

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1923

VALLEY CONFERENCE ENDORSES OLD HOME SUMMER AND FORMS TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Kentville, March 23.—Representative citizens gathered from Halifax to Yarmouth from all the western counties of the province at the Cornwallis Inn Monday to consider the Old Home Summer scheme, endorsed the project and decided upon immediate organization. Horatio C. Crowell, promoter of

the Old Home Summer, and representing The Morning Chronicle, urged that immediate action be taken and that the citizens assure the government that their energy and voluntary effort will be behind the scheme. He said the hour has struck, as the Premier of the

province in his pronouncement upon this matter, gave him the confidence of support.

P. J. Giffin, of the Halifax Herald, was the next speaker, and said that the Herald was in complete accord with the project and would give it every support.

James Sealy, M. P. for Kings County, and member of the Parliament Committee dealing with the tourist problems, said that he was so intensely in sympathy with the Old Home Summer project, that he felt at times the idea must have been of divine inspiration. He urged that citizens realize that the government could not do much without public support, and pleaded that all get a realization of the great undertaking the province was as-

suming in recalling its people from the ends of the earth.

A. E. MacMahon was chairman of the afternoon and evening meetings. George B. Graham was present and spoke briefly and P. G. J. Comeau, representing the Halifax Board of Trade, very aptly reviewed the growth of the tourist business and the development of transportation facilities, when such men of vision as the late Hon. L. R. Baker of Yarmouth was alive, and exhibited his faith in Nova Scotia by doing big things. He felt that men of such vision today must place themselves behind this great development movement.

Before conference broke up at a late hour tonight the delegates organized a Valley Tourist Association with A. E. MacMahon president, Prof. Saxby Blair, vice-president, and H. M. Chase, secretary. All towns from Windsor to Digby will be included in the organization.

The Tourist Conference.

The tourist conference of the Boards of Trade and newspapermen of Nova Scotia met in the afternoon with a large number of delegates. President A. E. MacMahon, of the Kentville Board, was in the chair. Prof. W. S. Blair outlined the object of the conference, the value of and importance of the tourist trade to this province.

P. W. Bowers, of Halifax Board, spoke of the need of good hotels. Last year there were 600,000 tourists in the State of Maine. He quoted from the Montreal Star that about 180,000 people from the cities of Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa go to the State of Maine each year. These should be diverted to this province. One of the advantages to the country is the added valuation to properties and land that was formerly valueless has increased very materially in various sections because of the tourist trade, consequently adding to assessment and more taxable property.

L. M. Fortier, of the Commercial Club, Annapolis, thought that we should have an organization for the promotion of immigration and tourist travel combined, should work in conjunction with the Department of Immigration. Mr. Fortier outlined the work he was doing as honorary superintendent of the Old Fort at Annapolis Royal. Ten thousand people had visited the Fort last summer.

P. G. J. Comeau, Vice-president Halifax Board of Trade, thought that a bureau might be established in different towns for the gathering of information and publicity purposes. Volunteer work must be done by citizens of the different localities. He spoke of the great work which the Dominion Atlantic Railway had done in advertising the Province.

F. E. Cox, Middleton, advocated the Old Home Summer idea being developed. Different towns could take a week, and all finally centering in a week or more at Halifax.

The Resolution.

The resolution on the Old Home Summer follows:

"Whereas the Government of Nova Scotia has appointed a Parliamentary Committee to investigate and consider the possibilities of the development of the tourist travel to Nova Scotia, and whereas that Committee will make certain recommendations to the Legislature as to ways and means of developing the tourist trade, and whereas there is now before the Province a proposal to hold an Old Home Summer in 1924 and appeal to all Nova Scotians living abroad to visit their native land in the summer of 1924, we, the delegates of the tourist conference at Kentville, resolve, that we strongly endorse the Old Home Summer Movement for 1924 and urge upon the Government of Nova Scotia to grant all legislation that will give the official sanction and assist in its organization and successful conduct."

"Further resolved that this conference will take immediate steps to organize the committee necessary to carry on the work of the Old Home Summer in all the towns and counties here represented. Moved by Fred Cox, Middleton, seconded by J. L. Peters, Digby."

