

Co-Operation Means Prosperity Building Trades, 1923

GREAT VOLUME OF BUILDING THIS YEAR IS A PREDICTION

"It is expected that at least three hundred and sixty-five million dollars will be expended on new construction during 1923. Evidence points to the fact that there will be available an ample amount of financing for this great volume of projected building construction." So says MacLean Building Reports, limited, in its forecast of construction.

The report further says: "There is a wide spread optimism in Canada due to the excellent industrial outlook. Lumber is in notably brisk demand as are being perfected for an extension of operations in the iron and steel trade, pulp and paper manufacturers are well supplied with business, and prospects for a large amount of new building bright."

"Last year saw the passing of the first great wave of speculative building and construction of the cheaper type, and this year will probably be remembered as a year in which a great amount of good building construction was produced. It is evident that residential construction will continue in volume almost equal to that of 1922, with greater activity in the more expensive type dwellings."

"The problem of labor conditions is one on which no forecast can be made, but it is quite probable that 1923 will show a fairly good spirit of co-operation between employers and labor in the building industries. Labor leaders are becoming more foresighted in certain of the trades there is a growing interest in the apertic problems and in the idea of admitting a larger proportion of new men into the ranks."

"The great drop in construction costs is over, and those who build may do so in 1923 without fear of loss through the linkage of existing building values incidental to rapid price fluctuations."

"During January, construction contracts awarded in Canada amounted to \$9,840,800, compared with \$3,392,600 in January, 1922. Residential building accounted for 26.5 per cent of the January total, and amounted to \$2,604,400. Business building amounted to \$2,553,400 or 29 per cent; industrial building, \$1,916,000, or 19.5 per cent; public works and utilities, \$2,462,000, or 25 per cent. The value of contemplated new work during January amounted to \$36,145,000."

"The figures for the different provinces are as follows:

Province	No. of Projects	Value
Ontario	336	\$7,246,200
Quebec	102	1,863,900
Bri. Col.	37	437,600
New Brunswick	8	79,500
Manitoba	20	75,400
Alberta	6	71,200
Nova Scotia	3	47,000
Saskatchewan	3	22,000
Total for Dominion	515	\$9,840,800

P. HAYDON AGAIN HEADS THE ALLIED TRADES

Annual Election of Officers Report of Association's Activities

Mr. J. A. P. Haydon was unanimously elected president of the Ottawa Trades and Labor Association at the fifth consecutive time. Other officers were elected as follows: Vice-president, Mrs. A. J. Johnson; responding secretary, William Gibson; recording secretary, John Kavanagh; treasurer, Rod Plant; executive members, W. E. McCaughy, R. Mackie, John Robertson and Charles Lewis; trustees, A. E. Holt, G. Brown, and J. R. Johnson. A P. Haydon, Chas. Boudreau, Mrs. D. Robertson, A. Lacoste and Mrs. Blanche Godaire.

DRUMHELLER COAL MINERS RETURNED TO THEIR WORK

In Ill-Advised Strike, Out of Sympathy, Only Lasted Six Hours

CALGARY.—Between 1,500 and 2,000 miners in the Drumheller Valley returned to work after a strike throughout the field lasting for about six hours. Following trouble at the Ix-Grade mine regarding working schedule, miners employed at that mine went on strike several days ago. This morning all the miners in the valley decided to strike in sympathy, against the advice of Robert Levitt, district board member for District 18. The strike was called, but the miners re-considered their position and decided to return to work leaving their dispute to arbitration. The trouble started when the management of the Ix-Grade coal mine, because of the slackening of orders, laid off the miners working on the night shift.

None is to be deemed free who has not perfect self-command. The covetous man never has money, and the prodigal will have none shortly. —De Johnson.

HUMOR IN SPEECH BY M. M. M'BRIDE ON THE ADDRESS

Member for Brantford Likens Ontario Government to the Mosabites, Who Lasted Four Years. Contrasts Ontario Debt With Quebec.

TORONTO.—The legislature listened to an entertaining and vigorous speech by M. M. McBride which lasted until so nearly six o'clock that W. E. N. Sinclair, Ontario South, the Liberal speaker scheduled to follow, adjourned the debate on the address until tomorrow afternoon. Mr. McBride crossed swords with a number of members in the course of his remarks, his speech for the most part being an attack on the government all along the line but more particularly in connection with the Ontario Temperance Act enforcement, the Hydro question, and what he claimed was reckless financing on the part of the government. The Liberal party also came in for a share of criticism on the ground that it was too friendly to the Farmers' party.

After Mr. McBride finished his speech, second reading was given to the Mechanics Lien Act which is a revision of the act already in force. It had been proposed that an owner of a building should be held responsible for the full amount of claims against the contractor for labor and materials which went into the construction instead of only up to 20 per cent of the value of the building, but after considerable investigation, Attorney General Raney explained, it was decided to make no change in this respect.

