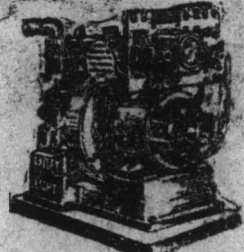


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Half Yearly Report of Newfoundland Board of Trade.

Your Council have decided to re-peat the note of warning that appeared in their last report, and in their opinion great caution must be exercised during the next year or two if we are to maintain the position we so fortunately occupy to-day. There has undoubtedly been considerable inflation of business and credit, which condition may bring in its train serious difficulties during the period of readjustment, unless all branches of the business community adopt a policy of cautious but sound trading.

The energies of the Board of Trade in general and the Council in particular, have during the past six months been very much occupied in dealing with the Regulations of the Exportation of Codfish. The last annual report contained a synopsis of the events leading up to the issue of the Proclamation providing for the Restriction and Regulation of the Export of Codfish. It will be remembered that at the last annual meeting, it was agreed that a special meeting of Board should be held for the purpose of giving the members an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject of these Export Regulations. This meeting was held on the 5th February, was largely attended and adjourned until the 7th February and again adjourned until the 9th February when the following resolution was passed:—

(a) That the Newfoundland Board of Trade recognize that the Fish Export Regulations are essential; but those now in force do not entirely meet the requirements of the Trade of this country.

(b) It is the opinion of the Newfoundland Board of Trade that the Advisory Board, should if at any time it is essential that the prices are to be adjusted—and supplies regulated—meet the whole body of St. John's Fish Exporters, and as many Outport shippers as possible, and fully discuss the matter and recommend to the Government the necessary alterations.

(c) That the Newfoundland Board of Trade is of the opinion that shippers should have the right of offering their supplies of Codfish direct to the buyer in all markets excepting Italy at present, and Italy as soon as conditions will permit, providing they maintain the prices and regulations set forth.

(d) That the Newfoundland Board of Trade write the Government

requesting them to grant the desires and wishes of the Trade.

The Regulations were very thoroughly discussed at these meetings and it was with much satisfaction that the Council were able to observe the great interest that the members of the Board of Trade were taking in this matter. The Resolutions were duly conveyed to the Government and your Council were able to note with pleasure that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in a speech made by him in the House of Assembly expressed the intention of the Government to accede fully to the desires of the trade as expressed in the resolutions. An Act to regulate the Export of salt Codfish was subsequently passed by the Legislature, which, if properly administered should overcome many objections to the regulations as enforced last season. This Act calls for the appointment of a special Board for the Regulating of the Exportation of Codfish. This Board will consist of seven members, two of whom shall be appointed by the majority of Fish Exporters in general meeting, the others by the Governor in Council. Hon. W. B. Grieve, O.B.E. and R. B. Job, Esq., were elected by the fish exporters as their Representatives on this Board, and those appointed by the Governor in Council are, Joseph Sellars, Esq., G. M. Barr, Esq., J. T. Cheeseman, Esq., M.H.A., all of whom are members of the Board of Trade. There is so far no official information obtainable, as to the form that the regulations will take this season, but as the Act provides for a meeting of the Exporters to be held in the first week in September when the Codfish Exportation Board will report on all matters relating to the export of fish for the ensuing season, we presume no definite action will be taken until after this meeting.

During the months of February and March a special Committee was appointed by the Fish Exporters to prepare a scheme for the improvement of the cure and the standardization and the inspection of Codfish. This Committee met on numerous occasions and prepared a series of proposals for the improvements of the cure, inspection and standardization of Codfish. These proposals were submitted to the Commission appointed by the Government, under the Codfish Standardization Act of 1920, and adopted by them without any material alteration. They have now been published throughout the Dominion. It is reported that already, much improvement has been made in the curing of this season's fish, and there is evidence that many of the fishermen are making every effort to carry out the suggestions made for the improvements of the cure.

Since the last annual meeting, the Board of Trade has been conducting an inspection of all Codfish shipped to Brazil. This inspection has been carried out under the supervision of our Secretary, with the assistance of a number of sub-inspectors, and has we believe given satisfaction. The Codfish standardization Commission propose and indeed have decided, that all cargoes and shipments of fish from Newfoundland must be inspected and certificates issued before they can be exported. This inspection is to be carried out under the control of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and in consequence the inspection by the Board of Trade will not be required in future.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION.

The Council are pleased to note that the Government propose to make a provision for an increased terminal facilities at both ends of the Risd Newfoundland Company Line, and that the Coastal Steamer Service appears to be meeting the present requirements of the Trade.