The resolution on the Tourist Association follows:

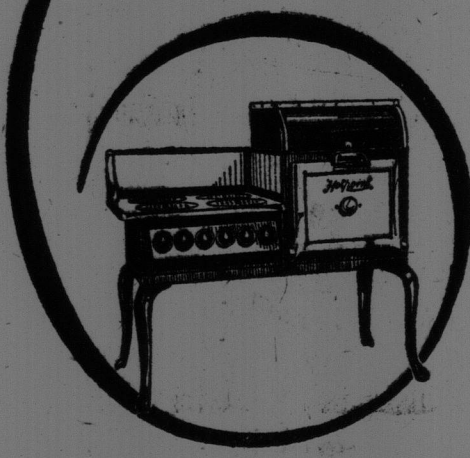
"Resolved that the delegates to this conference will form themselves into the nucleus of an Annapolis Valley Tourist Association for the counties here represented and arrange plans for completing organization embracing all the western counties from Windsor to Yarmouth."

The Tourist resolution was:

"Whereas, this meeting has been held for the purpose of studying and formulating plans for the development of the tourist travel to Nova Scotia, and whereas the Government of Nova Scotia has appointed a Parliamentary committee to investigate the possibilities of tourist travel to Nova Scotia, and recommend legislation that will assist in this development, therefore resolved, that the attention of the Government be directed to the necessity for more aggressive action in the dissemination of information throughout New England and other parts of the United States and Upper Canada, in reference to the attractiveness of our Province as a tourist resort through a central and unified source, and that they be urged to at once set aside a sum not less than \$15,000 as a start in the organization of a publicity campaign for the purpose outlined above, and establish a central information bureau for tourists for the Province of Nova Scotia, it being understood that voluntary information bureaus will be established by local Boards of Trade or organizations."



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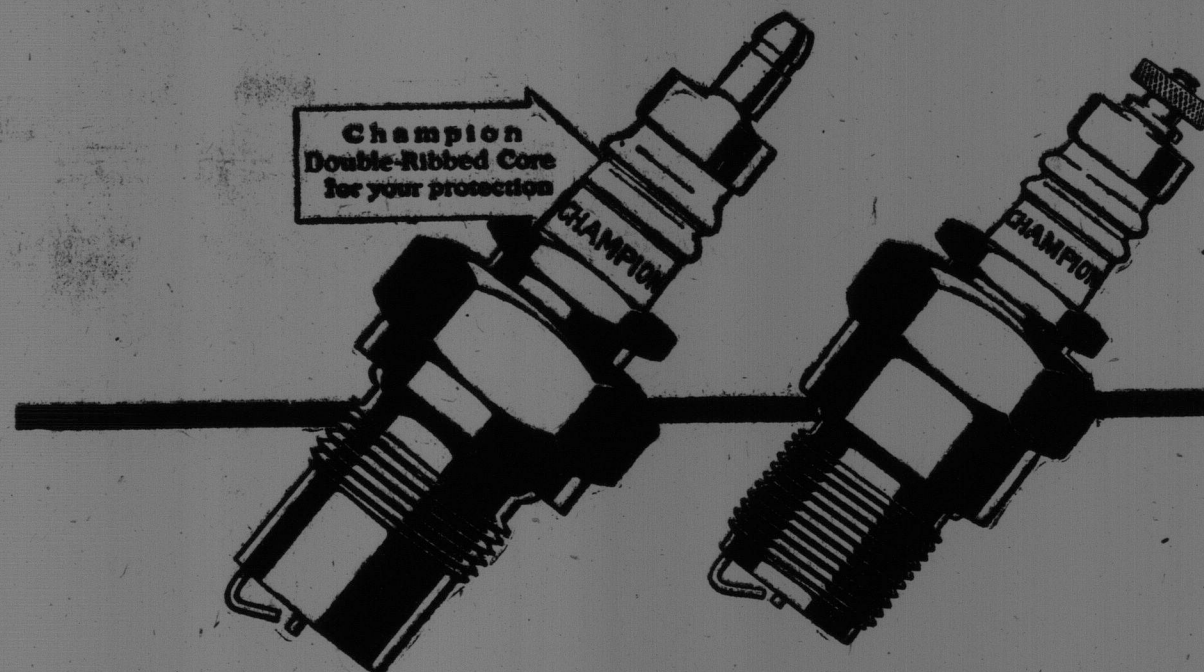
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