

# EMPHATIC APPLICATION OF COLONIZATION TO REMEDY SITUATION IN EAST URGED

F. Maclure Sclanders Points Out Agricultural Products' Consumption Seriously Exceeds Production

NEW BRUNSWICK IMPORTS MUCH FOOD

Farms Undermanned and Provinces Suffer Severely From Population Exodus, Board of Trade Conference Told; Resolutions' Committee Named

CHARLOTTETOWN, Nov. 4.—The dire need for an early and emphatic application of immigration as the one effective remedy for "the gravity of the whole Maritime situation" was stressed by F. Maclure Sclanders, of the Saint John Board of Trade, at this morning's gathering of the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade now taking place here.

The annual report of the president, Wallace Higgins, was read and adopted, following which a committee on resolutions was appointed consisting of W. S. Fisher, Saint John, chairman; F. Maclure Sclanders, Saint John; A. M. Belling, Saint John; H. R. Blake, Alberton; P. E. I. E. T. Higgs, Charlottetown; G. P. Pringle, Bathurst, N. B.; and H. S. Congdon, Dartmouth, N. S. The remainder of the session was given over largely to a discussion on immigration and agriculture.

**REMEDY MUCH NEEDED.**  
Mr. Sclanders, who introduced the subject, stated it was the epidemic of his committee to drive home the gravity of the whole Maritime situation. "The consumption of agricultural products both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick," he stated, "very seriously exceeds the production."

**DRAIN ON POPULATION.**  
Speaking of the migration of young people from the Maritime Provinces, Mr. Sclanders stated that the natural increase of population, of about ten per cent, the population of the provinces in 1921 would have been 1,244,737. But, he stated, it was only 1,000,228, leaving a difference of 244,509. Our farms have long been undermanned.

**Immigration Report**  
Emigration, Immigration and Agriculture—These three matters so vital to the Maritimes, are so inseparably interdependent that it seemed logical to embrace them in one report. Taken together, they constitute one great problem of singularly intricate and far-reaching economic significance of which only the most outstanding features can be touched. However, in the time at our disposal, our endeavor will be to drive home the gravity of the whole Maritime situation, the deplorable consequences of emigration upon agricultural and commercial wellbeing, and the dire and urgent need for an early and emphatic application of the one and only effective remedy—immigration.

"At this point, it is well to say that any figures used here are based upon strictly official statistics specially prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, so that they are just as accurate as is humanly possible."

**MORE FARMS DESERTED.**  
"Deserted Farms—The increase in the number of deserted farms furnishes a reliable indication of our agricultural health. Therefore, it may interest to mention that the farms deserted in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick during the ten years, 1911 to 1921, represented an area of one thousand, two hundred and fifty-nine (1,259) square miles. This equals three or four good-sized counties in Great Britain. The exact figures as given on page 17, Bulletin 11, sixth census of Canada, are 420 square miles for New Brunswick, and 839 for Nova Scotia. Prince Edward Island showed a small gain."

**PRODUCTION IS SHORT.**  
"Consumption and Production—Let us now proceed to a second startling circumstance: It is, that the consumption of agricultural products in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, very seriously exceeds their production. For instance, New Brunswick annually imports approximately the following to make up for her own lack of production and to supply her own actual consumption:

Eggs ..... 8,828,393 doz.  
Cheese ..... 646,322 lbs.  
Butter ..... 1,460,756 lbs.  
Meats—beef, veal  
mutton and lamb, ..... 9,980,424 lbs.  
Poultry ..... 2,592,093 lbs.  
\$4,000,000 IMPORTATIONS.

"Merely these importations represent on the lowest price basis—a value of, roughly, \$4,000,000, which should certainly not be paid to the farmers of

**Neglected Coughs**  
Often lead to serious trouble—Are quickly relieved by Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

Many people regard a cold as a simple incident. But Coughs and Colds when neglected lead on to pneumonia and consumption—the most dreaded diseases common to this Northern temperature. Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine is well-known as a most effective treatment for coughs, colds, bronchitis, croup and asthma. For many years it has held its place in the homes of Canada as absolutely dependable and was never so popular as it is today. Composed of simple and yet powerfully effective ingredients it is suitable for children and adults alike and is found constantly in most homes for use in case of emergency. Prompt treatment is half the battle when fighting colds.

and apply it to the two decades, 1901 to 1921. We shall then find that, on this basis, the combined population of the three Maritime Provinces, in 1921, should have been 1,244,737 but, was only 1,000,228

difference ..... 244,509

"Thus, during the 20 years, 1901-1921, and without allowing for a single newcomer, our natural increase alone should have given the Maritimes 244,509 more people than they actually had, according to the census of 1921—and, 244,469 people represent just 63 per cent. of the present population of the Province of New Brunswick. Therefore, in terms of our exodus, a very tragic circumstance, we are unlikely to be accused of exaggeration."

