

*Road Builders Association*, ninth annual convention, Cincinnati, December, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th,

1912. The Secretary, 150 Nassau St., New York City.

## THE EMPIRE AND THE WORLD ABROAD

### Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health.

The Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health was recently held in Berlin, Germany, and for the first time outside the United Kingdom. The reasons why the 1912 meeting was held in the German capital are twofold. In the first place, the members wished to see the institutions established by the Germans for the promotion of hygiene, to compare notes with German hygienists and men of science on the methods adopted to improve the well-being of the people, and on the results achieved, and, if possible, to collect material that might serve to aid them in their own work at home. In the second place, the members hoped that their visit would, by enabling a large number of men actively engaged in public life in the two countries to make each other's acquaintance, assist in the movement whose aim is to bring about a better understanding between the two nations.

Emphasis was therefore laid on this hope by Earl Beauchamp, the First Commissioner of Works, in his inaugural address as president of the institute. "Our objects are scientific," the president stated; "but it would be impossible for me to let this opportunity go by without expressing the hearty desire of the British people for friendly relations with this great country." The speaker referred to England's indebtedness to Germany in the domain of applied hygiene, and added: "The British people have much to learn from the great Teutonic nation in all matters of scientific inquiry, and a peaceful rivalry in subjects such as these is, I hope, the only rivalry that will ever separate the two nations."

Expression was also given to the same hopes and sentiments, but in a more enthusiastic manner, at the banquet arranged by the City of Berlin in honor of the Congress, at the official Congress banquet, and on other occasions when the members of the institute met a large number of their German confreres. In proposing the toast

of "The Institute" at the Congress banquet, his Excellency, Professor Dr. von Schjerning, chief of the medical corps of the German army, said the members of the Royal Institute had taken a wise step in coming to Berlin themselves, for anyone who really wants to know what another nation is doing and what its feelings are must make a personal visit, and mix with the other people.

The work accomplished at this Congress was enormous. Upwards of 130 papers were read, in English or in German, and about 20 most important institutions inspected, not to speak of banquets, excursions, and ordinary sight-seeing.

The whole of the Herrenhaus, the Prussian House of Lords, was placed at the disposal of the Royal Institute for the purposes of its Congress, and everything was done on the German side that possibly could be done to make the Congress a success, from both a scientific and from a social point of view.

### Royal Sanitary Institute Congress.

The Royal Sanitary Institute's twenty-seventh annual Congress was held at York, England, last month. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught, K.G., patron of the Congress, opening the Health Exhibition on that day at 3 p.m. The Most Rev. His Grace the Lord Archbishop of York acted as President of the Congress.

The programme for the week was most interesting, including lectures to the Congress by Professor Karl Pearson, M.A., LL.B., F.R.S., on "Eugenics and the Public Health," and Professor Henry R. Kenwood, M.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E., on "The Healthy Home."

More than 250 authorities, including foreign and colonial Governments, County Councils, County Boroughs and other Sanitary Authorities, Universities, and Societies were represented by delegates to the Congress. The Institute has over 4,000 members and associates.

Local arrangements were in the hands of an influential Local Committee, presid-