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DISCUSSION CENTERED ON RESOURCES OF PROVINCE

Speeches at Afternoon Session of Immigration Congress Rang with Optimism.

Publicity Has Done Much and Will do More to Attract New Settlers to New Brunswick.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, March 8.—At the afternoon session of the Immigration Congress today J. T. Jennings, president of the Fredericton Board of Trade, occupied the chair and explained that the convention had been called as the result of a joint meeting of the St. John and Fredericton Boards of Trade. It was the first immigration congress ever held in the province. The delegates came for the purpose of discussing immigration and other matters of interest to the province, and there was not the slightest tinge of politics in it. He asked them to discuss the questions to come before them entirely from a non-partisan standpoint. If the work of the convention ended with the close of the convention to night, it would have achieved but little. He wanted each man to become thrilled with the possibilities of New Brunswick, and enthusiastic over the work of developing the province. By thus becoming enthusiastic over the movement they would help New Brunswick to achieve the place she should have had long ago.

Fredericton's Greeting.

Mayor A. D. Thomas then addressed a greeting to the gathering on behalf of the City of Fredericton. He congratulated the convention on the excellent taste shown in selecting Fredericton as the place of meeting. He did not think another city in the province could show as many advantages as Fredericton. It had the lowest tax rate in the province, with the exception of one town. He hoped the effect of the convention would be to make the city even better known. J. D. McKenna, of Sussex, was then called upon to discuss the advantages of more publicity for the resources and advantages of New Brunswick. The first thing essential to a successful advertising campaign was to have complete confidence in the goods advertised. New Brunswick had many advantages, fine agricultural possibilities, a splendid dairy farming section, a fine horticultural region on the St. John River.

There had been a change in the feelings of the people—formerly they were knockers whereas now they were boosters. New Brunswick had many great advantages, which if they had, more would be heard of them. There was the great development of the iron ore deposits on the North Shore, and the natural gas in Albert

county, enough gas to heat every house, light every house, and turn every wheel in every factory in the maritime provinces. There is the Valley Railway, the great work at Courtenay Bay and other developments coming. New Brunswick also had beautiful scenery and splendid social conditions, these should be advertised, and he could suggest no better way of doing it than by appointing a committee to deal with that phase of the matter.

New Brunswick League.

A New Brunswick league might be formed with branches in different parts of the province and small membership fee charged. The sum thus realized could be devoted to advertising. He then moved that the convention emphasize the importance and advisability of securing further publicity for its advantages and resources.

T. W. Butler, of Newcastle, seconded the resolution which was discussed by E. H. Estabrooks, of St. John and R. E. Armstrong, of St. Andrews.

Mr. Armstrong said there was no part of New Brunswick as beautiful as Charlotte county, from which he came. That county had gained much benefit as the result of the advertising from the Charlotte county board of trade. He favored an appeal particularly to the agriculturalists, the fact that the province had not developed as rapidly as the west was due to the efforts of the great transportation lines in boosting the west, but he thought they were now interested in the development of the Maritime Provinces as was shown by the fact that representatives of the companies were in attendance at the meeting.

T. W. Butler seconded the resolution thought there was too much localism in the way in which the province's resources were considered. He thought they should boost the province as a whole instead of taking different sections to boost the Miramichi valley. James McQueen, of Shediac, also spoke. He thought the most important matter of all was to bring back the men who were born in the province and who had gone elsewhere. One New Brunswicker brought back to the province was worth more than 150 foreign-born men.

Matthew Lodge, of Moncton, said it was a good thing to cultivate friendly rivalry between the different localities, each claiming to be better than the other, resulted in gaining publicity for all. He had advocated publicity for New Brunswick when in London several years ago. In the intercolonial office in London he found home literature on this province, but it couldn't be dug out with a hook. The west had it all corrected. There was now lower, more generous attention being paid to the province and the results would, he knew, be good.

Publicity in England.