WATERING VESSELS.

The present and previous Councils have given considerable attention to the improvement of facilities for watering vessels, and the position as it now stands is fully disclosed in a letter received from the Municipal Council, dated the 28th March, reading as follows:—

No. 1.—The Council would request that the owners of each premises shall install water supply, at their own expense, consisting of a 4 hydrant with 2 steam pipe and hose.

No. 2.—The application for water to be as at present, and the water man or a man from the Water Department to be sent to the premises to turn the water on and off.

No. 3.—The water to be turned on by no other person, except by servants of the City Council.

No. 4.—The approximate cost of the installation for each premises is being prepared by the City Engineer. He is interviewing the principals of the firms interested regarding the details.

No. 5.—It is to be understood that if the owner of the premises does not agree to the proposals, the Council will not be able to supply the water to that particular premises.

Your Council approved of No. 1, 2, 3 and 4, but objected to No. 5, which they considered could not be enforced, and thought that the owner of the premises who does not agree to the proposals should get a supply of water as usual.

PORT OF CALL FOR VESSELS GOING TO MEDITERRANEAN.

Shortly after the appointment of Captain Walter Kennedy, as Government Agent at Gibraltar, he reported

to the Department of Marine and Fisheries that in his opinion, much benefit would be derived by owners of vessels and cargoes making Gibraltar a port of call on the passage to the Mediterranean, if a supply of spars, booms and necessary gear, were kept at Gibraltar which would be available for Newfoundland vessels requiring repairs there. The difficulty of obtaining such supplies at that time necessitated the vessels lying in Gibraltar for many weeks. Since Captain Kennedy's return from Gibraltar, he has supplemented his report by a personal statement given at a meeting of Shipowners, called together by your Council. In this report he recommended,

- (1) That Gibraltar should be abandoned as a port of call, and that Malaga should be substituted as such.
- (2) That all vessels making Malaga a port of call on entering the Mediterranean should immediately notify the Government Agent.
- (3) That where possible ship business should be conducted through the Government Agent.
- (4) That a sufficient supply of spars and gear be maintained at the port of call to be available when repairs are necessary for Newfoundland ships.

It was also agreed that a scheme should be prepared for putting into operation Captain Kennedy's suggestion as to vessel supplies.

The meeting of Shipowners, after thanking Captain Kennedy for bringing the matter to their notice resolved,

- (1) That Malaga, and not Gibraltar be made the port of call for orders for vessels bound to the Mediterranean.
- (2) That Masters and Owners should place their interests in the hands of the Government Agent.
- (3) That definite instruction should be given by the Custom Authorities (St. John's), that masters calling at Malaga as a port of call must report to the Government Agent on arrival.

MARCONI WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

During the month of April, Mr. A. H. Morse, Manager of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. of Canada, was present in the city negotiating with the Government for an extension of the Wireless Telegraph Service, and during his stay gave a lecture to the members of the Board.

LEGISLATION.

When the House of Assembly was in session, the Council convened a meeting of those interested and made certain recommendations to the Government on the following Bills:—

- (1) The Survey of Foreign going and Labrador vessels.
- (2) The Act to Regulate the Exportation of Codfish.
- (3) The Act to provide for the standardization of Dried Codfish.
- (4) The Act to amend the Business Profit Tax Act.
- (5) The Act respecting the Certificates of Masters and Mates.
- (6) The Act to provide for the bettering of information respecting the Codfishery.

INCREASED WATER SERVICE IN ST. JOHN'S.

The Council are advised that the Government have decided upon the laying of a water main from Long Pond, Petty Harbor, to supply the Lunatic Asylum and Government Sanatorium. It is reported that this service will entail an outlay of from forty thousand dollars and will supply these two institutions only. Your Council think that an expenditure of this magnitude should provide something more than a supply for these two institutions, and that provision should be made to supply, if desired any property within the vicinity of the main with water.

It is also felt that the public should have had an opportunity of considering the proposal for the installation of this service before the scheme was definitely concluded.

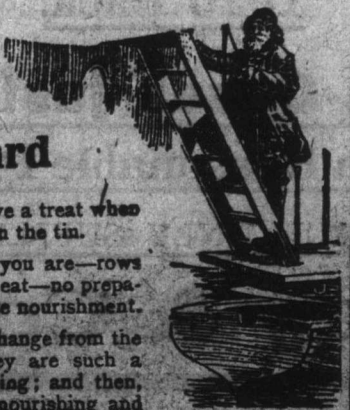
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