

MAYOR WHITE ADVOCATES FREE NATIONALIZED PORT HERE

Declares Policy Change Would Attract Industries To District And Increase Its Population

His Worship Sees City At Parting of Ways and Stresses Need of Immediate Action

SPEAKS AT TRADE BOARD BANQUET

Figures Harbor Valuation at \$6,000,000 and Says Revenue From Sale Applied to Municipal Debt of \$8,000,000 Would Be Good

ADVOCATING nationalization of the harbor of Saint John as a free port for at least the first 10 or 15 years, His Worship Mayor White gave a highly interesting review of the difficulties under which Saint John was laboring, and advanced several proposals for the betterment of conditions, before 300 members of the Saint John Board of Trade at a banquet in the Admiral Beatty Hotel last evening.

His Worship declared that the people of this section of the country were a maritime people and their destiny was on the sea. He expressed the opinion that the city's greatest need at the present time was more population, but felt that with the development of a great national port here, industries would be attracted to the city and that a natural growth in population and prosperity would follow.

He figured that the value of the harbor was in the vicinity of \$6,000,000 and if this amount could be realized in the sale of what the people had spent several years in building up, the amount could be placed against the city's indebtedness of \$8,000,000 and would be a good piece of business.

While he was optimistic for the future of the city, he said that it was rapidly going out of business—that it was at the parting of the ways, and that something must be done as soon as possible.

L. W. Simms, president of the board, presided. Others seated at the president's table were: Mayor White, Premier Baxter, W. F. Burditt, Lieutenant W. H. Harrison, M. L. A. G. R. Barbour, Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Masie.

SIMMS SPEAKS

Mr. Simms introduced the speaker of the evening in a brief address in which he also referred to the recent campaign to secure increased membership for the board. Mr. Simms announced that the effort had been completely successful and that the total number of members had been practically doubled. The membership was now slightly less than 400, which figure it was believed would be attained in the near future.

The board of trade, Mr. Simms went on, realized the necessity of seeking closer and more harmonious co-operation with City Hall. It was recognized that the responsible heads of government were the common council, but on the other hand more than ever before the board represented those men in the community who were responsible for its financial life, its improvement and its ultimate success.

The gathering, he said, represented an infinitude of potential power. Great things might be accomplished through co-operation and vision.

SUCCESS CAN BE GAINED

There were many present who had learned that success could be gained in Saint John as well as by seeking more distant fields. He was confident that the next decade would see many more of those successes.

Mr. Simms spoke appreciatively of the services rendered by P. MacIure Scandlers, commissioner of the board, and regretted that he had temporarily had to suspend his activities because of indisposition. He was glad to say that it was believed Mr. Scandlers would be able to return to duty in about three weeks.

In calling upon Mayor White, Mr. Simms paid him a tribute as having won the complete confidence of the people, and said that his opportunity for service was one of which the counterpart had not been seen for many years.

MAYOR OPENS ADDRESS

In opening his address, Mayor White referred to the fact that in the early days of the city the lot on which the hotel, the scene of last night's gathering, stands was sold for \$20 for use as a windmill; when those behind the Admiral Beatty Hotel project purchased the land they paid \$100,000 for it, and in the light of recent gatherings, His Worship expressed the opinion that it was not being diverted from them by its original use.

Mayor White said that he was far from being a pessimist. He had confidence in the city and in its citizenship. There was no cause for panic, he declared, pointing out that the corporation of the city was in a healthy condition financially, and in this regard compared favorably with other cities in Canada. There was available for taxation about \$300,000,000 in income; the bonded indebtedness of the city was \$8,000,000, while its assets were placed at \$12,000,000, which His Worship considered was a very conservative figure.

DEFENDS TAX RATE

The tax rate he did not consider excessive, although the valuation of real estate was higher than he felt property owners would like to see it. The value of the city's securities in the financial markets of the country, however, was an indication, he declared, of Saint John's stable condition.

While he would not say that the city was out of business, he expressed the opinion that it was rapidly going out of business. He went on to discuss possible reasons for this condition and added that only by making the conditions favorable could the opportunities for development of the community be made possible.

There was a time, he continued, when conditions were far different from what they were at the present time—when the city was busy with a multitude of industries, including shoe factories, iron mills, lumber mills, locomotive works, and various other branches of activity. He called to mind the fact that in those days trade

High Spots I Address

WE are a Maritime port our destiny lies on 'Our future prosperity depends on greater export business.

