

NEED OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS INSISTED UPON IN THE ANNUAL REPORT OF PRESIDENT OF B. OF T.

Mr. H. H. Powell Urges This Particularly in View of Soldiers Returning From the Front—The Question of "Back to the Land" and Tariffs Also Touched Upon.

Mr. H. H. Powell, president of the Board of Trade submitted his annual report last night which reads as follows:

The uncertain trade conditions existing since the war commenced has very considerably eliminated the board's opportunity for usefulness to the community; the mind and activities of the members being so taken up in providing men and means to further our country's and Empire's effort in the great war in which we are engaged that other questions become negligible. However, as indicated by the Secretary's report, your officers and committees have kept in touch with all matters pertaining to the advancement of the commercial and industrial interests of the city.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS.
Business conditions during the war period has been one of surprises. Before the war the industrial condition was most critical, but owing to large acreage put under crop and the especially favorable crop growing season vouchsafed us by Divine Providence, we harvested the largest yield on Canada records, and are realizing for same similarly high prices. The agriculturists' requirements together with the munitions and war supplies orders received, have taxed the manufacturers' capacity to fill. Consequently, we find employment and wage conditions good, and trade so favorable that Canada finds herself with a balance of 200 millions to her credit at the end of the year, instead of a deficit of a similar amount.

When such conditions prevail generally the Board of Trade's assistance is not much sought. Some of our towns and cities adjoining the U. S. border have secured additional factories, mainly Canadian branches of American factories. Otherwise very few new factories are being erected

and not likely to be until the war ends and men can be got to man them. The above remarks coupled with the report of our most efficient secretary will cover what has occurred during the past term, of interest to the members.

However, with your permission, we desire to draw your attention to some matters that I think should receive your most earnest attention.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS NEEDED.
The first and most urgent is the establishing of Vocational Schools here, wherein those so incapacitated by injuries as to be unable to take up their former calling may be educated along such lines as will enable them to be useful and as far as possible happily employed for their support. In France, particularly, notwithstanding their strenuous conditions, they have provided schools there that seem to be able to provide the means of earning a living that meets the severest of afflictions.

SHOULD NOT WAIT.
The men who have enlisted here are the most active and energetic of our citizens, their training and present life have made them more so, being for the most part young men with the greater part of their lives yet to live. We should see that they have the opportunities of life, regardless of counting necessary cost. From a monetary standpoint it will certainly be more profitable than compelling them to pass their lives in idleness. The boys are gradually returning, I do not think we should wait until the war is over to provide the schools, as it will take some time to get anything of a new departure of this kind started and running properly. We bring this before you because it has got to have your support to be established financially and advisory. You are vitally interested in the efficiency of the artisan, you have the experience and contribute largely to the cost, so why not help solve the problem. Furthermore you will be solving a problem that affects the future training or education of 90 per cent. of our school children, boys and girls to-day, but the man behind the machine to-morrow. If education should prepare the boy and girl to live, and prepare them to work in the most efficient way possible, would not the addition of Vocational Education be of great advantage to our present system?

The Board of Education is quite cognizant of the needs, both Technical and Vocational. Brantford is large and important enough to have both, of a class second to none. We trust, therefore, that the question will meet with your most earnest consideration.

THE LAND PROBLEM.
Back to the land is another question. The government is considering that as applied to New Ontario, but we think it should be considered in connection with Old Ontario also, where there is so much uncultivated and undercultivated land for lack of farm help, and so help to solve the agricultural help problem by getting a large number of small farms throughout the country.

Back to the land will be found to be as much a social as an economic problem, and is only solved when the landless farmer is given the opportunity of acquiring a home, and thereby social status. That is the reason the Irish Land Act has been so successful, and has been so reported on by several state committees appointed to investigate and report on the working and desirability of the many land acts in operation throughout the world—their reports stating that it has been the most successful in lessening tenant farming, resuscitating worn-out land, increasing very largely by the agricultural output, and has completely solved the back to the land problem and the agricultural help problem.

In view of the expected desire of a number of those returning from the front to take up agricultural work, and who will have acquired quite an amount of knowledge in regard to intensified farming, the board might find its expression on the matter most opportune and helpful in framing legislation thereto.

TRANSPORTATION.
Another is transportation. Transportation rates are the measure of distance. We are a country of "magnificent distances," and, as the value of our products depends on what our competitors can pay their products down for in the same market, we will have to exercise our ingenuity in providing low transportation rates. Otherwise our large area of grain, etc., producing territory will not be main attractive and retain the farmer thereon. As an instance, compared with Russia, who will be our greatest competitor, particularly from her grain and dairy section on the Black Sea and river tributary thereto, she will have water rates all the year round to Britain, our main market from a country, in products and climate similar to Canada. We, on the other hand, have long rail haulage to water transportation points and for the same seasons crops, only available for a couple of months. We are vitally interested in the quick mark-

ALLISON'S STORY OF FUSE ORDERS

Central Figure in the Kyte Charges Testifies Before Commission, GAVE CLEAR AND FRANK RECITAL General Hughes Never Informed by Him of Commissions.

