

Opportunity Opens Its Doors for Nova Scotians

Mr. George E. Graham, General Manager of the D. A. R. since his arrival in Nova Scotia is keeping his eyes open to the immense possibilities for trade expansion, manufacturing and increased production in our Province. He has been heard on various subjects in different Towns in the Province.

At Halifax on Thursday afternoon he gave an address before the Commercial Club and he is reported as follows:

He said that the field of opportunity, stretching out before the Halifax Commercial Club, is as wide in its possibilities for development as it is unlimited in its extent. You are located on one of the few really first-class harbors of the world, at a gateway to the gem of the world's Dominions and it behooves you to adopt measures of trade preparedness, commensurate with the importance of the position you presiding at the door of opportunity in question. You occupy an enviable position on the main trade routes of the world, but we must not overlook the fact that with the wonderful advantage as to geographical and trade route location, come increased responsibilities for the aggressive and comprehensive development of both.

The Door of Opportunity

The closing of the war will see old trade routes abandoned and new ones established. Are you presiding at the door of opportunity in this respect? Is your commercial intelligence branch gathering data as to the requirements of new customers? Are your representatives ready and your samples being prepared? Are your manufacturers prepared to adjust the nature of their output to the requirements of new purchasers?

Is this Province going to be in the front rank in the opening of new markets, and in the supplying of her own needs? Your organization can do most effective work along this line.

Need of Shipbuilding

Since the outbreak of the war nearly two million tons of shipping have been destroyed, and the continued shortage of vessel tonnage is causing great anxiety. We are all vitally interested in the matter of ocean transport. If we wish to hold our place in the present markets, or to establish new ones, we must have vessels to carry our goods. The question of shipbuilding in Canada is one that is being taken up seriously at the present time. The proper location for such an industry is on the Atlantic coast, in the vicinity of Halifax, where much of the material necessary can be readily obtained. No doubt the most of you are aware that the Nova Scotia Steel Company has shipped over three thousand tons of heavy marine forgings to the Clyde district during the past years. Coastwise sailing vessels are under construction at Meteghan, Annapolis, Parrsboro and Shelburne and other points, and are being bought up at fancy prices. Inasmuch as the development of the trade of the country depends very largely upon the rapidity with which tonnage can be provided, a unique opportunity for an active campaign is presented to your Club.

Get More Population

In order that the agricultural, and other resources of the Province may be properly developed, and Nova Scotia kept in line with the growth in other Provinces, it is important that we increase our population. There are manifold ways in which you can materially assist in this. Of the great number of people who left this Province for the United States, there are many who in response to the

"forward to the land" feeling we all experience as we become older and more sensible, would gladly return to their native land, provided the proper avenues were opened up. Such people are acquainted with the business methods of the residents here, know the customs, and would make suitable additions to our population. The consensus of opinion is that, following the experience of other great wars, we will, after the close of the present struggle, see a great influx of settlers from many of those countries now fighting.

Back to the Land

A great many of the soldiers now at the front and in training, hitherto engaged in office or other indoor occupations, will not, on account of the outdoor life they have been living or for other reasons, return to their former employment but will seek the land.

There is, as you are no doubt aware, great dissatisfaction in connection with homestead arrangements in the Northwest Provinces the percentage of the acreage under actual cultivation being very small, and it would not be surprising to see the practice of homestead grants discontinued altogether. This would place Nova Scotia more in line with the other Provinces in respect to land settlement. You have no Government land here but there are thousands of acres of uncleared and uncultivated land in the Annapolis Valley, and also thousands of acres held by farmers without any attempt at cultivation on account of lack of help or other reasons.

Aid New Settlers

Therefore, having the land available and knowing that desirable settlers are or will be available, it remains for some effective organization to supply the medium, or channel, through which the settler will find his way on the land, and be taken care of, where necessary, until he is self-supporting. Other Provinces are reaching out for desirable settlers, arranging ready-made farms, farm colonies, etc., and are making preparation to care for them financially. This is a most important question and one worthy of very careful consideration by your body.

Work and Plan.

In conclusion I would point out more forcibly that if we want to keep our Province in her proper place in the march of trade, we must work and plan continually and take advantage of every possible opportunity for the strengthening of our position. It will not answer the purpose to merely pass resolutions or listen to addresses, we must act, and that heartily. Our sister Dominions are anxious to increase their trade with us. The present is an opportune time for the great development of our inter-Dominion trade.

