

The Sixth International Road Congress has now become an actuality possessed of spirit, character and splendid potentialities for contributing to the advancement of the major human causes which, without exception are largely dependent upon easily available and economical transportation. This inaugural with its promise of worthwhile accomplishment is only possible because of the heritage of sincere purpose, of national hospitality, of personal friendship, of guidance by the officers of the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses, of governmental participation, and international cooperation extended by individuals and groups widely representative of the nations of the world, all of which have been in generous measure wrought into the structure of the five preceding Congresses. Each one of these Congresses, with its individuality and its advance was necessary to make this day and this occasion - each one has made its contribution. What greater stimulus to constructive thought and creative effort could be afforded the road technicians, the highway officials or the transportation student than the opportunity extended by Italy in the preceding assemblage of this body, the fifth International Road Congress of 1926 held in Milan and Rome. Here the romance, the science, the art, the passing centuries, the human pageant since Christ, all presented the varying picture of civilization as influenced by highway transport to our imagination while we were permitted to know the splendid and most modern autostrada from Milan to the Lakes of Lombardy and in contrast the Via Appia Antigua leading out of Rome - the City Eternal.

We of the United States can not hope to offer you 2000 years and more of transportation history. Yet we do not apologize - in fact we have perhaps a grievance ourselves. If the Vikings from the north lands

had not been such transient visitors ^{or} and if the ancestors of the delegates from Spain had earlier contributed their earrings to start Columbus westward a thousand or two years before he did, by this time we hope we might have more nearly approached a solution of our road problem, or more properly, our many road problems. These we hope to attack now with renewed effort and enthusiasm in conference and cooperation with you beginning with the section meetings tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. The program is a full one. It will require unshakable devotion and no little determination to give full consideration to the important questions. It is our hope to expedite the conference proceedings by carrying on the work simultaneously in the four official languages and we seek in advance your cooperation and perhaps your patience until the system is working smoothly. Your presence at the time for opening each session will be most helpful.

This little word of friendly exhortation to remind us all of the serious purposes of the Congress and to record the need for an accelerated pace in advancing the science of highway improvement and administration falls officially to the lot of my efficient colleague, M. Le Gavrian, Secretary-General of the International Association of Road Congresses and to myself as Secretary-General of this Congress.

With this duty disposed of and having thus placed the outcome on the "Knees of the Gods", I turn for the closing word to the wonderfully pleasant privilege of greeting you delegates and guests from all the other countries, in the name and the spirit of those whose thoughts and efforts are dedicated to the improvement of the public highways of the country. Since this is the first time the Congress has come to this western continent, may I broaden this to extend a most cordial greeting and welcome to those from the older

continent in the name of the highway fraternity of all the Americas,
South, Central and North. We are most happy and honored to have you here -
west of the Atlantic and east of the Pacific Oceans.