

Dr. Pacey in his article goes on to say:

As one who is proud to call Fredericton his adopted home, I should like to say that I do not believe this atmosphere has been altogether lost. I encountered it the moment I arrived in Fredericton, and have cherished it ever since; Gentleness, courtesy, a genuine respect for learning and literature.

However, the honourable senator from Murray Harbour (Hon. Mrs. Inman) and I were not attending a meeting that had to do with learning or literature. As I said earlier, we were attending the annual meeting of A.P.E.C. When we returned to Ottawa and were questioned about our absence, we found many of our friends did not know what the letters A.P.E.C. stands for, despite the excellent description given of it by the honourable senator for Murray Harbour in a speech made in this chamber on February 19, 1959. Consequently, with your indulgence, I would like to tell you a little about this organization, the designation of which was coined from the first letters of its name—"Atlantic Provinces Economic Council". A.P.E.C. members are made up of representatives of business and industry, and many individuals interested in regional economic progress. It is nonpolitical, nonprofit and voluntary. Its origin can be traced to a report made in 1951 by the late Dr. C. H. Blakeny of Moncton, who was Chairman of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade Committee on Industrial Development. Dr. Blakeny, a former Minister of Education, was a keen businessman and was anxious to bring about a new spirit of enterprise in his part of Canada. In that report were two statements which have been quoted many times since in connection with A.P.E.C. One is:

We in these provinces must finally realize that we must do less clamouring for (Federal) government assistance and more to help ourselves . . .

And the other:

Yet the time has come when we must make an effort to literally pull ourselves up by our bootstraps.

This report was followed by a meeting of the premiers of the four Atlantic provinces in 1953. Much correspondence and discussion took place, and finally in 1954 the movement came to a head and the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council was born.

The policies and objectives of A.P.E.C. are three in number. First: research or to get the facts. Much has been done along this line. A.P.E.C. issues a year-round *Economic Review*, a newsletter ten times a year which gives a quarterly review of economic conditions, an Atlantic Provinces check-list, an

Atlantic Provinces Trade Directory and Statistical Review, all of which are published on a regular basis. Besides these, a total of approximately 50 research studies, reports, pamphlets and other material of importance to the Atlantic economy have been issued. Actually, the A.P.E.C. library has the most complete available list of economic studies in relation to Atlantic provinces. Second: to foster co-operation within the region. Third: the promotion of interest in the support of the region for industrial development.

Among the activities to promote the second and third objectives, A.P.E.C. arranged for exhibits of Atlantic wearing apparel and footwear, of Atlantic-produced food and beverages, an Atlantic building products show and convention, a trade exhibit at Goose Bay, Labrador and Frobisher Bay, Baffin Island and Harmon Air Force base of the United States Air Force at Stephenville, Newfoundland.

Members of the executive and representatives of the Government visited Goose Bay air bases to promote trade between Atlantic provinces and the north. Joint meetings have been held with the New England Economic Council and through these meetings definite steps to promote inter-regional trade and capital investment were agreed on. Several conferences of the premiers of the four provinces were held at the same time and place as meetings of A.P.E.C., and close liaison was established on both business and social levels. Following one of these meetings a Premiers' Committee was set up to make plans for the establishment of an Atlantic provinces office in London, England, and this was set up in 1958, immediately across the street from Canada House. The opening was attended by the premiers of the four provinces and the President of A.P.E.C. The Agent General is Mr. H. Watson Jamer, former A.P.E.C. Chairman in New Brunswick.

Honourable senators, although this seems to be a new venture, I discovered that New Brunswick had had an agent general in London many years ago, and that the first one, sent over some 175 years ago, was Brooke Watson. He later became Sir Brooke, and eventually became Lord Mayor of London and Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. I thought it might be a matter of interest to honourable senators that so long ago New Brunswick had felt it important to have an agent general.

In 1959 a joint statement by the four premiers and A.P.E.C. announced that an Atlantic Provinces Research Board had been set up in Fredericton.