A DEMORALIZED GOVERNMENT.

House of Assembly,
Halifax, N. S.,
May 1st, 1916.

As the present session of the Legislature wears on towards its close, the demoralization of the Murray Government becomes more conspicuous. Mr. Murray was out of the House for three consecutive weeks, and the attempts of his two colleagues, Messrs. Daniels and Armstrong to conduct the business of the Assembly was ludicrous. Neither of these men has the qualification to be a front-bencher in the House. As holders of "portfolios" they cut-pitiful figures. Mr. Daniels, feeling the cloud under which the graceful Mills land deal has placed him, speaks only rarely and briefly. He seems to be always trying to escape the net-ice of his fellowmen. And yet before the Mills scandal dis-

credited him politically, he was an aggressive if not well-informed speaker, and in those days frequently addressed the House. Now he generally sits in his seat as silent and immobile as a brass god.

The past week in the Assembly has been noted for Hon. E. H. Armstrong's display of monumental ignorance regarding the department over which he presides—that of mines. For five or six consecutive evenings the mining estimates were under consideration and the Opposition deluged the Commissioner of Mines with questions regarding the work of his department and mining conditions in the province. The veriest tyro could have handled himself more creditably than this Commissioner who has been in the Mines office for almost five years. Mr. Armstrong confessed to the House that he does not know the number of collieries in actual operation in Cape Breton, the number of mines now closed down or what particular collieries, the government inspectors in Cape Breton respectively supervise. He could give the House no information regarding the cost per ton of coal production—a matter of prime importance to the people considering the present staggering prices of Coal Companies are charging for coal for domestic purposes. Regarding mining conditions the Commissioner was equally at sea. He could not say whether any agreements touching wages, hours of employment, or other matters, exist between any of the coal companies and their employees. Neither does he know in what collieries, if any, electric power is used. It would be easier to say what he does know than what he does not know, if only one could find out some item of information he has acquired.

One of the features of the week was the series of efforts of Mr. Tanner and his supporters to interest the Government in the closed collieries of Thorburn in Pictou County and Port Hood in Inverness County. Day after day, while the mining estimates were under consideration the Conservative leader renewed his attack on the Commissioner of Mines for the neglect, indifference and lack of intelligence displayed by his department regarding these two closed mines. Vainly Mr. Tanner and his supporters strove to get some declaration from the Government as to what, if anything, it proposes to do to get these mines in operation again. The government is not only helpless, but realizes and confesses its helplessness to deal with the Thorburn and Port Hood situations, and on Friday night Hon. Mr. Armstrong actually complained that the Opposition did not help the department out by indicating what ought to be done. Mr. Tanner replied that responsibility in the matter rests for the time-being with the present Government, who have their engineering staff, their official reports and other data, and the financial resources of the Province to enable them to deal with the situation. Under such circumstances the people will look to the Government for action, and will hold them responsible for inaction and neglect. The Conservatives will deal promptly with these matters when called to office and entrusted with responsibility by the people.

W. L. Hall, Conservative member for Queens introduced on important Bill on Thursday. Its object is to limit the vote of the Legislative Council. It follows, almost word for word, the provisions of the British Parliament Act restricting the power of the House of Lords, and takes away the Council's power to obstruct a money bill, and empowers it only to hold up other measures for two consecutive sessions. Under the terms of Mr. Hall's Bill, if the council withholds its consent from a money bill for one week, the bill can be assented to by

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the Governor and become law, without the Council's concurrence. Similarly if the Council rejects an Assembly bill for two consecutive sessions, it may then become law, on the governor's assent being procured, without the concurrence of Nova Scotia's House of Lords. It will be interesting to note the Murray Government's attitude towards this important reform. It is highly probable that the attitude will display more of ancient, reactionary Toryism, than of reform, or the principles of modern British Liberalism. The name "Liberal" is an absurd misnomer as applied to the Murray-Daniels Government of this Province.

Peter Clarke, who shot his wife in an attempt to kill her in their home at Montreal, and tried to end his own life by shooting, was sentenced to the penitentiary for fifteen years.

The final prohibition of public gambling in Siam has been decided upon.

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