The bill to amend the Agricultural Development Act under which long term loans are given to farmers, was up for second reading, but left over for further consideration. It is sponsored by Manning Doherty who explained that the chief amendment was to remove some of the restrictions as to the use to which these loans must be put.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson objected that the amendment would enable the government to go into the general loaning business and Colonel Currie asked that it be left over until he could further consider it. This was agreed.

W. H. Casselman, of Dundas, introduced a bill to suspend the Adolescent Act. H. H. Dewar introduced a bill to amend the Ontario Companies' Act.

Debate on Address. M. M. McBride, Brantford, of the four-member party in the legislature usually termed the independents and which sits on the opposition side between the Conservatives and Liberals, in opening his speech said Mr. Drupp had called this party the shambles. The premier replied that G. G. Halrow, Hamilton, one of the independents, had himself branded the party by that name, but Mr. Halrow denied any responsibility and it was eventually agreed that the premier had first named the little group after Ishmael, whose hand was raised against every man and every man's hand was raised against him.

The member from Brantford said the premier had selected this name from the Bible without reading the context which Mr. McBride sought to show proved that Ishmael had been raised up to fight the fears of the Jews and small ambitions of his time and accordingly the premier's designation was quite applicable to the independents. He then proceeded to find an ancient name for the premier's party.

"I went all through the Bible and there are lots of tribesmen mentioned there," he explained, and eventually decided that the Mosabites, "a tribe which lasted about four years," were the nearest approach to the U.F.O. party and greatly to the amusement of the house, described Balaam, the leader of the Mosabites, "who would take advice from none," as completing the comparison.

The Ontario Debt. Mr. McBride said Ontario has a gross provincial debt of \$237,000,000; Quebec has \$28,000,000. Ontario municipalities have a gross debt of \$270,000,000, while the municipalities of Quebec owe \$190,000,000. He explained that this province had a quarter of a million more people but even allowing for that, claimed the financial comparison was all to the favor of Quebec. Accordingly he accused the government of reckless expenditure, particularly in appointing commissions, one of which he claimed cost the province nearly three-quarters of a million dollars.

Mr. McBride accused the premier and the attorney general of trying to cloud the political issue by the O.T.A. They were bringing, he said, the temperance question back into politics, "hoping to ride the old temperance horse back into power," but he was confident they would not be able "to draw a red herring over the track like that."



White Surrey leading Mr. Rath at the water jump in the Pegasus Chase at Gatwick, England.

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He accused the Liberal leader with "flirting" with the government, and clashed several times with Liberal Leader Hay and E. H. Hall over the relationships between the government and the Liberals.

The government also came in for criticism from Mr. McBride for three times increasing the price of liquor at the dispensaries. It was playing right into the hands of the bootleggers, he said, when the prices were placed so high. The way to crowd the bootleggers out was for the province to fix its prices on the narrowest margins possible.

OTTAWA DELEGATES BUILDERS' MEETING

Conference on Construction Meets in Quebec. Outlook for Future.

There is little doubt that within the next few decades Canada will witness great advances in nearly every form of construction. Every movement which endeavours to establish conditions that are fair to all interested sections of the community will have its effect. I think that the coming conference at Quebec will be one step forward."

The above was one of the interesting statements made by Mr. J. Clarke Reilly, Dominion secretary of the Association of Canadian Builders and Construction Industries, in announcing the program for the fifth annual conference of the association, which will be held in Quebec City, Feb. 28 to 9th.

Contrary to the general belief that the past year has been a good one for the building industry as a whole, the Dominion secretary takes the view that commercial and industrial construction was disappointing.

The Ottawa delegates to the convention will be Mr. George A. Crain, secretary of the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Building and Construction Industries; Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Joseph Meather, Mr. Joseph Soules, Mr. Hugh Graham, and likely Mr. S. Kirby. The Ottawa delegates will leave on Monday.

The relations of the employer and his men are always a live problem in the building and construction industries, especially when work begins to get plentiful, and labor scarce labor agreements, the time to sign them, rates of wages, working conditions, all are included under the title of the address by John V. Gray, of Toronto, on Right Relations with our Workmen.

The conference will listen to a special representative of the Babson Statistical Agency, Mr. William R. Mattson, who will speak on 'The Outlook for 1923,' and to Mr. J. A. Schrybner, of the Bureau of Statistics, on 'The Industrial Census Schedule.' Each day there will be luncheons, with special speakers, among whom are the Hon. L. A. Taschereau, premier of Quebec, and the Hon. Athol D'Almeida, provincial secretary.

RURAL ONTARIO LOSING HER SONS FROM FARM LIFE

Alternative to Making Rural Places Attractive is to Lower Accepted Standards. Miss C. Whitton Gives Immigration Views.

