I want you, my municipal brethren of Canada, to bear with me while I say a few words to you on this, to me, rather solemn day of my retirement, for to me it is the completion of what I consider a chapter of my life's work.

So rapid and complete are the changes in our municipal life—far too rapid for best efficiency that I feel myself almost the sole survivor of a very active past world of men and events.

Not a single one of the original officers of the Union is any longer in municipal office. A large proportion are dead. My old friend, Oliver Howland, who as Mayor of Toronto in 1901 loyally helped me to found the Union, has long since departed this life. The venerable ex-Mayor Bowlby, of Brantford, always to the fore in his time, is, I think the sole survivor of the first Convention, except myself.

The roll of our Past Presidents shows many names which have reached distinction in other spheres, but even of the latest ones, Mayor Church alone remains a Mayor. It is the same with the original battles of our association. We were formed because of attacks, by companies and charter sharks, on our rights, in cases which have long since been decided: As a survivor of those battles and those participants. I want to say a few things to the men of to-day and to-morrow:—

## First-This Union Was Founded in Patriotism.

In 1900, the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company had just merged all the first electric companies of Greater Montreal and had obtained from the Legislature of Quebec, against the strenuous protests of the citizens, including that of Westmount, of which I was then Mayor, a new charter

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