

## A DOMINION DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

The following extracts taken from the Report of the Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, under the chairmanship of Dr. James W. Robertson, C.M.G., are very appropriate at this time of preparedness.

### General Considerations.

1. It is important to adopt a plan which will secure the largest degree of public confidence and maintain the largest measure of public interest and co-operation.
2. It is important to adopt a plan which will preserve Provincial control, encourage local initiative and develop local responsibility.
3. It is important that there should be a large number of persons representing Manufacturing Industries, Trades, Commerce, Transportation, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Housekeeping and Education, ready to take the initiative in local undertakings and able to co-operate in making effective application to the needs of localities of financial grants and any other assistance. In the opinion of the Commission, a policy which would be applied wholly or mainly by directive authority from headquarters, leaving to local centres little initiative or responsibility, would not accomplish much for a long time.
4. It is important that there should be in each Province a Central Body or Authority, which could bring to bear on all proposals from local centres the wide knowledge and practical experience of capable men and women familiar with education and with industrial, agricultural and housekeeping problems. Such a Central Body would be able to supply information for the guidance of Local Authorities at the beginning of their work, and to furnish advisory assistance through experts of high ability. Through the meetings and discussions of such a Central Body the permanent officials charged with the administration would be kept in touch with public opinion as to the particular needs of localities, as to the suitability and acceptability of schemes proposed, and as to the practicability of having such schemes supported and carried out. The Central Body would also serve the purpose of a clearing house through which an intimate knowledge of the results from experience in one locality would be made available to other communities.
5. It is important to adopt a plan whereby the Dominion, the Provinces, the Localities and Individuals will co-operate and each contribute in some well-considered and equitable proportion to the cost of development undertakings. A plan of organization which provides for the financial support from Communities being properly articulated with financial grants from Central Authorities would tend to bring about efficiency and stability. A long time is required to realize upon education work; and continuity of effort to meet re-organized needs is essential. The plan should be such as would ensure concurrent progressive action in the same direction by the Central and Local Bodies. Provision should be made for Efficiency Audits, in order that each Contributing Authority may be assured that the money is being used for the purpose for which it is granted, and that the work is being well done.
6. It is important to adopt a plan which will ensure that the national interests as well as the local points of view will be considered.
7. It is important that there should be a Dominion Consultative Body, through which the widest knowledge and experience could be put at the service of all the Provinces and thus be brought to bear on problems and undertakings of consequence to them all.
8. It is important that there should be a Dominion Authority competent to co-operate with Provincial Authorities, to provide expert counsel to any Province which might not be adequately organized or staffed to render service in that respect to all localities and industries within its borders, and to promote scientific research and the diffusion of knowledge resulting therefrom.

### The Commission's Recommendations.

The Commission recommends that Local and Provincial Development Bodies be constituted as follows:—

- I.—Local Urban Industrial Development Boards.
  - II.—Local Rural Development Boards.
  - III.—Provincial Development Councils.
  - IV.—Provincial Development Commissions.
- The Commission further recommends the constitution of,—
- V.—A Dominion Development Conference.
  - VI.—A Dominion Development Commission.
  - VII.—A Dominion Development Fund.

## MEETING OF EXECUTIVE OF U. C. M.

A meeting of the Executive of the Union of Canadian Municipalities was held in the City Hall, Ottawa, May 3rd, when the following business was brought forward:

- 1st.—To decide on subjects of papers, and discussion for the programme of Annual Convention.
- 2nd.—To consider the draft copy of the revised Railway Act.
- 3rd.—The Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Bill.
- 4th.—The Continental Heat and Light Company Bill.
- 5th.—The Brandon Branch Line of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.
- 6th.—The advisability of more collaboration of the Federal Government and Municipalities in war measures effecting the citizens.

There was a good attendance of representatives of municipalities from Charlottetown, P.E.I., in the east, to Edmonton, Alta., in the west; together with several members of the House of Commons representing various cities; and numerous cities represented by proxy.

Mayor Burgoyne, of St. Catharines, Ont., was requested to act as chairman.

A draft outline of subjects for the Convention Programme was presented by the Assistant Secretary, and after a brief discussion and several suggestions, the matter was left in the hands of the Hon. Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary to complete.

Items 2, 3, 4 and 5, all connected with the Railway Act, were each discussed separately, and then as a whole.

The following special resolutions were adopted:

"That this Executive Committee support the request of the City of Brandon, requiring that the Branch Line of the Grand Trunk Pacific into the city be completed immediately."

"That the Union of Canadian Municipalities formulate a policy of consolidation of railway terminals in cities, and of controlling the methods of entry."

Considerable discussion took place regarding the large issues concerned in many points of the revision of the Railway Act. Mr. Lighthall, Hon. Secretary of the Union, stated that he had arranged with the chairman of the Special Committee of the Commons, which is working on the revision, for a Municipal Day (Friday, 18th May) and urged the attention and attendance of all Corporation Counsel of the larger cities.

Item 6, re co-operation of the Federal Government and Municipalities, was left to the Executive to act on.

A special committee was then appointed to wait upon the Railway Committee in the afternoon to express the views of this Executive meeting (which was done).

The meeting then adjourned.

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The difference between a live city and a dead one is that citizens of one are always looking toward the future, while the citizens of the other are looking backward upon the past.

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"The moment the war ended the wheels of munition industries would cease to turn. Then the manufacturer would have to hustle for the customers he had not known for two years. Is it best to wait until that time comes, and in the maze of dislocated activities try and work out what we should do for the future? Or shall we prepare for it as best we can?—Sir George Foster.

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"There will no doubt be a period of readjustment after the war, and many opinions have been advanced as to what effect this period of readjustment will have upon the affairs of our country. Fears have been expressed that the sudden cessation of war orders may have a serious effect upon financial and trade conditions, but it must be borne in mind that those industries that have been fortunate enough to secure orders for the manufacture of munitions and equipment have, for the most part, been enabled thereby to greatly strengthen their financial position and to increase their capacity and efficiency for handling new business. These concerns should be in a position, at the close of the war, to take advantage of the opportunities that will inevitably occur to participate in the trade that will doubtless spring up in connection with the period of reconstruction which is expected to follow.—Sir. H. H. McMillan.