WE have abundant supplies of excellent limestone in New Brunswick. This with clay is the basis for cement. Some could be done in this line, despite the fact that we could scarcely hope to compete with the big cement plants.

WE have the soil and the pastures to raise immense quantities of foodstuffs and beef cattle. There is an unlimited market for these just across the horizon in England.

WE have been playing with the fish industry for 150 years. Yet here is an industry which we have a monopoly, and no limit to the extent in which it could be developed.

WE want a free port, or as nearly free as may be—if not permanently so, at least for 10 or 15 years till it has developed.

WE have some business to transact, and, as we say when we go to the bank, we want a little "accredit" from the government.

WE are going out of business, despite possession of a large surplus, because we have not mobilized our man and woman-power to the best advantage.

One of our greatest needs of the moment is more population.

At present Saint John is like a man who has lost his position and is looking for some other occupation.

The time has come for us to lay the cards on the table and face the facts to take stock and see if this city cannot regain some of its commercial supremacy.

Saint John is approaching, if not already at, the parting of the ways. A free policy which we have a business-like way will mean success.

If it had not been for the C. P. R. we would have had to close up our books long ago.

kept our man-power and woman-power properly mobilized."

POPULATION STATIONARY.

The population of the city has remained stationary or a little worse, he said, and while he would not say that the city was in a strait, he said that it had come to the parting of the ways; it had lost its shipbuilding; it had lost its lumber industry.

"What can we turn our hands to now?" he asked. He answered this question by pointing out that the province still had its natural resources which might be resorted to.

In the first place, he pointed to the forests. While the thirteen lumber mills once located in the city had disappeared, he felt that pulp could be manufactured at a profit in Saint John. He instanced the case of the Nashua mill and expressed the opinion that there was more than enough in prospect than would keep one mill in operation.

RICH CEMENT DEPOSITS.

Turning to the mines he said that in addition to coal, the province had rich deposits of both limestone and clay, both of which entered into the manufacture of cement. While he felt that it would be useless to attempt to compete with the Portland cement he said that he thought there was no reason why at least a local market in cement could not be built up.

Next taking up the matter of farming, he declared that the meat packers, both of which entered into the manufacture of meat, he felt that this condition of affairs was strange in view of the valuable farming lands which the province possessed and which he felt would make a good living for a large proportion of the population.

FISHING PLAYED WITH.

Touching on the matter of the fishing industry, the Mayor declared that, for the last 150 years, the people had played with this feature of the country's resources. He compared conditions here with those in Gloucester, Mass., a city comparable to Saint John in size, which was practically built upon fish and which exported its products to many countries, even supplying a great portion of Canada.

The tourist question, he said, he would leave to the tourist association, but incidentally he pointed out that Switzerland made its living from the tourist traffic and the State of Maine received a great proportion of its revenue from the same source. Saint John, he felt, could derive a great benefit from the tourist trade with proper and judicious advertising.

POWER DEVELOPMENT.

In the matter of power, he referred to the development at Grand Falls, at Musquash and on the Nepisiguit. Coming nearer home, he said that the problem of the reversing falls had never been solved, but he felt that the power was there and when the price of electricity became prohibitive, such development would have to be resorted to. He also spoke of the plans for harnessing the tidal power at the head of the Bay of Fundy, which had been abandoned on account of the fact that no market was in sight for the power.

It was impossible by act of parliament, or of the legislature, or even act

the common council, to compel people with money to invest it, but if the locality was made favorable for investment, he said it would be impossible to keep the money out. Only in that way could Saint John progress, he added.

MORE POPULATION NEEDED.

The city must have additional population declared. In the last 30 years had doubled while the best, remained stationary, he claimed. In the present time with the population, he said, Saint John was a free port.

John had in the past been expected to be a replacement which should be 300 for land values creation; this would

make the total valuation of the harbor about \$6,000,000. He figured that the C. P. R. which, he declared, was the best friend Saint John ever had, would certainly put this valuation on the property if it was theirs.

HARBOR REVENUE.