Ontario's tragedy of rural depopulation was described graphically at the morning session, in the Chateau Laurier, of the Social Service Council of Canada. Prof. Alexander MacLaren, of Toronto, tackled the problem. Ontario's gain from 1911 to 1921 of 27,000 people was far below what should have been the normal increase, he said, without considering immigration. Much of the gain was a Nepean Township and just outside Toronto, which might be regarded as urban.

Rural depopulation involved certain results which were anything but beneficial. It meant empty homes in the country, a decrease in the size of families, an increase in the amount of work to be done. Figures proved that while, normally, females should number more than males according to the rest of the world, in Ontario there were more men than women. In Grenville County only were there more women than men. More than 700 public schools in rural districts in Ontario had less than nine pupils.

Empty Churches. All over the province fine stone church buildings which in former years had been crowded to the doors, were now empty. Cesspits upon the exodus from country homes was the attempt to farm on the part of people not equipped mentally or physically for the work, whose families became to some extent degenerate. It became difficult to have social life in rural parts.

There could not be proper medical attention for sparsely settled places, and the benefit of political influence from rural parts was in danger of becoming lost. A basic reason was the increasing difficulty of supporting community life. The Social Service Council of Canada was trying to help organize communities for recreation, economic improvement and health work, for the church must be the centre of all community activity.

The only alternative to making rural life attractive was to admit to the country people having lower standards of life. An example of this was the Chinese truck gardening carried on outside Toronto.

Become Dance Halls. The council was endeavoring to show communities what to do with their community halls. In many places these had tended to become public dance halls, and the council wished to counteract this tendency.

Ontario must have people with equal standards of life to those who had built up the country. Professor MacLaren touched upon church work, co-operative buying and selling, and land speculation.

Rev. Gilbert Agar, general secretary of the Ontario council, outlined the work in the past year, and their future programme. He expressed gratification at Premier Drury's reference to the appointment of a deputy minister of child welfare. Better child welfare administration in city child welfare administration in the province was needed. Unified temperance organization was needed. The council desired farm colony care for feeble minded prisoners. Charity and relief work in all communities should be co-ordinated. There was need for supervision of recreation, and a study of health conditions.

Boarding House Problem. The council was especially interested in the problem of girls and boys living in boarding houses. Immigration. Miss Charlotte Whitton presented a monograph on aspects of the immigration problem, at the close of which she made recommendations. These remain to be considered along with those of the immigration committee. Quoting from the monograph: "Canada, the El Dorado of the new migration, should not in her immigration policy—set herself the impossible and foolish task of checking or breasting a world force, but of regulating and directing it wisely and scientifically, to the better distribution of population and life on the earth, and to the development of her own national expansion."

All things considered our interests would seem best served by provision in Canada, either by the Government or through private channels, for the purchase and settlement of land on a long term loan, equitably let under Government supervision and approval, repayable over a long term, during which the settler is aided by some scientific and adequate scheme of settlement and colonization, the Canadian and Provincial Governments guaranteeing to the stranger in our land, that under such a system, whether public or private, he shall be protected from exploitation and mushroom speculative development.

"Any private organization co-operating with the Government under such a scheme should be required to offer all land sales at a fixed price for a stated number of years. "Because such restrictive admission is based on sound economic principles—the actual needs of this country, and the guarantee of care in selecting those qualified to meet given needs at a given time—it can not but give greater promise of general satisfaction than a scheme based on such a varying and unscientific principle as the mere possession in hand of a given amount of financial currency at a certain time."

Sentiments With League. He claimed that while the United States was officially out of the league, yet the sentiment and ideals of a great many in that republic were absolutely on parallel lines with the aims and objects of the league. "The United States was already co-operating in certain respects. The economic reconstruction of Europe was of vital concern to both the Canadian and American farmer. So much so, that he declared that one of the strongest factors which saw this necessity was the "farmer bloc" in the United States in an advocacy to put Europe on an earning basis so that it could buy from this side of the Atlantic.

In commending Sir George paid a fine tribute to the work of Social Service movements. "It touches at most every phase of humanity and Christian effort in the whole of the Dominion of Canada, and its work can only be limited by the amount of enthusiasm and well-directed organization put into it. "Such was the speaker's commendation of the movement."

MUST REVISE ACT SAYS COL. CURRIE

Must Abolish Bootlegger and Police Army

TORONTO.—A demand for the revision of the Ontario Temperance Act was voiced by Col. Currie, M.L.A., for South-east Toronto, addressing the York Liberal-Conservative Association. Colonel Currie said: "I do not believe that it is possible to get prohibition. Raney says that he is a prohibitionist, and lets people make their own booze. You will also notice from the figures just published what the Government vend on sold last year. People who have the money can go and buy a case of native wine many times stronger than beer."

"The law will have to be amended. There must be something done to abolish bootlegging and remove the army of policemen which has been engaged to try and stop it."