W. Leonard Palmer, of the Provincial News of London, was here last year and the article he wrote on this province proved most valuable. As a

result of an article on Moncton by Mr. Palmer, Moncton bonds sold in the English market at a higher price than ever before. He agreed with the idea of the resolution, but thought a most important matter was to get the right kind of men on the advertising committee. If the province could confiscate George Horne of the C. P. R., there was no salary it could not afford to pay him as a publicity agent.

S. Armstrong suggested that the outline of England be shown on the maps of New Brunswick. It would tend to let the people of England know the size of it.

A. D. Holyoke, of Woodstock, said the Woodstock board of trade was prepared to put money into a publicity movement.

William Currie, M. P. P., of Restigouche county, said he knew Canada from Sydney to Prince Rupert, and was acquainted with its chief towns. He knew the west was a great country and would not waste that its possibilities be minimized.

New Brunswick, however, will not take a back seat from any of them. Any man who had a good job in New Brunswick should stay here as we live every day here and money making is not the sole object of existence such as it seems to be in the West.

C. N. Vroom, of St. Stephen, spoke about the advantages of Charlotte county which, he said, far outstripped all other counties in the province.

Medley G. Siddall, of Port Elgin, called attention to the importance of going to the right centres for farm-ers. Men from English cities did not make successful farmers and in this connection he thought the government of Canada had not brought in the right kind of settlers. Due discrimination had not been exercised. The resolution was then carried and on motion of Mr. Porter seconded by Charles Connell it was referred to a committee to be named later.

C. Fred Chestnut, of Fredericton, was then called upon to move a resolution urging upon the railway the desirability of having excursions from Western Canadian points to the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. Chestnut pointed out that New Brunswick had great advantages to offer and the business men of the West should be put in touch with this province. He suggested as the best means of doing this the running of business men's excursions from western points to the east. There was no doubt if the people were only once started from the west to the east, the movement would be continued. He then moved the resolution and T. C. L. Ketchum, Mayor of Woodstock, seconded it.

Mr. Ketchum called attention to a little error in some of the railway publications inasmuch as Woodstock was not on the map at all. He thought that the attention of the convention should be drawn to it.

William Stitt of the C. P. R. endorsed the idea that if the population of New Brunswick is to be brought up to the people must come from the New England States. The C. P. R. had been running excursions from the West to the East for 20 years and had fixed low rates. They had not met with all the success they had expected. In fifteen years 4,000 New Brunswickers had gone west whereas 15,000 had gone to the New England States. This had been the place to get the

people back from. The C. P. R. was prepared to cooperate with the people of this province for it was good business to do so. Every man placed on the land helped the C. P. R.

R. E. Armstrong, of St. Andrews, said the C. P. R. should have special rates to New Brunswick in the summer.

To Boost St. Andrews.

Mr. Stitt said it was the desire of the C. P. R. to make St. Andrews the Newport of Canada by means of cheap rates to any town in New Brunswick from Montreal and Upper Canadian centres from June to September.

George Ham, of the C. P. R., was then called upon. He said the proper way to get immigrants was to go out and hunt for them. One did not catch fish around the town pump, or shoot moose in the back yard. It was the same with attracting immigration. Immigrants could not be attracted to New Brunswick by talking about it to the people who are already here. Mr. Ham said the C. P. R. was prepared to do anything it could for the province of New Brunswick. He advised that any campaign undertaken must be properly planned. The officials must be well paid and they would furnish value for the money. With a proper and well managed campaign and no scarcity of funds the prosperity must come.

J. M. Lyons, of the I. C. R., advised that in any publicity planning a resolution should be given for the farms vacant. It struck him that the class of immigrants should also be carefully selected.

J. A. Edwards, of the Grand Trunk Pacific, said his company was largely interested in this question of immigration. The Grand Trunk had played an important part in the upbuilding of Canada, and if fortune had smiled on it now it was only its due. There could be no great west in Canada without also a great east, and the great east was already here. In the maritime provinces there were approximately one million people, happy and contented, but he did not altogether approve of the name of maritime provinces. Rather he preferred to have it known as Eastern Canada. He felt sure that the east would prosper and assured the convention that the Grand Trunk Pacific would assist in the development.

