

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1925

# SOFT WOOD STUMPAGE IS CUT TO \$2.50 FOR YEAR ON ALL BUT FIR

## NEW BRUNSWICK SCALE TO BE CONTINUED; GRAND FALLS DEVELOPED FREE OF POLITICS

Hon. J. B. M. Baxter Makes Important Announcements at Dinner of Retail Merchants Association

### HYDRO COMMISSION MEMBERS NAMED

Premier Advances Policy of Job Seeking the Man—Encouraging Speeches By Merchants and Others Are Heard at Admiral Beatty Banquet

DECLARING themselves to be against "peanut and preserved politics," Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, Premier of New Brunswick, and J. D. McKenna both struck a high cord in addresses delivered before the New Brunswick Retail Merchants Association Convention at a dinner given by the local merchants in the Admiral Beatty Hotel last evening to the visiting delegates. There were about 150 retail merchants and their friends present, representing for the most part retailers from various parts of the province.

Premier Baxter, who replied to the toast "The Province of New Brunswick," made several important announcements in the course of his address.

#### HIS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. Reduction of stumping on soft wood, excepting fir, to \$2.50 to operate for one year to "relieve conditions which are paralyzing the lumber industry, particularly on the North Shore."
2. Appointment of the following to the New Brunswick Hydro-Electric Commission: E. A. REILLY, K.C., Moncton; J. D. PALMER, Fredericton; E. A. SCHOFIELD, Saint John; A. D. GANONG, St. Stephen; F. J. ROBIDOUX, Shediac.
3. Retention of the New Brunswick Lumber Scale; not the adoption of the Quebec scale.
4. Development of Grand Falls will be carried out regardless of politics, with no direct or indirect taxation of the people or the loss of one dollar.
5. Policy of having "the job-seeking man," rather than "the man seeking the job."

"The Premier also said that the saw-mill industry will become extinct in time and will be supplanted by the pulp and paper industry."

#### URGES DAIRY EXPANSION.

J. D. McKenna, ex-M. L. A., who proposed the toast of "The Province of New Brunswick," declared that the Maritimes and particularly New Brunswick should get away from partisan politics and do something for themselves. He spoke of the possibilities of this province and what should be done to develop them, declaring that the call today should be "live for Canada and live for New Brunswick and make New Brunswick the flower of Confederation." He declared himself in favor of sectionalism when it meant the benefit and prosperity of this province, and urged that Maritime goods be offered the customer, all other things being equal. He strikingly brought out by way of comparison the amount of butter and cheese shipped by Saskatchewan to the Old Country while New Brunswick shipped very little. Here, Mr. McKenna urged, was an opportunity to help New Brunswick by developing this industry, the ground-

work of which was right at our own door.

#### GOVERNMENT IS BUSINESS.

Dr. Baxter, on rising to reply to the toast "The Province of New Brunswick," referred to the message contained in the remarks of Mr. McKenna. "It rings true and gives straight facts in a straight way," added the Premier. He wished to remind the people of this province that the governing of New Brunswick by the present administration was essentially a business proposition pure and simple and was not a political question in any shape or form. The Premier reiterated his stand taken on previous occasions that he would not mix federal and provincial affairs.

"No provincial government can hope to succeed by an appendage to any federal government no matter who or what it may be. The best results can be obtained by standing by the interests of one's own province against the whole world and all political parties," reaffirmed Dr. Baxter.

#### HOPES FOR CONFIDENCE.

It was too early, he said, to say anything about the new government. He expressed the hope that it would have the respect and confidence of the province at large as "we hope to introduce a little something new." The Premier said that he did not intend to discuss the wholesale expenditure that had been made in the past; he would not say whether, he stated, it was wise or not but there had been wholesale expenditures by governments in the past regardless of party. People as a rule had asked much and perhaps they had not gotten much, but there was one point he was certain of and that was "that you can't expect to get something unless you pay for it, but the outgo must not exceed income or else you will not be long in business," declared the Premier. The same thing of individuals as well as of governments.