## MOVEMENT FROM LAND.

"Now, it is well to mention that the exodus from the land—particularly after the second generation thereon—is a natural and inevitable circumstance. For instance, about 85 per cent. of the prominent business and professional men of the United States were born upon farms. Normally, however, newcomers fill the places of those who leave the land, so that the balance is not seriously disturbed. In our case, however, as already mentioned, it has been all give and no get. There has been no replenishment and no really serious effort put forth to that end. As a result, our farms have for long been grievously undermanned. Hence the consumption of these provinces so heavily exceeds their agricultural production—because, being undermanned, our farms are largely working on one cylinder. This circumstance, as already stated, throws dark and far-reaching shadows upon every conceivable bread-winning activity in the Maritimes."

## FARM LABOR PROBLEM.

"Of course, the farmers of our provinces, like most farmers elsewhere, formerly depended materially upon the labor of their sons and daughters, which—by the way—was never a very serious item of expense. And, when their sons and daughters sought other spheres of activity, it was apparent that many farmers could not accommodate themselves to the new order of things requiring the payment of the going wages to hired help. Thus, many of them simply did what they, of themselves, could accomplish on the land and left the rest undone. The productivity of the farm was permitted to dwindle; and with it dwindled the prosperity and contentment of the farmer."

"As years passed, the situation became more aggravated and acute, until many who had awakened to their real need for hired help found themselves—rightly or wrongly—unable to pay for same."

"Meantime, discouragement took root and steadily grew and spread with the passing of years. Too many of our good people lost heart; lost initiative and enterprise; lost faith in their land. Such desirable qualities gave place to worried discontent or apathetic resignation."

"Nor is such discouragement restricted by any means to our agriculturists. On the contrary, it has infected our people as a whole. It is epidemic in mind, Maritimes, and it is to find its most obvious symptom in the chronically negative attitude which we all seem to instinctively assume toward our own fertile, rich and beautiful provinces—their actualities, potentialities and possibilities."

"This, however, is not at all surprising, for, did we not see a pronounced demonstration of the kindergarten economic truism that agriculture is the basis of wealth, surely, it most glaringly confronts us of the Maritimes. In this connection, we do not hesitate to state without fear of intelligent contradiction, that we shall never be right until our agriculture once more prospers."

## RESURRECTION REQUIRED.

"What the Maritimes now require in the direct and most imperative sense is a complete and thoroughgoing agricultural resurrection. If the farmers of any country are discouraged, so are its people in every other line—farming, agriculture and commerce are inseparably interdependent. The prosperity or adversity of the former is reflected upon the latter with the certainty of night following day. It is because our agriculture languishes that our commerce—its economic complement—cannot hope to provide attractive employment for our young men and women who are thus compelled to seek a livelihood beyond our borders—young men and women whom we have carefully and expensively educated. The seriousness of this point warrants its present repetition."

"One other reference to hired help. In order to win a moderate income for himself, the average business man has to pay out for his hired help a sum that is frequently much larger than his net income. Nevertheless, it is only by paying out so much in wages that he can attain a livelihood for himself. In a material sense, this principle applies to the farmer also; for, it is reasonable to assume that his employment of hired help will increase the productivity of the farm."

## SYMPATHY WITH FARMER.

"Now, it must not be, for one moment, assumed that this report is critically unsympathetic toward the farmer. It is precisely and very sincerely the reverse; for, every thinking man realizes that the farmer has long contended with more difficult and distracting problems than seem to have afflicted themselves upon any other section of the community. The aim of this report is to simply, dispassionately and as accurately as possible, locate and diagnose the causes so seriously withholding the progress and prosperity of the Maritimes, and, in this effort, it seemed prudent to unhesitatingly face facts however uninviting."

"It has already been submitted that the fundamental cause of our trouble is the long, steady, unreplenished exodus from our farms—an exodus largely due to the strenuous Western immigration efforts of Dominion Governments, toward the cost of which—the bitter irony of circumstances—we have fully contributed our full quota of cost, thus helping, and through long years continuing to help along the destruction of our genuine natural asset—our agricultural life."

## NEW BLOOD IS REMEDY.

"And, what is the remedy? Obviously, the remedy is new blood—good, new blood, and just as much of it as can be induced to freely flow in upon our farms. But, toward this crying need, we ourselves must act and achieve. The task can not, must not be left

to others as it has been for so long with such disastrous consequences. Hitherto, we have done lots of talking;—do we now possess on this or the other side a properly functioning organization for the securing and placing of agricultural newcomers? We venture to say without fear of contradiction that did a hundred good agricultural immigrants land in Saint John at any time, we would experience considerable embarrassment in knowing what to do with them and where to place them. Organization is what we have not had and must have; organization at both ends; on this side and on the other."