S. L. Peters of Queenstown, was then called upon to discuss "What New Brunswick has to offer as a home for the immigrant." Mr. Peters after a few introductory remarks spoke in part as follows:

What We Offer.

"An invitation to the intending immigrant to locate and make his home in New Brunswick is very naturally met with the question, 'Well, what have you to offer?' as an inducement to go? The answer is a natural one, and should be met by a frank and truthful statement of the facts as they exist. No overdrawn picture or statement is allowable, for if made, it is sure to act as a boomerang and strike back with damaging effect. Happily for New Brunswick we only require to make a plain and truthful statement of our conditions to the general health of her citizens, so largely enhanced by an abundant supply of pure water, and a fine climate, which insure a vigorous manhood. To the fruitfulness of our soil and

its productive qualities, to the wide opening we have in our home markets, and the nearness to the world's best market, England, for our surplus products of the farm and forest, the almost inexhaustible supply of our iron ore in Gloucester and Carleton counties, our natural gas and oil shales in Sunbury, the large area of limestone around the harbor of St. John, in the counties of Kings and Queens, and the red granite at St. George in the County of Charlotte, to the enormous supply of natural gas and oil shales in Alberta which is destined to revolutionize the cost of power to manufacturers within a radius of from 75 to 100 miles and furnish light to the cities, towns and homes in the vicinity, to the value of our deep sea and inland fisheries, to the wealth of New Brunswick's soil on which apples and other fruits can be grown with the greatest success—a success which is assured, first, because of soil conditions second because of the bright sunshine with which New Brunswick is so largely blessed, giving a crispness and flavor and with all that beautiful color which will be forever an outstanding feature on New Brunswick fruit, and will prove an important factor in forcing its way on every market on which it may be placed, these are some of the things we have to offer intending settlers, but not all.

Good Government.

"Here we enjoy the inestimable privilege and blessing as well, of the best system of government in the world—citizens of the British Empire—having residence in the Dominion of Canada, and in one of the best of its subdivisions, the superior and consolidated New Brunswick, absolute protection to life and property, insofar as wise laws and their wholesome administration can give effect, a splendid educational system, as worked out in our district schools, the normal school and our university, to which we hope to add in a not very distant day, an agricultural college and an experimental farm. We shall then be fully equipped for the good work.

"It would be unparadoxical for us to omit to refer to the great privileges we enjoy and have to offer intending settlers in the blessings and influence of the Christian church, which is so well and ably represented in our province. So far as records are available we have abundant proof of the health giving properties of our climate conditions. A very large percentage of our people live to a good old age. Particularly those who live on the land are blessed with vigor of mind and body. As to the conditions of general agriculture, let me say that from the St. Croix to Edmundston and following the valley of the St. John and its tributary rivers and streams, there lies a country of great wealth in agricultural resources. The valley of the St. John is among the first portions of the province settled, while the whole province was known as the County of Sunbury in Nova Scotia, with Halifax as its capital. There in parishes of Sheffield and Maugeville, the first pioneers of New Brunswick, outside of those settlers who found the harbor of St. John, began their work of wresting from the mother earth a living for themselves and families. The rich loess soil produced abundantly, inspiring hope and courage among

and supplying their daily wants.

"On the eastern and northern sides of the province, splendid conditions existed extending from the Tantramar river to Metepedia and Westmorland marshes on that river, the marshes of the Memramcook and those on the Petitediac are not only very extensive but very productive as well. All along the coast of the Straits of Northumberland, are fertile lands, especially on the Cocagne, Buctouche, Miramichi and Restigouche rivers. In fact for the number of square miles of land New Brunswick possesses, there are less unfruitful acres than is supposed. All the northern part of the province has an exceptionally good soil. Taken altogether we should be proud of our heritage and strive not only to keep our sons and daughters on the home land, but increase and place upon the land awaiting settlers, the best type of

The Resolution.

