Mayor Samson, President Fisher referred to the genuine attractiveness of Quebec being proved by the fact that Ottawa had been passed over in the selection of a City for the present convention.

THE UNION AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES.

PRESIDENT HAROLD FISHER, K.C. (Mayor of Ottawa).

The Convention being thereupon opened for business, the President, MR. HAROLD FISHER, MAYOR OF OTTAWA, read his presidential address, as follows:

"A presidential address is usually received with kindly tolerance out of respect for the office. It is seldom taken seriously by any one but the maker. Even a president bowed down with the honor and dignity of his position finds it hard to be serious in midsummer and amidst the distractions of a city like Quebec.

"In the past it has been the custom of presidents of the Union to deal particularly with the work of the Union and to wander off into generalities related to municipal matters. I propose to follow the custom.

"About the Union there is a great deal that might be said and certainly there is much that must be done if it is to be made the useful and efficient organization it should be. Under favorable conditions an association composed of all the municipalities of Canada, large and small and separated in some cases by thousands of miles, must be a difficult organization. During the past few years the Union has had to contend with exceptional conditions.

"Originally the Union was a fighting organization formed primarily to look after the interests of the municipalities in matters coming before the Dominion Parliament or dealt with by the Dominion Government. For

several years there has been little fighting to be done before the Dominion Parliament. The creation of the Railway Board with its ever-increasing jurisdiction removed many matters from the political field where lobbying and other influences of a baneful character had long been felt. The war put an end for a time to private enterprise of the kind that took form in private bills that were not always of benefit to the public. The acquisition by the Government of a great part of the railway system of the country has, for a time at least, done away with railroad building by private companies and, whatever may be said otherwise of the venture, has had the effect of removing a source of aggression which has always been feared by municipalities. Within the year the Union did raise a protest against any suggestion that government railway property taken over from private companies should be exempt from local taxation, with the result that a statement was made by the Government that there was no intention to seek this exemption. Perhaps the protest was unnecessary but it certainly did no harm. Apart from this there has been little work for the Union to do in Parliament. With no danger threatening in what was the original field of the Union, the need of a federal organization has been questioned by some who have not gone into the matter thoroughly.