Last year, the Mayor continued, the net revenue from the harbor was some \$30,000, or a return of about one-tenth of one per cent, on the investment. If the city should sell its harbor for \$8,000,000 and use the amount received to offset its debt of \$8,000,000, he figured that that would be good business. This money could be invested at five per cent and give a very satisfactory return.

Should the harbor be sold there were some advantages which existed at the present time, he declared, which were valuable and which would not be transferred with the deed of sale. These included the employment of labor and other indirect advantages. The harbor would be there still; nobody could take it away, and there would be at least as much work for the longshoremen. A new policy, he felt, could not make the conditions any

worse than they were at the present time.

COURTENAY BAY.

If the port were nationalized—if it were put into the hands of a harbor trust—and he felt that Courtenay Bay should be included—such a trust, co-operating with the C. N. R. in carrying out the program of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the routing of all Canadian trade through Canadian ports, and with all discrimination eliminated, Saint John would have one of the most favorable sites for the development of both industry and business in the whole of Canada.

He gave several examples of the possibilities of the city as an industrial centre, referring particularly to the Atlantic Sugar Refinery, which imported its raw product by water to its own wharf and shipped the finished article without the necessity of having to resort to rail connections. He also spoke of the industry which was being operated by the president of the Board of Trade, L. W. Simms, which drew its raw material from as far away as China and Turkey and shipped the finished article to 60 countries of the world.

Mayor White felt that Saint John

would never capture the markets of Canada to any great extent; the markets of Maritime were overseas, he declared, and he thought that there were unlimited opportunities in England for the products both grown and manufactured here.

With a large port and with a policy that reached well into the future, with steam lines running frequently and regularly to all parts of the world, he felt that it would be possible to get investors to locate near the seaboard. He also saw unlimited possibilities in the import trade, particularly from the West Indies and through the British preference.

"Given a large import and export trade," he said, "with the consequent development of industries, Saint John would be an all-year-round port, but the great benefit of a large port would be overshadowed by a large industrial centre and a big increase in population. But we must have a free port, or a harbor trust."

PARLIAMENT AWAKENING

There never was a time, he said,

when conditions were so acute. Parliament, he added, was beginning to realize that the East was getting the wrong end of the bargain and, as a partner in Confederation, she should receive a fair share of the profits.

"What do we want?" he asked, and continued, "Regardless of politics, we should put Saint John ahead of everything else."

"We should say, 'Take our harbor and give us a share of the freight through our port; give us regular and frequent sailings of ships; we are a maritime people and our destiny lies on the seas.'"

"The people of Canada say that we are entitled to some benefits now received in other parts of Canada. We don't want charity. All we ask is justice and fair treatment, what we are entitled to under Confederation, and an equal opportunity to share in the benefits of Confederation. If we are not granted what we ask . . ."

With this dramatic climax, the Mayor took his seat, as the gathering broke into loud applause.

THE wisest man uses the simplest words.

Stores open 8.30 a.m. Close 6 p.m. Saturday 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 28.

Special Values for All Day Saturday

The Specials for this week-end will prove of more than ordinary interest to shoppers including as they do not only Lingerie, Gloves and Hosiery for women and children, Men's Furnishings, Golf Specials, but wonderful bargains in Coat and Dress Cloths, Coat Linings and a big assortment of Wash Goods Remnants in usable lengths for dresses, smocks and children's rompers.

Silk Dresses, \$19.50

Odd garments taken from our regular stock and marked much below their real value form an interesting group for Saturday's selling. Not a dress in the lot that is worth less than \$25, and some are of the \$29.50, \$35 and even \$39.50 quality.

A big assortment of colors, including black, navy, cocoa, lavender green, rosewood, oakwood, and grey. Sizes 16 to 42.

Special Saturday . . . \$19.50

(Costume Dept.—Second Floor.)

Remnant Sale Of Dress Goods, Coatings and Suitings

Prepare Now For Summer Holidays and Save Money

Saturday we place on Sale a large quantity of Remnants. There will be materials suitable for coats, skirts, dresses, many lengths long enough for suits, also a variety of Tweeds for boys' pants and suits.

We have several dress lengths of White Silk and Wool Crepe, suitable for graduating dresses.

All these Remnants will be sold at a big sacrifice. One lot to be sold at half price.

(Dress Goods Dept.—Ground Floor.)

Specials For The Golfer

Reliable English made Golf Balls for durability, steadiness and distance. These balls will prove all that could be desired.