Ottawa, May 18.—Honorary Col. J. Wesley Allison, the central figure in the Kyte fuse charges, took the stand yesterday afternoon. He told a clear story of the arrangements regarding the various contracts in which he was concerned. He had been called in by General Hughes for the specific purpose of creating competition in order to reduce prices for the manufacture of fuses. General Hughes considered that the prices which had been quoted up to that time were altogether too high and Allison undertook to get together a group of manufacturers who could produce the fuses at the lower price, while General Hughes thought was proper, and at the same time secure early deliveries.

Col. Allison throughout his evidence emphasized the difficulties of fuse manufacture. Not only the Shell Committee were unaware of the difficulties involved, but the manufacturers themselves at that time were equally ignorant of the intricate nature of the work.

Prior to taking up this question of the manufacture of fuses Col. Allison had been engaged in very large undertakings for the supply of munitions to the allied powers, had been in Europe, and had laid the foundation for an extensive and, as he expected, profitable business. He had then met Yoakum in New York and joined forces with him on the basis of the understanding already described by Yoakum himself.

Col. Allison explained his relations with Yoakum. His arrangement with him was made some considerable time after his arrangement with Lignanti out of the Yoakum commission would be the victim of the Allison-Lignanti connection, and not by reason of any association of Lignanti with Yoakum. This statement corroborated absolutely the evidence of Mr. Yoakum upon that point.

With regard to commissions, Col. Allison stated that he had received, as would receive, a commission on the number of contracts in which he was not concerned. He had never informed Sir Sam Hughes of these commissions.

Col. Allison while giving his evidence was obviously in good health, and was in care of two physicians, it being arranged with the commissions that his examination should be made at only such length and intervals as the state of his health would warrant.

B. F. Yoakum concluded his testimony at the morning session. He said in the negotiations in which he took part everything was above board, and that "all the cards were on the table, face up."

A pearl necklace valued at between \$40,000 and \$50,000, belonging to a young New York society matron, whose name the detectives refuse to divulge, has been lost or stolen.

Only 467 candidates for admission to the Naval Academy at Baltimore out of more than 1,800 passed the mental examinations.

THE LUNCHEON

Given in Connection With the Presentation of Colors. Lieut.-Governor Hendrie Made a Most Appropriate Speech.

At the luncheon given yesterday in the Brantford Club by Lt. Col. Cockshutt, M. P., to Sir John Hendrie, Governor of Ontario and several military men, the table decorations were of the most dainty nature, including many vases of roses.

Chaplain Williams offered grace and the menu was of a very choice nature and splendidly served. At the conclusion of the repast Lt. Col. Cockshutt gave "The King," responded to by the singing of the National Anthem.

In proposing the toast of the Lieut. Governor, Mr. Cockshutt voiced the honor and the pleasure which he felt as he was sure they all did, in having with them the first Commoner of the Province. Sir John Hendrie and Lady Hendrie had proven themselves most gracious occupants of Government House and with great success had successfully discharged the duties of their high position.

Major Williams in a few felicitous words extended a most welcome greeting to Sir John Hendrie, who was received with loud applause, made a very happy reply. He stated that both he and his wife had looked forward with special pleasure to their Brantford visit and had not in any sense been disappointed. The fame of the city and the county in the matter of the large number of men who had offered for service, and in contributions for the war, was well known to all and he had been deeply impressed with the showing made that morning by the 125th Battalion. He was commencing to rank as a veteran in the presentation of colors and although he was not going to say that the Brant Battalion was the best he had ever seen, it certainly was a very great credit indeed to the commanding officer, Lt. Col. Cutcliffe and all associated with him. For the time they had been together, the 125th had decidedly done wonders and he knew that like all other Canadian Battalions they would give a splendid account of themselves when the call to action came. He would say as the result of his visit to the trenches near Mohawk Church, that he had never seen better work of the kind anywhere. The Lieut. Governor said that he knew the members of the Battalion appreciated to the full the kindness and the thoughtfulness of Mrs. W. F. Cockshutt in presenting such beautiful colors, and that they would be kept inviolate in the hands of the regiment. He also returned sincere thanks to the host of that event.

Major Williams also made some apt remarks and the gathering then dispersed, the gubernatorial party leaving by special car for Hamilton to attend another function there.

Col. Fraser, principal aide de camp to the Lieut. Governor, discharges the duties of that position in a most pleasing and affable manner. The members of the Fourth Estate here will not soon forget his kindness and urbanity.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Washington, May 18.—President Wilson to-day accepted an invitation to speak either Friday or Saturday of next week at a meeting here of the League to enforce peace, of which former President Taft is president.

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PARLIAMENTARY CEREMONY YES

Bill to Extend I ment Was In House Last W Country in the Corps to Its A

Ottawa, May 19.—Parliament rogued at 4.30 yesterday afternoon did so with little fuss or ceremony. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, as Clerk of the House, officiated in the sense of H.R.H. the Duke of Naught, who is in Montreal. There was no last-minute flourish of the Pensions Committee report of the Pensions Committee and hearing a number of suggestions for economy in Government prior to the committee which has sidereed the latter. Both reports approved. That of the Pensions Committee which suggests an upward revision of the rates to be paid in the ranks, has not been embodied in

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