Mr. Peters then moved the following resolution:

"Resolved that it is in the interests of New Brunswick to give greater publicity as to what we have to offer intending immigrants."

Dr. T. I. Byrne, Mayor of Chatham, said care should be shown in offering abandoned farms to immigrants. He favored as an alternative that the government should throw open crown lands to settlers. Then it would not be necessary to explain why the farms had become abandoned.

T. W. Butler of Northumberland county seconded the resolution. He did not think it was an important to get new settlers in here as it was to keep our own people at home. Donald Innes of Tobique River said he was one of the men who immigrated to this country 35 years ago. He had made a success of his farm and thought others could do the same. He thought great care should be shown in selecting agents. There was too much said about the abandoned farms and there should be some other name for them. The immigrant would naturally ask why the farm was abandoned and would of course figure it out that if the natives of New Brunswick could not make a success of farming here, how could a stranger be expected to do it? Also there should be care in selecting immigrants. London was no place to go to for farmers and every Tom Dick and Harry should not be invited to come in.

Advertising Necessary.

H. H. Stuart of Newcastle said that while it was important to keep our own people in the province it is also necessary to get immigrants. The diverse resources of the province should be widely advertised and the immigrants will come then. He believed they should be settled in groups. In order to attract immigrants, Mr. Stuart said, New Brunswick must have a nationalized telephone company, a parcel post system to meet the exorbitant charges of the express companies, more railways, more roads, etc.

J. A. Telfer said he was an immigrant who came to New Brunswick from Ontario. He had been in the Canadian West, but was not particularly impressed with it and decided to come east instead. Mr. Telfer said he had intended to engage in sheep raising in New Brunswick and had found this province as well adapted for that industry as any other part of Canada or the United States. The

province was near markets, could develop a chilled meat trade and was adaptable for sheep rearing. Sheep will thrive and do well on the hillsides of New Brunswick. Vacant farms with houses and barns in more or less dilapidated condition can very well be used for sheep.

The matter of sheep raising, Mr. Telfer said, would give the sheep raiser fully 100 per cent. profit on his investment. He advised that the province should get farmers from England and Scotland as settlers, married men being preferred to unmarried. He also believed that Ontario would also offer a field to New Brunswick.

Strawberry Growing.

O. W. Wetmore, of Clifton, gave some interesting information as to the growing of strawberries, in which he has achieved much success. There is an excellent market for New Brunswick berries in Montreal, and he thought that any one who located at a point where good shipping facilities are afforded could make a success of strawberry farming in this province.

Dr. T. I. Byrne, Mayor of Chatham, attempted to introduce an amendment to Mr. Peters' resolution, but the chairman declared that the amendment could not be received. Dr. Byrne could appeal to the meeting if he wished to do so. The resolution was put and carried, the amendment not being permitted.

H. B. Scott, president of the Medical Board of Trade, then introduced the subject "The Need of a Central Bureau established by the Government where immigrants could apply for reliable information and assistance and providing officials whose duty it would be to visit new settlers offering their assistance and suggestions." In discussing his subject Mr. Scott said the year 1912 promised to be the greatest in the history for immigration to Canada, Australia and South America. New Brunswick should prepare for this. The establishment of a central bureau where reliable information would be disseminated was a most important matter. This central bureau, he thought, should be at St. John.

Importance of Resolution.

C. N. Vroom seconded the resolution, which he thought was the most important introduced during the afternoon, because it gave effect to the things which had been talked about previously. Mr. Vroom said that two years ago, during one of the fruit shows in St. John, an Englishman had told him he intended locating in New Brunswick, but had been discouraged because merchants in St. John had told him the west was the proper place to settle. The speaker had advised the visitor not to buy a farm at the present time but to go to work for some one for a year and in that time look around and see what the country was like. Similar information should be given to new settlers through the central bureau. He approved of the idea of a central bureau in St. John, but thought it should be extended through the province. He described what work was being done in Charlotte county on lines similar to those to be handled by the central bureau. The conference then adjourned until the evening session.