

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1921

THE GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT SPREADS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Representatives Place Recommendations Before Govt.

No Change in Rule of the Road — Government Has Promised Careful Consideration to Proposals Made.

(Halifax Chronicle)

The good roads movement for Nova Scotia received an impetus at the special conference on the Provincial Good Roads Association held at the Board of Trade

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rooms, Halifax on Thursday, which should be felt throughout the entire Province. Representative citizens were there from Cape Breton to Cape Sable. They placed well defined carefully thought out and practical recommendations before the Government. The Government on the other hand received the delegation from the conference most cordially, promising the utmost consideration, and expressing gratification that such a delegation should have waited upon them with such excellent suggestions. There was a splendid unanimity throughout the whole conference only surpassed by the enthusiasm of the meeting. They were all evidently there for one subject—better roads.

No Change in Rule of Road.

The morning from ten to one o'clock was occupied by discussions of the recommendations submitted by the Directors. Those that received the most discussion included the proposal for a uniform system of assessment. The suggestion to change the rule of the road from the left to the right was discussed, but owing to wide divergence of opinion it was not put in the form of a resolution. The various speakers told of their experiences on the country roads of the Province, some of which were highly entertaining and put the gathering into roars of laughter.

During the afternoon a strong delegation representative of both city and provincial sections met the Government.

Mr. R. H. Murray presented the

recommendations of the Government and they were as follows:—

1. That the highways of this Province be administered by a Commission consisting of a minister of the government, a business man, and an engineer who shall give their whole time to the work of the Board.

2. That the government take up the matter of uniform assessment throughout the Province on a basis of actual cash value; and that a Municipal Department of Government be established to deal with assessment and other municipal affairs.

3. That a complete system of patrols for the highways of this Province be immediately organized.

4. That means be taken for the enforcement of the provisions of the Highway law providing penalties for injury and trespass to highways.

5. That wide tire regulations be enacted.

6. Equitable distribution of money on roads.

Discussion Campaign.

The delegation was received by Hon. E. H. Armstrong, Hon. H. H. Wickwire, Hon. J. C. Tory, and Hon. William Chisholm. Hon. E. H. Armstrong, who is the Minister of the Government, expressed his gratification at meeting the delegation of the Good Roads Association and promised consideration. He stated that the Government had introduced a Bill which would go a long way toward making improvements in the system of assessment which the Association had proposed.

Considerable discussion ensued on the subject of educational campaign throughout the Province. Mr. Floyd of Guyboro advocated the formation of a public Committee and the establishment of a Good Roads Bureau at Halifax. From this bureau would be distributed throughout the Province pamphlets and literature concerning the movement, and also where complaints and suggestions might be sent; in other words stand as an intermediary between the Association and the Government. This suggestion was received with enthusiasm and was left with the Executive Committee with which to deal.

Hants, Colchester and Cumberland Counties were the only Counties not represented at the Convention. Many members of the House attended the morning sessions and were present when the delegation went before the Government in the afternoon.

FAMINE AS A RESULT OF DEFORESTATION

China is now face to face with one of the worst famines in her history. Approximately 15,000,000 people are in imminent danger of starvation. The area affected is some 100,000 square miles in extent, and as the most primitive means of transport exist, it is impossible for millions of the miserable inhabitants to get out of the stricken districts, in spite of frantic efforts to do so. In addition to the scarcity of food, there is an equally terrible scarcity of fuel. The poorer classes have always to rely on the grass roots and stubble to keep their little fires alight and this year there is no stubble. As a result, the rigorous climate of Northern China is taking its toll and thousands are perishing from the cold.

The immediate causes of the famine were disastrous floods, which resulted in the complete failure of three successive crops. These calamities, in turn, were caused in large part by a reckless wastage of natural resources. The Chinese have been extremely unscientific and wasteful in the handling of their forests. The rich agricultural lands of the lower plateaus were stripped of tree growth probably centuries ago, but until within a hundred years ago great forests covered the mountain plateaus and slopes of Central China. These have been utterly destroyed over great areas and no attempt made at reforestation either by natural or artificial means. As a result, the slopes have been so eroded by heavy rains as to be veritable deserts. Moreover, the lack of forest cover on the uplands has made possible alternate floods and droughts, the very factors that have brought disaster to so many millions of people in China this year. An area about one-quarter the size of Ontario, fertile enough to maintain a population of over 50,000,000 people, has become, as a result of human folly and shortsightedness, a place where men must ever be haunted by fear of destruction—A. Donnell.

SIR THOS. WHITE NO LONGER M. P.

(Canadian Press Despatch)

Ottawa, April 6.—Speaker Rhodes informed the house this afternoon that he had received the resignation of Sir Thomas White (Leas) as a member of the house of commons.

