

BRANTFORD BOARD OF TRADE.

The following is a copy of a resolution adopted at a joint meeting of the Citizens of Brantford and the Brantford Board of Trade, held April 2nd, 1908:—

Whereas it is deemed advisable by the Brantford Board of Trade, that the attention of the Provincial Government should be drawn to the following conditions and considerations which prevail in respect to the rivers of the province:

1. The extreme and ever-increasing variation in the volume of water flowing down the rivers during the different seasons of the year, causing more frequent and more violent floods than formerly. At times the rivers are raging torrents, carrying destruction in their wake, at other times they fall to insignificant proportions, impairing the value of the water powers connected with them, and otherwise diminishing their utility and detracting from their beauty.

Notwithstanding the large expenditures which some municipalities have made upon works to avert damage by flood, there is still a sense of insecurity, owing to the fact that a combination of circumstances may at any time cause floods of unprecedented heights, and overflow embankments which a few years ago were deemed sufficient.

2. Among the chief causes of these unfortunate conditions which prevail are the destruction of the forests and the extension of the systems of drainage, which have accompanied the settlement and the agricultural development of the province. The natural obstructions, such as forest, bog and marsh, which originally held the flood waters in abeyance, and allowed them to find their way but gradually to the channels of the rivers, have been very largely swept away and replaced by artificial arteries to facilitate the rapid escape of the waters to the rivers. The result is that the channels of the rivers which constitute the main trunk drains of a wide country, must carry away in a few days a volume of water which formerly took weeks to escape.

3. The methods necessary to mitigate existing troubles are, to preserve or restore the forests and swamps at the sources of the rivers, and to construct at suitable places along their course artificial basins, as substitutes for the natural ones which have disappeared, in order to retain the surplus waters and store them for use in the dry season.

The works constructed by the individual municipalities serve a useful and necessary purpose in confining the waters within the banks, and averting local flood damage, but are insufficient to deal with the fundamental troubles.