

In Eastern Canada and in the older Provinces, you perhaps find many mistakes to correct, but you have also the great advantage of the experience of those who have gone before, and it is in order that the West—the newer parts of the country—may have the advantage of your experience, and that you may have the inspiration that comes from the development of a completely new country, that you are gathered here, and we all look for great results from conventions such as these.

Speaking of the money stringency—I do not intend to go into the financial side at all—but I think you will agree with me that the prosperity of Canada depends upon the prosperity of every constituent that goes to make up this great country. There can be no good times in the West and bad times in the East; and there can be no good times in the East and bad times in the West. As Canadians we ought to forget that there is an East, or a West, but realize that we are each one of us, in our own particular sphere, working out to the very best of our ability the problems that have been set before us, so that the result will be the very greatest measure of success to our beloved Dominion. If you were to ask me what perhaps, after all, would be the greatest benefit to be derived from a Convention such as this, I would say that it is the bringing together of men representing the responsibility of which I have spoken from the different parts of the Dominion, letting them interchange their ideas and thoughts, and meet each other and learn to sympathize with each other. Perhaps we in the West are apt to feel that all the difficulties and all the problems lie in our country, and the people in the East will no doubt think the same thing; but when we come together, when we calmly discuss the questions that are uppermost in our minds, we find that the East is working out great problems for the West, and the West is undertaking great things for the East, and that the prosperity of our country at large depends upon the earnest co-operation, sympathy, and an intelligent and brotherly interest in each other. Talking of co-operation, what is a municipality but a great co-operative society? What are any of our great institutions of civilization but co-operative societies? And he who looks most into that problem of co-operation best realizes that the good of his fellow-men means his own good; means the development of an interest in each other that we would not have where co-operation and co-operative principles are not at work. And we will become better citizens when we begin to believe more fully than we do at the present time that having an interest in our fellow-men means our own success, and our own prosperity as well.

I welcome you all from the various parts of Canada to this new Province; I welcome you to this land of the prairie. We extend to you a welcome as broad as our prairies, with hearts as light as the sun which shines upon us together, and we meet you as fellow-Canadians engaged in a common cause and in a common work. And we hope that when this Convention separates we will, through having come in contact with each other, have a broader sympathy, a broader outlook with regard to the welfare of this great country of which we claim to be citizens.

Mayor Bligh, Halifax, N.S., and Mayor Oliver, Port Arthur, Ont., on behalf of the delegates, replied to the addresses of welcome.

Mayor Lavallee read the

President's Address

Honor is a thing which costs very dearly. I never felt that sentiment as much as I do today. I can assure you that I could not over-estimate the value of being the President of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, but I suppose everybody must pay his debts and it is a heavy debt that I have to pay, and the effort to pay it is very great.

I have been connected with this work for the last eight or nine years, and the more I attend these Conventions, the more I become convinced of their utility, and I am sure that every one of you has come to the same conclusion. It is through these conventions that we establish an exchange of ideas between the extreme east and the extreme west, and between the north and the south. We have, in every Province, each our ideals. We administer the municipal affairs according to local conditions and under rules and laws that are given by the representatives of the people in each Legislature. But as wisdom is not always measured with the same yardstick, we have not the same rules. But a thing which I may say without fear of being contradicted is that in each Province and in each municipal council, you will always find the same devotedness, the same zeal for the fostering and the advancement of municipal affairs.

I trust that the Union of Canadian Municipalities will continue united, that every year they will meet, that they will study up the different problems which have to be solved in the best interests of Canadian Municipalities, and that they will advance and push forward the interests of small and large municipalities. I think that good, intelligent municipal administration, is the sinew, the backbone, the strength of the country, and I trust that this Union will live many years and that every municipality will aid it, for it is a duty to send delegates to whatever might be the place of convention.

I cannot take my seat without offering my thanks, as President of this Union, to the Lieutenant Governor of this Province for the honor he has done this Convention; or without seizing the first opportunity, as President of this Union, to tender my most sincere and cordial thanks for the way in which the Mayor and the Aldermen of this Municipality have received the delegates of this Convention.

Ex-Mayor W. D. Lighthall, K.C., read the

Report of the Honorary Sec.-Treasurer

The great interest of the present Convention is in the return of our Municipal Parliament to Western Canada, the extraordinary interest of whose developments is in no respect more striking than in the development of its municipalities. In our last visit, four years ago, we were struck by the splendid promise of the growing cities and towns, and our reports up to date have been such as to cause in us the most profound interest in the improvement we expect to find out of what we then saw. But besides that, large fresh developments have also taken place, especially along the Northern routes, and all our delegates will doubtless learn much that will be of advantage to their communities.

During the past year Legislation at Ottawa has for us been freighted with much preparation, but the political issues have prevented immediate results on the Statute Book. The questions arising from the judgment of the Privy Council in the case of North Toronto and the Toronto and Niagara Power Company, which was the subject of one of the principal resolutions at the last Convention, and involved the great matter of control of streets in general, was the subject of a large and influential delegation to Ottawa, in reply to whose representations the Dominion Government promised relief by legislation. Much work was spent during the Session of Parliament in following up these representations. It was understood that the solution would be found in an amendment to the Railway Act. Other questions were also involved in a pending revision of the Railway Act, to which we paid close attention, notifying the Government of the vital points of interest in that Act to municipalities, which it was necessary to carefully protect in revising it. The Revised Act is ready, but was crowded out like much other matter, by the prolonged Naval Debate. All the other resolutions of last year were pressed forward by the Executive as instructed. In particular, the International Municipal League, suggested at the Windsor Convention, has been established and is getting into operation. The Secretary appointed,—the widely known Mr. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Secretary of the National Municipal League of the United States,—has thrown into the matter all his usual zeal and ability. Several of the principal British Municipal Associations, and those of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia have taken favorable action, and negotiations are in progress with the International Municipal Association of Europe at Ghent this summer.

A very important matter taken up has been the movement by the Union for the construction by, or in conjunction with the Governments concerned, of an Interprovincial Highway of good standard construction across Canada. Most of the principal cities and towns of the Dominion have sent their resolution favoring such a road, accompanied with many comments in support. On approaching the Dominion Government it has suggested a petition representing the voice of the municipalities, small as well as large, in which case there is no doubt such a Highway would follow. It would be the principal link of a general Highways policy, and would fit into either a Provincial or Dominion or Local policy.