

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

By W. SANFORD EVANS, Esq.

Chairman of the Winnipeg Town Planning Commission

W. Sanford Evans, ex-mayor of Winnipeg and chairman of the Winnipeg Town Planning Commission, who presided, opened the proceedings by explaining that the congress had been called on the joint invitation of the Winnipeg Town Planning Commission and The Winnipeg Industrial Bureau. The City Council during the preceding year had appointed a commission to investigate the local conditions and report to the City Council, and the Winnipeg Industrial Bureau had before the appointment of the commission, created a committee on Housing and Town Planning. These two bodies had united to organize the congress, and it was a matter of the greatest satisfaction that so large and so representative a response had been made to the invitation extended. It was not necessary for him to attempt to deal with the history of the Housing and Town Planning movement or to say anything of its vital importance. One thing, however, was evident, and that was that a great deal of education was necessary for the successful carrying on of this work, first among those who took positions of leadership in the movement, and in the second place, and no less important, on the part of the general public, since it was absolutely essential to have a body of enlightened public opinion in support of any recommendations that might be made. And it was not sufficient that the public in small local districts alone should understand and appreciate. The movement needed the support of the whole country and would gather in strength as the public opinion of all civilized countries is educated, it was hoped that this congress would have an important effect, not only in the education and stimulation of those who attended as delegates, but also through them, and through the reports of the proceedings, upon the general public.

Mr. Evans called attention to the very large number of exhibits which had been kindly forwarded by experts and friends of the movement in Great Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark and Canada, and which he believed would be found of great interest and value.