

Second Speaker:**Mr. McLean's Address: -**

"Unity of opinion," I believe, was the expression used by Mr. Craig. It made a deep impression on me. If I were on the programme to-morrow in place of Mr. Fleming, I believe I would take that as my text. Unified public opinion is what our legislators will need; and what we want.

Futility of Unorganized Effort

I will confine my remarks to what I believe the Chairman wants me to talk about: -- Organization of Atlantic Deeper Waterways Association. The Association was organized about fifteen or sixteen years ago. It started something in this way: The Wilmington Board of Trade of which I was President at the time, was very much interested in the deepening of a canal that connects Delaware Bay with the Chesapeake Bay. That canal has been open for many years, and has been owned by a private party. You can go through with barges and small boats. We had worked for years to try to get the Government to open and deepen that canal so that the larger ships could go through. Now, some of you have been to Ottawa as delegates; and have tried to get officials to do what you wanted them to do; and so I remember on one occasion I was a member of a delegation from our Board of Trade which went down to Washington to get the Government to open this canal to the larger ships. We called first of all on the Secretary of War, and thought we were getting along nicely. I had told our Secretary to get ready for a first-page story for our morning paper; everything looked fine; they took us to the office of the United States Engineer and then suddenly left us. The Secretary of War said he had urgent business and had to go back to his office, so we were turned over to the United States Engineer. One member told the Engineer what we wanted. "Gentlemen," he said, "in regard to that canal being opened for military purposes, if we ever desire to open that canal for military purposes, it will be done, whether you gentlemen want it open or not." (Laughter). Our interview was ended, and the first-page story never appeared. We went back to Wilmington and thought the matter over, and said, "Gentlemen, we are not big enough to get what we want from the United States Government." Therefore, we organized the Atlantic Deeper Waterways Association, which represents every City on the Atlantic coast of the United States. The first meeting was held in the City of Philadelphia. We did not have a meeting any more than half the size of this splendid meeting here to-night; but, it was a start. Next year we held a Conference at which 600 were present. We talked to the Government of the United States not as the Wilmington Board of Trade, but as a national body.

Forcefulness of Proper Organization

Regarding how the organization started, -- first of all we elected as President a Member of Congress, now Mayor of the City of Philadelphia. We elected him because he was in Congress and could talk for us. Each State was given a Vice-President and a Director-at-Large; The State of Delaware elected to the Board of Directors of this Association a Congressman, and I was elected because I was President of an organization consisting of 750 business men of the City of Wilmington, the idea being that our Congressmen could speak for our Association; and the idea being that I could speak to the Councils of the Association for the City of Wilmington. These things may be of interest when you effect your own organization, -- a man from each State to speak to Congress and a man from each City to speak in the Councils of the Association itself. Now, as soon as that association had been organized, we accomplished great things. We called attention first of all to the Cape Cod Canal. At that time grass was growing along its banks and down to the bottom of the canal. The