\$4.15 per doz.

Golf Clubs—

Driver, Brass or Spoon . . . \$2.50 each
Mid Iron, Mashie, Niblic and Putter, \$2 each
(Sporting Goods Dept.—Ground Floor.)

2 Big Specials In Wash Goods

Big clearance Sale of Remnants in Wash Goods Dept. at greatly reduced prices.

Usable lengths of Wash Goods, including Fancy Crepes, Fancy Voiles, Lingerie Crepes, Dimities, Peter Pan Cloth, Ginghams, Rayon Gingham, Chambrays, Shirtings, Prints, etc. Many of these materials are suitable for ladies' and children's dresses for immediate use.

\$1.15 yd.

(Wash Goods Dept.—Ground Floor.)

Broadcloth Shirts—Specially Priced

High Grade Shirts—Correct in cut and made of the popular Broadcloth in new printed designs and plain colors. A very special offering. Price . . . \$2.18

Men's Silk Half Hose—Made of pure silk thread and fibre, double soles, heels and toes, some with fancy embroidered clocks, four good colors, two shades of grey, brown and black. Special price . . . 45c. a pair

Stylish Neckwear—Popular price 95c.—Silk and Wool Crepe, Swiss Moire and Striped Pure Silks; bright in color and neat in design. Extra value . . . \$1.45 a pair
(Men's Furnishings—Ground Floor.)

Gloves For Saturday Selling

Ladies' Pure Silk Gloves—Double tips, 2-dome fasteners. Colors, black, white, pongee, pheasant, chiri, grey, and silver. Sizes 6 to 7 1-2. . . . \$1 to \$2 per pair

Pure Silk Gloves with turn and fancy cuffs. Colors, silver, sunburn, muffin, chiri, doo-sin, etc. Size 6 to 7 1-2. . . . \$1.40 to \$2.50 pair

Long Silk Gloves—Colors, white, black, grey, silver, mocha and pongee. 12-button length . . . \$1.45 a pair

Sizes 6 to 7 1-2. 16-button length, \$1.65 to \$2.15 pair

Children's Gloves—Size 0 to 6.
(Glove Dept.—Ground Floor.)

Hosiery For Saturday

GOOD VALUES—ALL PERFECT.

Ladies' Art Silk Hose—Spliced heel and toe, assorted light shades. 8 1-2 to 10. 40c. pr.

Art Silk Hose—Wide rib. In silver, suede, harvest, sunburn, black, brown and navy. Size 8 1-2 to 10 . . . \$1 pr.

Children's Fine Ribbed Art Silk and Lisle Hose—White, black, airdale and shell. Size 5 to 9 inches . . . 35c. to 60c. pr. According to size.

Children's Golf Hose—Fancy tops, grey, fawn, heather and mixtures. Size 6 to 11 inch . . . 50c. to \$1.50 pr.

(Hosiery Dept.—Ground Floor.)

The Well Dressed Man and Success

In these days of sharp competition a bad first impression must often be the cause of much lost business.

It is, therefore, a good sign that men of today are taking a keener interest in their personal appearance.

The well dressed man who shows a nice choice in the tone of his clothes and is able to have a "cut" which indicates good taste is possessed of one of the essentials to business success.

Our Spring and Summer stocks invite your inspection; you will find a wide range of patterns and some very smart models in Society Suits and Topcoats . . . \$22.50 to \$35

Other prices . . . \$15 to \$50
(Men's Clothing—Second Floor.)

A Timely Opportunity

After purchasing your coat or suit of cloth, step across to the lining counter, there you will find special offerings in Coat Linings.

Fancy Mercerized Satin, in sand, brown, rust green, gray and cardinal shades. 40 in. wide. 75c. a yd.

Brocade Linings—Silk and Cotton mixtures. Colors are blue and rose, green and rose, brown and garnet, rust. 39 in. wide . . . 95c. a yd.

(Lining Section—Ground Floor.)

Special Sale of Art Silk

Vests and Bloomers

Vests in white, pink and peach shades. Special . . . 95c.

Bloomers—Colors, white, grey, jade and brown. Special value . . . \$1.19

(Whitewear Dept.—Second Floor.)

Manchester Robertson Allison Limited

KING STREET • GERMAIN STREET • MARKET SQUARE