

## U. C. M. CONVENTION

Reports received from all parts of the Dominion indicate greater interest than ever in the Convention to be held this year at Ottawa. Points as widely separated as Victoria, B.C., and Halifax, N.S., have already signified their intention of being represented, to say nothing of the live cities and towns in between. Among the interesting subjects upon which the delegates will be addressed are "First Aid from a Municipal Standpoint," by Col. Hodgetts, M.D., C.M.G., Canadian Director-General of the St. Johns Ambulance Association;—"Recent developments in Municipal Government in the United States," by Mr. H. W. Dodds, Secretary of the National Municipal League, New York; "Municipal Borrowings," by Mr. Bayne, Commissioner Local Government Board of Province of Saskatchewan. Other speakers are Mr. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, President of the Civil Service Commission, Philadelphia; Mr. E. R. Decary, Chairman Administrative Commission of Montreal; Mr. Tom Moore, President Trades and Labor Congress; Dr. Horace L. Brittain, Director Citizens' Research Institute of Canada, and others. The presence of municipal experts from the United States will be an interesting feature and the international flavor of the gathering will be further strengthened by several mayors of leading United States cities who are to attend the dinner to be given the delegates by the City of Ottawa on the evening of Thursday, the 28th July. For the benefit of the large number of visitor expected a drive has been arranged along the Gatineau as well as an inspection of the new parliament buildings. The Ottawa golf clubs have very courteously and considerably placed their links at the disposal of delegates who care to indulge in a game.

Civic representatives should remember to make their hotel reservations well in advance or to notify the secretary-treasurer so that he may make neces-

sary arrangements. The Convention will be held in the palm room of the Chateau Laurier—27th, 28th and 29th July.

### SEWER PIPE AND TILE MOULDS.

With the growing tendency of municipal corporations to make their own sewer pipe and tile because of the saving in cost and transportation charges there comes the question of securing the right kind of moulds, both in regard to design and stability of structure.

We have in mind that of a mould for pipe, which is already used in many municipalities in Canada. It is made in all sizes from 4 inches to 10 feet in diameter. The manufacturers are the London Concrete Machinery Co., Ltd., of London, Ont., who will be delighted to send their catalogue with prices to any municipality desirous of further information.

### HIGHWAY BRIDGES.

The above illustration is that of one of the many highway bridges constructed by the MacKinnon Steel Co., Ltd., of Sherbrooke, Que. This firm handles all kinds of structural steel work power houses, standpipes, etc., and erects same anywhere in the Dominion. Having its own engineers the firm is prepared to advise councils and municipal engineers on any work in which steel or iron material is used.

### STREET NAMES AND HOUSE NUMBERS.

The signs illustrated here are made of enamelled steel white lettering on a light blue black ground; not affected by the weather and always clean looking. One of the difficulties in many Canadian cities is to locate certain streets and houses because of the scarcity of name and number plates, particularly in cross sections. It pays any council to invest in a clean looking and strong name plate at every street corner. These signs are manufactured by the Thos. Davidson Manfg. Co., Ltd., Montreal, who are ready to send samples to any one making application.

### THE LONDON (ENG.) TRAFFIC PROBLEM.

The inherent difficulties of the London traffic problem are to be found mainly in the fact that London has grown as a haphazard and unorganized congeries of suburban extensions. The Special Committee of Inquiry on Tramways appointed by the London County Council pictures them in a true perspective in one or two sentences. "Unlike most of the large cities in the provinces and abroad," the report states, "where one authority reigns supreme, it is necessary to have in mind the fact that in the area in view there are some 122 road authorities exercising powers of control. At present, except for the exercise of certain powers of control by the Ministry of Transport and the police, and the temporary powers conferred on local authorities by the Local Government (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1916, no effective limitation exists as regards the number or character of road passenger transport services which may be introduced into the area. As a result of this state of affairs, there are now being operated in the area about seventeen systems of separately operated tramways, and a large number of motor omnibus undertakings." When the report was submitted to the London County Council on Tuesday last, a recommendation was moved for the introduction of legislation to provide for the unified operation of local passenger transport undertakings in Greater London, and for the setting up of a Municipal Traffic Control Authority (to be appointed by the local authorities), such authority to be a temporary expedient

pending the reorganization of local government in Greater London, and that in the event of a new governing authority being set up, such authority should take the place of the Municipal Traffic Authority. Objection was raised to the words "unified operation of local passenger transport undertakings," but, having in mind the necessary for unity, it is desirable to differentiate between the terms "operation" and "working," or "administration," and it does not by any means follow that the proposal would, as Mr. Gordon argued, place the council tramway undertakings in the hands of somebody else. To evolve something like order out of chaos and attain the end of satisfying a majority of the people concerned is no easy matter, but, all things considered, the decision of the council to approve the recommendation was a wise one.—The Surveyor.

### FIRE ALARM BOXES.

Many thousands of the Gammell Fire Alarm boxes are in use in Canada, though not near enough. It has been proved over and over again that a good fire alarm system is the best and most economical way of fighting the fire bug, and undoubtedly the Gammell equipment is the most reliable. The manufacturers in Canada are the Northern Electric Company, Ltd., who have distributing centres in all the large cities of the Dominion. The company has a very instructive booklet on the subject. Why not write for a copy?