"To secure the needed new blood for the farms of the Maritimes demands the active adoption of an intensive, practical immigration policy which must be extended without interruption for a good many years. This will cost a lot of money; but, if we, ourselves, cannot provide that money—then, we positively must get it elsewhere. Perhaps, because of what we have suffered through the immigration effort of the Dominion Government on behalf of the West, special consideration of our case might be forthcoming from Ottawa. At any rate, the time is past for us to argue that this thing can not be done. Rather must we determine that it absolutely must no longer remain undone—and, surely, experience has demonstrated time and again that no problem, be it ever so seemingly insuperable, can for long withhold its solution from a few earnest patriotic men. The problem of peopling splendid farm lands is not insuperable, provided we tackle it with all the earnestness of our hearts and souls; and, in this connection, the following quotation from Carlyle's French Revolution appeals as peculiarly apt: 'Dearly beloved brother blockheads of mankind, let us close these wide mouths of ours; let us cease shrieking, and begin considering.'"

## MOST BEAUTIFUL IN CANADA.

"Ours are certainly the most beautiful provinces of the Dominion, and, perhaps, the richest. They would seem to possess all the potentialities of intense prosperity; but, we must do our share. Whatever our freight rate disabilities may be with regard to the marketing of our industrial products in Upper Canada, there can be no question as to our very outstanding freight rate advantage over Upper and Western Canada on the export of stock and agricultural products. For instance, it costs the farmers of Saskatchewan \$2.48¢ per 100 lbs. export rate, to bring butter from Regina to Saint John harbor, for shipment to the Old Country. Yet, these Saskatchewan farmers last year made \$2,838,902 lbs. of butter valued at \$8,744,250, a large proportion of which was exported to a number of countries, some six and a-half million pounds going to Great Britain. The other Prairie Provinces are achieving similar export success."

"When we grasp our splendid freight rate advantage for the export of farm products to the yawning markets of the Old Country and elsewhere, it is not reasonable to contend that these Maritime Provinces might be and should be the veritable Denmark of Canada, if not of North America? Surely, we have every possible inducement to raise the right kind of produce in the right way and to standardize and pack it honestly. The opportunity is ours. The failure to grasp it earnestly and energetically will be ours also."

"In conclusion, it is well to add that this report is submitted with all diffidence and with every deference to the views of others. Should the opinions it expresses seem unduly emphatic to some, or ill-founded to others, the hope is that at least it may be accepted as an honest and sincere attempt to deal frankly with a profoundly serious matter."

"Mr. Sclanders' address was followed by a discussion participated in by H. S. Congdon, Dartmouth; S. R. Burke, Alberton; P. E. I.; Angus McLean, Bathurst; E. T. Higgs, E. Bentley, W. F. Tidmarsh, A. E. Dewar, all of Charlottetown; A. J. Matheson, O'Leary, P. E. I.; A. Brennan, Summerside; A. M. Belling, Saint John, and Major R. J. Ashton, Commissioner of Land Settlement, Ottawa."

## Economic Report

The following political and economic report was presented this afternoon: "In accordance with your request, this committee has been considering the political and economic status of the Maritime Provinces as a portion of the Dominion of Canada, and beg to submit the following report:

"With reference to our political status in the Dominion, this is mainly to do with the matter of representation in Parliament and after due consideration of the subject, our conclusion is that the number of our representatives in the House of Commons, under the present North America Act made in 1915 provides the only safeguard that is practically against an undue reduction to our representation in the House of Commons. By that amendment it was provided that 'notwithstanding anything in the said act to the contrary, a province shall always be entitled to a number of members in the House of Commons not less than the number of Senators representing such province.' Therefore as it is provided by the same act that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall each be entitled to ten Senators and Prince Edward Island to four, the number of our representatives in the Commons, under existing legislation, can never fall below those figures. Were it not for some limitation such as that provided in the B. N. A. Act and representation was allowed

to increase throughout the Dominion in the same proportion to population as at time of Confederation, the number of representatives would increase so rapidly that it would be necessary to build new Houses of Parliament every ten years or so to provide accommodation for them."


**BUT LITTLE POVERTY.**  
"The Economic Status—Economic science, we are told, relates to the pro-

duction, conservation, and distribution of wealth, or that which conduces to the general well-being of the people. Looking at the situation of the Maritime Provinces from this point of view, we find that the general well-being of the people of the Maritime Provinces compares favorably with that of people in other portions of the Dominion. The aggregate wealth, while less per capita than in other portions

of the Dominion, seems to be more evenly distributed, there is but little poverty, and except as a result of voluntary cessation of labor during period of strikes, a lower proportion of unemployment in recent years, than in the more populous provinces. Business interests during the recent period of depression have, we think, suffered less in the Maritime Provinces than in other parts. General commercial credit is

good, while provincial and municipal credits stand as high as in any other portion of the Dominion. While, however, it is gratifying to note the facts above stated, they are, we regret to say, not due in any marked degree to productive activity, but, on the other hand, to the fact that while production has increased but slowly, if at all, the

Continued on following page.



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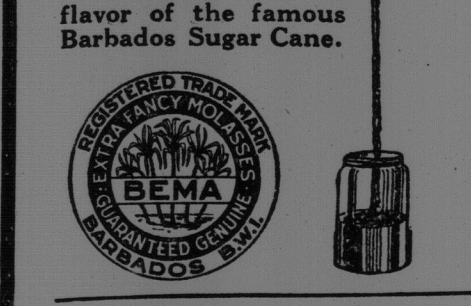
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