

municipal Commercial Museum and Bureau of Information. The subject was introduced by Mr. J. J. Harpell, of the Industrial and Educational Press, who has had a large experience in educational matters, and has seen for himself the specific value of centralized bureaus of information in the building up of a community. The resolution, which was passed, was also an assurance to Mr. Harpell that the Union was in full sympathy with, and would support the Canadian Bureau of Information, which he had founded in Montreal, to carry out the principles laid down in his address. Having received the support of the Convention, Mr. Harpell will now be encouraged to take up the matter directly with each municipality, and we certainly wish him all success, for to our mind the movement is one of great educational value, and we do not know of anything better suited to instill in the minds of the citizens a pride in their local industries.

The Hydro Electric.

The Convention taking place in the home of Hydro-electricity, the delegates had the opportunity of studying at first hand the strides made in this wonderful movement under the genius of Sir Adam Beck. When the Union of Canadian Municipalities met in convention in London in 1904, under the presidency of Sir Adam, then Mayor of London, the hydro-electric scheme was then in the formative stage, with many difficulties to overcome. At this, the second visit of the Union, Sir Adam was able to show with pride something of what he and his colleagues have achieved in making Ontario the cheapest place for electricity—power, light and radials—in the world. No wonder every Londoner, from the Mayor down, is enthusiastic over the success of the Hydro-electric movement, for London has benefited. At a banquet given to the delegates in the cafeteria owned by the London City Council in Port Stanley, after passing over the new radial railway, a distance of 24 miles, and also owned by the London Council, Sir Adam delivered an address full of that fighting spirit, so characteristic of the man, in which he took up his favorite topic of Hydro-electricity. He also discussed the same subject on the following day at the afternoon session, and in both addresses he made a strong appeal for the nationalization of those railways, condemned in the majority report of the Drayton Commission. But to the visiting delegates from other provinces, the chief interests of Sir Adam Beck's address was in his wonderful story of how they got cheap electricity in Ontario. A number of the delegates were eager to know if the same success could be achieved in other provinces. "Of course," answered Sir Adam. But one thing he did not tell the delegates. Where are they going to get the Adam Becks from to make possible a repetition of the Ontario Hydro-Electric in other provinces? Big schemes for the benefit of the people require big brained men and big hearted men to work them out, but big brained men are busy building up fortunes for themselves and the big hearted men are not always big brained.

Franchises.

As part of the Union's usefulness is in protecting the municipalities from the onslaughts in their local rights, particularly from the insidious and nefarious legislation that public utility corporations

try to squeeze through the Federal and Provincial Parliaments from time to time in spite of the standard clauses that the Union fought for and got inserted in the Railway Act, a number of the resolutions dealt with this phase of the Union's work. One resolution introduced by Mayor Church of Toronto, and adopted, had special reference to the Niagara Power Company's charter; another resolution adopted related to the Bell Telephone Co. refusing to pay for the privilege of erecting its poles and running its wires through the streets of certain municipalities. While on the question of municipal protection by the Union, the delegates were surprised that quite a number of the municipalities had stopped paying in their subscriptions, and a resolution was passed urging those councils who had not paid to do so as early as possible; so that the usefulness of the Union—whose work as a protective body affected directly every municipality in Canada—would not be deterred from lack of income.

A RE-GATHERING IN AN OLD COMMUNITY.

The little town of Longueuil (opposite Montreal) recently had a re-gathering of its people. The municipality is one of the oldest in the Dominion, and in the course of its two centuries' existence it has sent out many of its citizens into the larger world, some to win fame, but all to retain that love of old associations, inherent in all of us, and especially when those associations have back of them generations and generations of folk tales that old communities take such a pride in passing on to their children. Such a municipality is that of Longueuil, though even this, the second oldest community in Canada, is rapidly changing its ideas of progress and becoming commercialized to the extent of having located in its midst one of the largest engineering works in this country. It is well to have these re-gatherings while the physical features of the old home towns are intact, for progress to-day demands improvements which are not always in keeping with the spirit of the place. Too often the term municipal improvements means the rooting up of the picturesque because it is old, to have in its place the hard bricks and stones of modernism. Old towns like Longueuil have their individual characteristics, which newer municipalities do not seem to aspire to, probably because they are too busy looking after their material growth.

THE LATE EX-CONTROLLER SPENCE.

By the death of ex-Controller F. S. Spence, the secretary of the Ontario Municipal Association, civic Canada has lost an invaluable friend. For many years Mr. Spence made a point of attending the conventions of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, when his kindly presence and valuable advice were so welcome to every delegate present. Probably no man has done so much as the late Mr. Spence to raise the standard of the municipal life of Canada, and certainly no man had a keener insight of the practical affairs of city government, to which at every opportunity he applied those civic principles of which he has been so long an apostle. Both the Dominion and the Provincial Associations could ill spare Mr. Spence.