The resignation of Sir Thomas White, adds another to the list of vacancies. There are now six vacancies in the House, as follows: York-Sunbury (N.B.); York West (Ont.); Yamaska (Que.); Medicine Hat (Alta.); St. Anvoire (Montreal) and finally Leeds (Leas). Four of these vacancies were caused by the death of the sitting member, while in the re-

maining two cases, those of St. Anvoire and Leeds, the members resigned in order to perform other work.

MINTO VOTE INVALID.

Sydney, N. S., April 6.—A new election for the post of U. M. W. international board member for District No. 26 was made practically certain by a message from Indianapolis to district headquarters today stating that International Secretary Green has decided that at the time of the last district election the Minto locals were in arrears of \$700 per capita tax. Harbor local claims that this is sufficient to invalidate the election and calls for a new ballot on Silby Barrett and Dan Livingstone. Livingstone won.

"Old Father Agate"

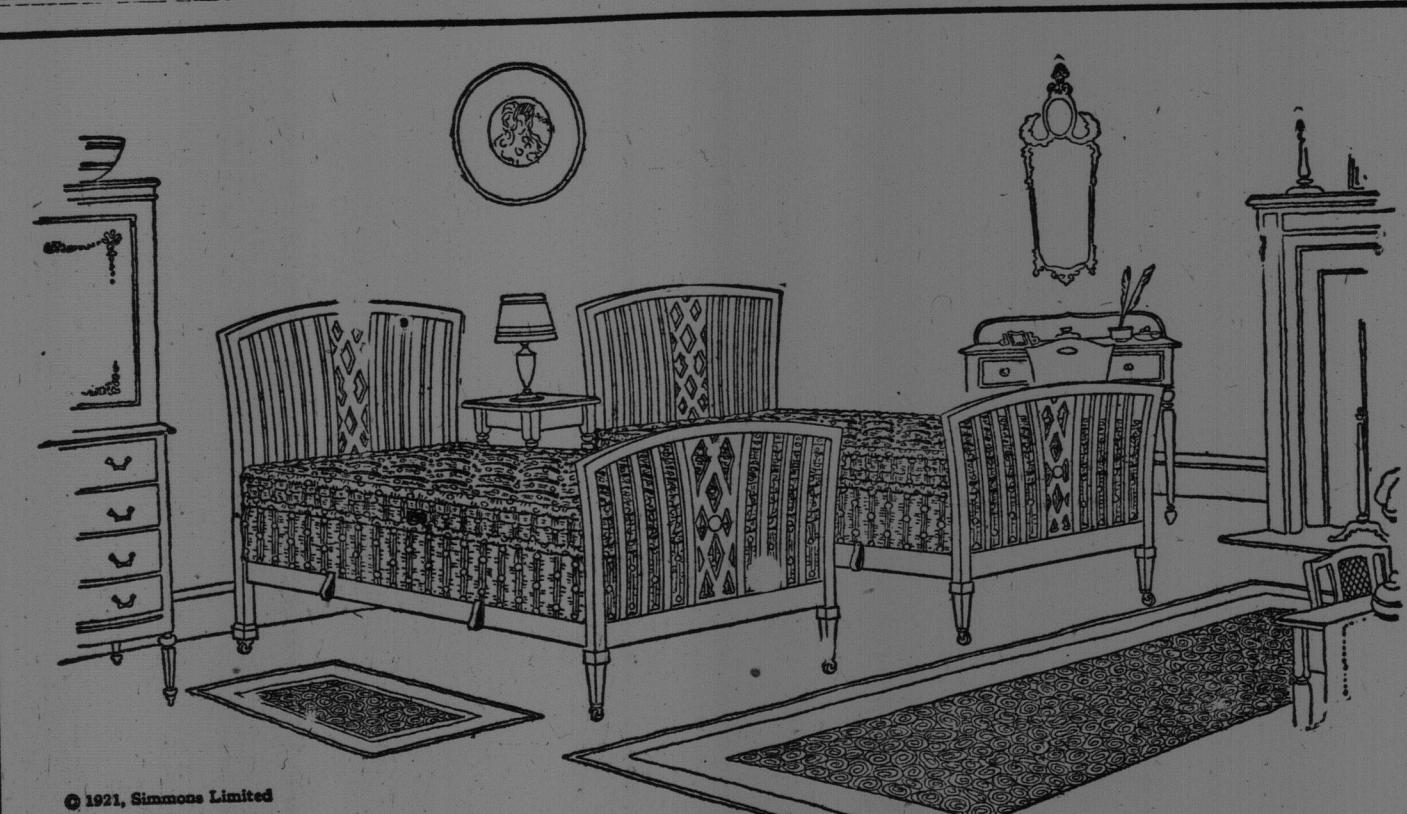
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By "RUD" FISHER

