

CONVENTION OF NEW BRUNSWICK MUNICIPALITIES (Continued)

paid to the breeding and rearing of horses, cattle and sheep than to the bringing up the best type of child.

G. O. D. Otty said he did not think the opinions expressed by the minister regarding eugenics were practical. He thought that the Dominion Government should bear the expense of the collection of vital statistics.

J. Y. Mersereau said he intended to offer friendly criticism, destructive and constructive, of the administration of the health act. He was in favor of the objects aimed at but not of the means to attain them. Everything that was good for St. John was not good for the whole province. He thought the health act worked better in densely settled communities than in sparsely settled ones.

The isolation hospital in Chatham had become public property since the act and people from other counties allowed to come in. He claimed that his parish was being penalized and asked that it be made a sub-district.

E. P. Smith, Sackville, said that he understood from what the minister said that the medical men were underpaid. This was false economy in his opinion.

J. N. Vroom, of St. Stephen, said that in the New England States town clerks were registrars of vital statistics. Many questions came to town clerks and he asked that copies of vital statistics be filed with the town clerks.

Unemployment.

Mayor Schofield, of St. John, said that the problem of unemployment was province wide and must be tackled from that viewpoint. Regarding St. John, the Mayor said, there would be considerable hardship this winter. The winter port might alleviate distress but it was problematical whether this winter would see any improvement over last winter. Last spring, he had placed in his hands an amount from the Soldier Comfort Association to expend in assisting disabled soldiers. A memorial workshop was established, which employed ten men up till about two weeks ago making standardized tables and bureaus. The building was in good shape and it had been suggested by the D. S. C. R. that this plan be enlarged on. Instead of employing ten men, it might be possible to create work for a hundred men, and if this plan were adopted, the D. S. C. R. would lend every aid. Of course, soldiers from outside the city would share in this.

In talking with men who came to City Hall looking for work, the Mayor said, that the problem took root in the school system. He had found that the young fellow had drifted out of school at an age when some attraction should be provided to hold him. It was said that out of a class of 1000 which started the first grade, only 238 remained in attendance at school after grade seven.

The mayor suggested that some provision should be made, such as the establishment of a trade school, to keep the boys at school and not let them drift. He also suggested that a survey be made of the abandoned farms and that men, who had left the country, be induced to take up farming again on these deserted farms. A fund could be created to loan these men money at five per cent, interest.

The president then called on Messrs. Killen, McMullen and McKinnon, who were present in the interests of the Trades and Labor Council. Mr. Killen urged the adoption of a resolution that would strengthen the premier's hands in regard to expenditure of money to alleviate the present conditions and not to wait until snow fell. Mr. McKinnon told of labor conditions in the city and said that of the seven mills in and around the city, only one was in operation. The work at Musquash was a good outlet but it was not sufficient to care for all those who had been turned out of work. Only one shipment of lumber had been made this summer from the port. Mr. McMullen agreed the situation was bad. But the human race was of more importance than dollars and, therefore, he favored an expenditure of money to assist the needy, even if the province did go deep into debt.

G. O. D. Otty said there was little unemployment in Kings county and there was no reason to expect any.

W. J. Cassidy, of Chatham, said that he represented a large laboring parish and the great depression in the lumber trade had resulted in great hardship. Even the capitalist was feeling the pinch. He suggested that as the recent forest fires had burned over large areas in his district and, as this burned-over lumber was in time becoming useless unless brought out this coming winter, that the provincial government might take steps to provide employment along this line. A great saving could be effected in this way besides finding employment for the needy.

Robert Graham, of York county, said there was \$35,000,000 tied up in the lumber industry. He suggested that instead of sending pulpwood in the raw state to the United States for refining that the provincial government undertake its manufacture here.

E. Smith, of Sackville, told of the situation in his district and said that he thought the Dominion Government had promised a pose office building, but nothing had been attempted. He had been informed that this was no isolated case, as there were no fewer than seventy towns in the Dominion which had been promised the same. He thought that the Federal Government should commence operations along public works lines and suggested that, as Canada had raised money during the war through Victory Loans, a further loan be undertaken to carry the whole Dominion over the winter.

T. McPhail, of Victoria county, said that the farmers he represented were in a bad position owing to conditions of the potato market. As a result, lumbering had been taken up but here again little relief had been afforded. Bugs, as well as fire, were destroying the trees and he urged that steps be taken to eradicate these pests. He suggested that road improvement work be undertaken. He told of local conditions and said he agreed with Mayor Schofield in regard to placing experienced men back on the farms. He did not agree with the speaker who favored manufacture of pulp.

Councillor O'Brien, of St. John, requested that the Government examine into the proposition of expending in the neighborhood of \$50,000 on extended highway work, by using the splendid natural rock pro-