#### PEOPLE MUST PAY BILLS.

"There is one thing I am assured of," said the Premier, "and that is that the people of New Brunswick must pay their bills and we must create conditions to pay those bills more easily. The policy now must be to keep people here that are already here; we must create employment for those already employed and we must retain this employment."

#### GOOD ROADS PRODUCED.

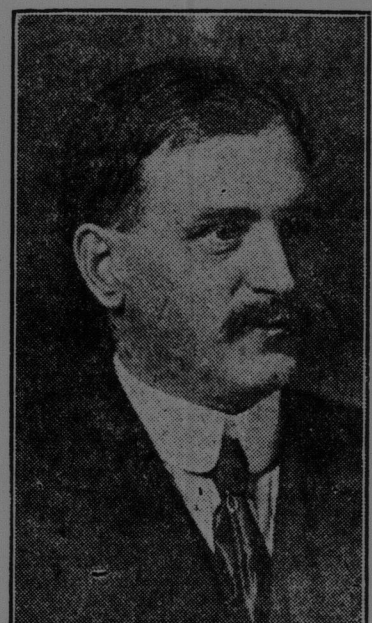
"It would be a poor sport indeed," claimed the speaker, "if I did not say that the late government produced good roads in New Brunswick. They cost a lot, it is true, but those same roads will be kept in order and fit to run on and our people will get the benefit. It costs to do this but all have got to help to think out ways and means to overcome our present burden in this regard."

Referring to the remarks of Mr. McKenna, the Premier said that he had told of what New Brunswick has but

## These Men Compose N. B. Hydro Electric Power Commission



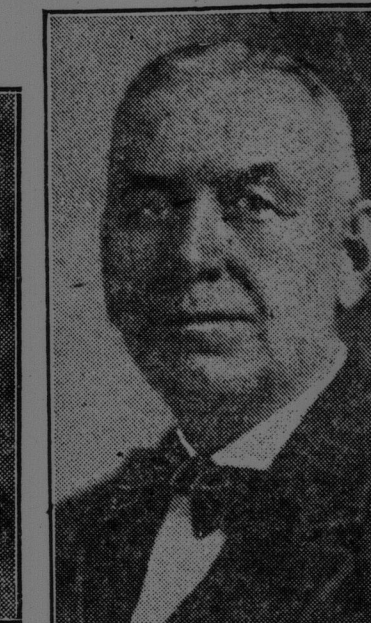
HON. E. A. REILLY, K. C., Moncton, Chairman.



F. J. ROBIDOUX of Shediac.



A. D. GANONG of St. Stephen.



E. A. SCHOFIELD of Saint John.



J. D. PALMER of Fredericton.

there are other things, he added, in which the province is not so fortunate. "Wherever we find that business is slack, where there is retrograde movement and means must be devised to increase and hold industrial and economical activity in New Brunswick," said the Premier. Referring to the retail merchants, he said that they live on other people. This he was glad to see, but where are these people come from, he queried. Some may go out and suggestions would have to be forthcoming to prevent this movement. Conditions must be created, he urged, that a man may find it worth while to stay within his own province, so that the whole current of progress may flow in the proper direction.

#### LUMBER TRADE DESPERATE.

Lately in New Brunswick a serious problem had arisen, said Dr. Baxter, and a solution of it must be found. Something must be done to improve our present possibilities. The lumber industry, he said, found itself today in a desperate state. The late government had the lumbermen before many times during their tenure of office and he stated that there was no bigger interest in New Brunswick than those who filled the dinner parlors of those who work in the forests. The stumping question in New Brunswick had been a burning one, he said, and on a recent visit to the Province of Quebec he had found that that province had reduced its stumping on softwood to \$2.50 per thousand in an effort to keep the industry moving. Here, surely, was a lesson for New Brunswick.

#### LUMBERMEN PERILED.

He had visited bank after bank in Montreal and Quebec to sense general conditions and the result had led him to believe that a state of great peril lurked in the air for the men who will depend next winter for employment in the forests.

