

## INTRODUCTORY.

Various projects for the construction of a deep waterway from the lakes to the Atlantic ocean have occupied the attention of the public. It was felt that a conference of representatives of the cities and towns located on the great lakes and St. Lawrence river and contiguous territory was necessary to consider the question and formulate resolutions for presentation to the government, setting forth the requirements of a channel of navigation that would conserve the interests of the lake and river ports and territory tributary thereto.

The city of Windsor, Ontario, midway between the head of the lakes and Quebec, was thought to be the logical point for such a conference and, by request, Mayor Henry Clay, of Windsor, issued invitations to the lake and river ports to send representatives to a meeting to be held in the City Hall, Windsor, on Friday afternoon, January 30th, 1914, at 3 o'clock.

A record of the proceedings of this conference will be found in the succeeding pages.

We desire to call attention to the fact that the Windsor conference did not discuss the question of the development of power in connection with any of the proposed projects for the construction of a deep waterway to the sea, it being the opinion of those present that the matter should be considered purely from the standpoint of a channel of navigation and that the development of power was of secondary importance and only incidental thereto. In other words, the object of the meeting was to secure the construction of a deep waterway that will permit the free passage of ocean going vessels of large capacity in order that transportation facilities adequate to meet the necessities of the country might be provided. The consensus of opinion was that the development of power should be considered on its own merits and entirely separate from the question of a waterway. If sufficient power can be developed to pay for the construction of such a waterway so much the better, but the main consideration is to secure a satisfactory channel of navigation.

The record of the Windsor conference sets forth plainly the views of the representatives of the lake cities regarding the construction of a deep waterway from the lakes to the sea and we place it before you confident that it will meet with your approval and that immediate action will be taken by the government to decide upon a policy that will insure the speedy completion of a channel of navigation from the lakes to the ocean that will prove to be of inestimable value to the people of Canada.

C. L. BARKER, Secretary.

HENRY CLAY, Chairman.