

chairman of such a convention as this, and I congratulate you on its auspicious opening and bright promise of results great and far-reaching for good for all our fellow men. I consider this to be one of the most important public gatherings ever assembled in this country—certainly the most important of the past twenty-five years. Firstly, because of the nature of the questions we are here to consider; and secondly, because of its cosmopolitan character, and the presence of so many men representative of the great forces engaged in the commercial and legislative history of North America—men eminent for learning, professional and executive ability, and the trust and esteem of the communities of which they are accredited representatives.

I am here because I believe, as you do, that an adequate waterway uniting these great lakes with the sea will, more than any other one thing, bring increased prosperity to our people, and because you, who have given so much study to this question, by your deliberations will bring into bold relief its transcendent influence for good and dissipate any clouds of doubt as to its feasibility.

Your commerce and transportation on these great lakes and in their tributary basins have reached that stage in their development when it becomes absolutely necessary for you to have relief from the congestion, and bring your surplus products to the seaboard cheaper than can be done by existing means.

What is so necessary to the people in the heart of the continent will prove to be scarcely less important to us on the seaboard, and I have no hesitancy in saying that when you have carefully sifted the matter and formulated your desires in a fully matured plan which can meet and in its own completeness and sufficiency refute the criticisms of those who do not believe in its feasibility, an adequate waterway to the seaboard will be built. (Applause.)

I now have the great pleasure of presenting to you his honor, the mayor of the city of Cleveland, Robert E. McKisson.

MAYOR M'KISSON'S ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Mayor McKisson: It is a pleasure to welcome the members of the International Deep Waterways association to Cleveland.

It is very appropriate, indeed, that your convention should be held in this city. No interior center of population in this country has so large an interest in this movement. Deep waterways and deep harbors are questions which concern us, and are of vital importance. The economy of water transportation, and the benefits to be derived from it, are not matters of local importance, but they are matters of general and national importance, not only to this city but to the whole country.

It has been said by a mathematician that in this country to-day \$150,000,000 are saved to the people by water transportation. This sum is equal to one-half the aggregate wealth of the city of Cleveland; and when we consider that it is brought about by reason of the fact that water transportation gives cheaper rates and quicker movement than transportation by rail; when we take into consideration these questions, and enter into these

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