

AMERICAN ROAD-BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.

Highway improvement, one of the most vital questions before the United States, will engage the attention of the foremost public officials and expert road builders in the country during the four days of the ninth annual convention of the American Road Builders' Association, at Music Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio, December 3 to 6. Those in charge of the arrangements have been busy with the plans for the meeting, and the exhibition of road building materials and machinery to be held in conjunction with the convention, for several months, and although there yet remains nearly three months before the first session will be opened, the number of official delegates already appointed and the amount of space taken by exhibitors make it beyond question that the convention will be not only the principal event of the year in road building circles, as it has been each year for nearly a decade, but will also surpass all previous meetings of the association.

Governor Judson Harmon, of Ohio, has evinced his interest and his sympathy with the efforts of the American Road Builders' Association to the extent of addressing letters to the governors of all of the other States, strongly endorsing the purposes for which the meeting has been called and requesting the appointment of official delegates. Although this letter was sent out only a short time ago, and although some of the chief executives to whom the letter was addressed were absent from their States, delegates have been appointed by Governor O'Neal, of Alabama; Governor Deneen, of Illinois; Governor Oddie, of Nevada; Governor McDonald, of New Mexico; Governor Burke, of North Dakota; Governor Colquitt, of Texas, and Governor Mann, of Virginia. Governor Brown, of Georgia, has signified his intention of complying with the request, and Governor Foss, of Massachusetts, Governor Cruse, of Oklahoma, and Governor Aldrich, of Nebraska, have taken steps to name delegates.

The American Road Builders' Association has held conventions of constantly increasing size and importance during the past nine years, and is composed chiefly of state, county, town and city officials; engineers engaged either as public officers or in private practice in the construction and maintenance of roads and streets; road and street contractors; consulting engineers and chemists, and others to whom the building and up-keep of country roads and city streets is of direct and vital interest. It is the only national organization of the United States which limits its annual convention to the consideration of the administrative and technical phases of road and street construction, and it numbers in its membership most of the men whose names are well known among road builders and highway officials.

Although the formal sessions of the convention are limited to the consideration of the particular questions in which its members are interested, there is always much of popular interest at its meetings. This is especially true of the exhibitions of road building material and equipment which are held in conjunction with the convention. This plan was inaugurated by the association at its sixth annual convention at Columbus, Ohio, in 1909, and proved so successful at that time that it was repeated at Indianapolis in 1910 and at Rochester in 1911, greater interest being manifested by both exhibitors and visitors each successive year. The exhibition this year will include not only all the features which have contributed to the value of former exhibitions, but will also include an exhibition by States and municipalities showing road building materials, methods of administration and construction and other matters of interest to the layman as well as to the engineer or contractor. This

departure from the usual plan has been contemplated by the association since its 1911 convention, and the manner in which the States and cities have taken hold of the matter gives promise of a most interesting display. The commercial exhibits, as in former years, will include displays by the leading manufacturers of road machinery, manufacturers of and dealers in various materials, including oils, asphalts, tars, cements, etc., paving companies and others.

The meetings and the exhibits will all be held in Music Hall, which is conveniently situated, and provides ample accommodations. The city officials and citizens of Cincinnati, as well as the State officials of Ohio, are co-operating with the American Road Builders' Association and putting forth every effort to make the 1912 convention the most successful ever held.

Nelson P. Lewis, chief engineer of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New York city, is the president of the American Road Builders' Association; Harold Parker, chairman of the Massachusetts State Highway Commission, first vice-president; W. W. Crosby, consulting engineer of the Maryland State Highway Commission, treasurer, and E. L. Powers, editor of "Good Roads," secretary.

THE CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION.

The Canadian Forestry Association held their annual convention in Victoria, B.C., September 4th to 6th, with Mr. John Hendry, of Vancouver, the president, in the chair.

In the course of his presidential address Mr. Hendry said:—

"To keep 'fake' settlers out of areas suited principally for timber requires, first, a knowledge of the country, which will show where such areas are, and the power in the various governments to resist political pressure brought to bear upon them to allow pretended settlers to locate on what is chiefly valuable as timber land. Surveys should, therefore, be made as rapidly as possible to ascertain the areas of absolutely forest land, and the whole forest staff should be free from any partisan influence, so that it will not be silent when measures antagonistic to the good of the forest are proposed, or when parties endeavor wrongfully to enter upon forest lands. To obtain the best results, the forest service should be placed under civil service regulations, whereby appointments, promotions and dismissals will be made solely upon merit. It is gratifying to know that British Columbia is taking a forward stand in these matters and that a forest service is now being organized which bids fair to be the finest in the Dominion. This means the expenditure of a large amount of money, but, so long as the service carries out the idea of protecting our forests, with an eye single to the public interest, I am sure the government will be sustained by the people in this work."

The Minister of Lands, Hon. W. R. Ross, gave a paper on "The Guardianship of the Forest Wealth of British Columbia." Sir Richard McBride, the Premier, he said, had made it plain that this province, so far as the others are concerned, proposes to take the lead in matters affecting the modern policy of conservation of forests. It was particularly fitting that the present convention should be held in Victoria, as it gave British Columbia an opportunity to give firsthand notice to its friends from other provinces that from now on it would expect that for the latest word in forestry conservation all must come here.

Mr. Ross, in his paper, traced briefly but concisely what has been done in British Columbia for the protection of the forests, and explained fully the composition and working of the forest branch of his department, starting his review