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Canadian West Looks Toward Field of Industry

Delegates at Industrial Congress Impressed With Possibilities for Some Lines of Manufacture—First Meeting of This Kind, but May be Followed Up by Similar Gatherings—Addresses Given By Prominent Leaders—Coal and Power Facilities In Alberta Are Good

(Staff Correspondence.)

THE opening session of the Alberta Industrial Congress, the first meeting of its kind in western Canada, took place on August 13th, in Calgary. On the two preceding days the delegates had visited Medicine Hat and Lethbridge with a view to seeing the southern portion of the province. After spending two days in Calgary for the business meetings they went to Edmonton on the 15th. The general impression gained by the delegates was that this is the beginning of a movement which will develop from year to year and awaken the people of Canada to the wonderful possibilities of the west, not only as regards agriculture, which is already recognized, but for industrial purposes. M. A. Brown, mayor of Medicine Hat, acted as chairman of the Congress.

At the first meeting in Calgary addresses of welcome were delivered by Lieut.-Gov. Brett, Premier Hon. Chas. Stewart, acting mayor McCoubrey, of Calgary, and Wm. Toole, President of the Board of Trade. The chairman then made a few preliminary remarks regarding the objects and origin of the Industrial Congress. He expressed the hearty appreciation and tendered the welcome of the members of the Industrial Development Association to the delegates who had come to the congress from Canada and the United States. He deplored the fact that some of the prominent men who had been expected had been unable to attend the congress, but was sure that the speakers present would be listened to with the greater interest by the assembled delegates. Among those unable to attend were Sir Robert Borden, Sir Geo. E. Forster, Sir Thomas White, Sir Henry Drayton, E. W. Beatty, D. B. Hanna, Harold F. McCormick, Thos. Findlay, T. C. Norris, J. D. Oliver, T. R. Deacon, and R. B. Bennett. In continuing to discuss the purposes for which the congress was called Mayor Brown stated that the subject uppermost in everyone's mind at the present time was how the country is to pay its great obligations contracted during the great war. This could only be done by intensive development and it was plain to be seen that the development was not intensive in this country. Everybody knew, he said, that the greater portion of the resources of this country were still undeveloped. There had been an increase in development during the last 15 years, he said, but the increase had not been big enough. Some, he said, held the opinion that the country is not ready for an intensive development at the present time, but he did not agree with this view. "The time has arrived," he said, "when we should be more than producers of raw materials. We should produce the finished article for the world's markets. To convince the world of these facts we called this industrial congress. I think that the delegates will be satisfied of this when they have seen the country and heard the speakers at the meetings here. The interest of the United States in this congress speaks much for the friendship between the two countries."

The congress listened to several addresses of outstanding interest. Dr. A. B. MacCallum, chairman of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, said that Alberta's coal supply would last only five thousand years with the present population and two thousand years with a population of twenty millions. Canada needed an organized institution that would direct the development of her natural resources. Eugene Coste said Alberta had the biggest oil fields in the world, 1,600 miles by 300 miles wide. A defense of government ownership of railways in its practical working, by E. A. Warren, general manager of the Canadian National Railways, and the coupling by T. M. Tweedie, M.P., of expressions of cordial welcome to the large delegation of American manufacturers, with a statement that it would have been to the greater credit of the Canadian manufacturers of the east, if they had sent a larger delegation to the industrial congress, formed features of the farewell banquet in the Palliser Hotel, on August 14th.

British Capital Will Come

G. E. Whitehouse, of London, England, addressing the Industrial Congress, said, in part:—

"My visit to Canada, which is at the invitation of the Dominion government through its trade commission, is for the purpose of ascertaining concrete facts regarding Canada's present commercial position, for presentation to the British public, with a view of stimulating business between the two countries. By a happy combination of circumstances I have been able to make my plans fit in with this very important congress, and I am indeed gratified to have this privilege and pleasure, if only for the reason that it gives me the opportunity of knowing more about the wonderful resources of Alberta, within the short space of a few days, than I could possibly find out by other means in as many months.

"Although it would seem from the program and the speeches which have gone before, that special attention is being paid to securing the interest and the money of our brethren in the United States, it usually happens that when anything of importance in the development of territory or industries is taking place, the old country of Great Britain is certain to be somewhere about. Although its representation here may be very modest, I shall be given the credit for sincerity, and will assure you that I shall do my utmost to make our country acquainted with what this province has to offer. I have no doubt at all that time will show that in the general development of Alberta, Great Britain will play its part, will take its share of the responsibility and be well represented in the measure of success which will result.

"In modern commercial history, Great Britain has always been the financial backbone of the world, and will continue as such so long as it holds the proud position of being the headquarters of the British Empire. Our financial men have