No friend is a friend until he shall prove a friend.

SIR GEO. E. FOSTER URGES SUPPORT LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Believes if Germany Had Been Rehabilitated as Austria Was Aided. Present Hiatus Would Not Have Occurred.

That if the same system of economic rehabilitation which had been adopted by the League of Nations in successfully assisting Austria had been applied recently in the case of Germany, that nation would have been brought out of its present condition was the prediction made by Sir George E. Foster, in the course of his address at the concluding session of the Social Service convention held in the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa.

Sir George followed up his prophecy by saying that such a course was not applied to assisting Germany "because the nation interested had other means to try out and are now putting such means to a test."

Canada's distinguished statesman in a masterly exposition, ably dealt with the wide scope of the league's activity. In emphasizing the continued maintenance as the hope of civilization, he strongly urged the keeping of its deal in constant public view and vigilance in guarding abolition of this great human covenant. "If it is proposed by any government, or the member of any government to do away with the League of Nations, ask why and insist on getting a satisfactory answer," warned Sir George, who added that "the men and women of Canada who have the vote can tell any party what they want it to do in this peace business."

World Picture of League. With the superior eloquence and the vision of the true statesman and citizen of the world, Sir George described the league as "the culmination of a wish, of a thought, of a prayer that has been harbored in many a breast for many a century, but for which there has been so hope of realization until only recently." In picturing the result if the league were allowed to fail and another great war should afflict humanity, the speaker described the fate of civilization in graphic language—"a war in which the engineers of death has no battle boundaries of nations or strategic frontage, but which pounces down and annihilates inland cities; a war to which the last war would be as the most lurid depths of hell to a beam of starlight."

But Sir George did not rest content with merely urging support of the league on purely altruistic reasons; he showed conclusively what it had done, that it was actually functioning successfully in a materialistic and turbulent world, and, by performance, was living up to the enormous task to which it had been dedicated by the conscience of humanity. He pointed to its notable achievements in solving such onerous problems as its administration of the Saar basin; of its administration of Danzig corridor to Poland; of its settlement of the Aaland Island controversy and the question of Upper Silesia; and of its most recent triumph in the economic field in its humanitarian assistance to Austria.

Refuting the argument that the fighting instinct of mankind was so deep-rooted in humanity that it could not be eradicated, Sir George stated that the fighting quality was a most valuable quality and it is a question of how to frame and direct that quality into the right channels of activity." He admitted that it was impossible "to revolutionize the world overnight" from fighting savage instincts and atavistic promptings, but he showed how, though at one time, "line fence differences" were settled by a recourse to force, "now we have so developed that the law is there, and the judge is there; the law rules and the judge settles." The speaker would apply this same principle of action in dealing with international disputes; and this was what the league was endeavoring to do. Sir George then proceeded in detail to show how this policy had been effectively pursued by the League of Nations in the solution of such grave matters as Saar Valley controversy, the administration of the Upper Silesia squabble—all problems which threatened international peace.

Non-Member Countries. Touching on the countries that do not belong to the league, the speaker considered that when Germany and the Allies come to agreement on the reparations issue, that country would doubtless become a member. "Russia is so disorganized that she neither desires nor could she be admitted to the league," he said and added that with respect to Mexico while it was infeasible "that she were in, we will not shed many tears if she remains without." Regarding the position and attitude of the United States, he outlined such, as mentioned above, had thought that that country would yet definitely align itself with the league as it is already in sentiment in accord with the ideals and purpose of the international covenant.

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MINERS OF SAARE VALLEY ON STRIKE

They Produced 9,000,000 Tons of Coal Annually.

PARIS.—The miners of the Saare Valley, which produces 9,000,000 tons of coal annually went on strike. The Government was informed that the men refused to accept a compromise of their demands that their wages be doubled, and now want the equivalent in buying power of the pre-war wages.

The original demands were presented to M. Le Troquer, Minister of Public Works, last Wednesday by M. Raubi, president of the Saare Valley governing commission. The mines in the valley were taken over by the French government under the Treaty of Versailles in compensation for the destruction of the coal mines in the north of France during the war.

SUGGESTS PENALTY IF PRICE EXCEEDED

Mr. J. A. Ellis Also Says Local Fuel Controller Might Be Appointed.

Mr. J. A. Ellis, provincial fuel controller, was questioned regarding complaints that have been made to the effect that in some cases more than the fixed price of \$16.50 per ton has been charged for coal in Ottawa.

Mr. Ellis stated that if the fixed price had been exceeded, the remedy would be for the city council to take formal action, asking him to set a penalty for charging more than the fixed price, and he would do so. The penalty in other cities which had taken such action was \$25 for every ton sold at excessive prices and would likely be the same in Ottawa. The next step would be to appoint a local fuel controller.

Best of 52 Nations Plunging into his theme, Sir