"In view of these conditions," declared the Premier, "I have an announcement to make in regard to New Brunswick: the stumping on softwood will be reduced to \$2.50, to be operative for one year, to relieve conditions which are paralyzing the lumber industry now. The Quebec scale will not be introduced and for the present New Brunswick will continue to stick to its own scale. All other questions pertaining to our forests in New Brunswick are postponed for the time being to some other occasion and I propose to have a conference with Ontario and Quebec with a view to outlining some uniform policy in respect to the three lumber provinces with the idea of working together in the face of a common problem."

#### SEES SAW MILL VANISH.

Premier Baxter, continuing, said that a change did not necessarily mean destruction. The saw mill as far as New Brunswick was concerned had gone back to the stump and there was a perceptible transmutation going on in New Brunswick today and within an almost definite period he predicted that the saw mill industry in this province would form a small part of our business which would, however, be replaced by the pulp and paper industry. This, he declared, would mean more money and he suggested a working along this line in the immediate future.

Coming to the question of the development of Grand Falls, Premier Baxter stated emphatically that he did not wish to enter into any political or controversial aspect of this highly important question, but he said the power must be developed by whatever government the province had and he had no order to make hydro-electric possible. That there was the power at Grand Falls he would not deny but a way must be found to develop it along proper economic lines with no taxation to the people of this province nor a dollar lost in the expenditure of its development.

#### MUST DISCARD PARTY.

"These economic lines must be business lines as well," said the Premier, "the same as one would exercise in undertaking a smaller or less important development which meant results of which one might seek some good or benefit from. Something might have to be risked but lines will be followed that will mean no loss. Party politics must be discarded in the development of Grand Falls, the control and administration of which must be placed in the hands of capable business men. New Brunswick must get away from the idea that its chest is big enough to give a job to anyone who might seek or want it. The job must seek the man to have it done successfully. Usually the man who seeks the job cannot as a rule do it properly. My policy will be to persuade the right man to take the job."

#### \$4,000 SAVING EFFECTED.

Dr. Baxter declared that a saving of \$4,000 had already been effected in the administration of the New Brunswick Hydro Electric Commission, inasmuch as the services of a vice-chairman had been dispensed with, which meant a saving to the province of \$2,500 a year. An executive position which previously

carried an expenditure of \$1,500 had also been done away with. The men he had sought for this commission were those he knew to possess real business talents who were willing at a nominal salary such as a director's fee to give their time and energy to the development of this highly important industry. The personnel of the board he announced as follows: Chairman, Hon. E. A. Reilly, K. C., Moncton; J. D. Palmer, Fredericton; E. A. Schofield, Saint John; A. D. Ganong, St. Stephen, and F. J. Robidoux, Shediac.

#### ELECTRIC POLICY TOLD.

Dr. Baxter said that he was making an honest attempt to get away from "preserved politics" and assured his hearers that he would make from time to time a clear and concise statement in regard to the progress being made in the development of Grand Falls. He favored the policy of developing electrical power in regard to consumption for at least three or four prospective mills rather than tying it all up as it was today by contract with a desperate state.

Dr. Baxter concluded his address by stating that he did not intend to make the present administration a one man government, for he hoped that the men associated with him in the government of the country would accept their due share of the responsibility and he hoped as well for the honest and well-intended suggestions of the people of New Brunswick. "I want your support and I would like to have it," concluded the Premier. At the close of his address he was roundly applauded.

#### MR. McKENNA GIVES TOAST.

In proposing the toast to "The Province of New Brunswick" Mr. McKenna expressed his pleasure on being present for a second time at a convention of the Retail Merchants' Association of New Brunswick. He congratulated the association on the splendid representation present at the eleventh annual banquet and hoped that the interest displayed by the province and the fact that they would work out for the benefit of New Brunswick. He paid a tribute to the efficiency of Miss Alward, secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association.

He said that the organization had the advantage of developing many of the possibilities of this province and in doing so urged that charity begin at home, for all things being equal, he strongly favored a policy whereby Maritime goods would be shown preference by local merchants. The progress of New Brunswick, he declared, meant the progress and prosperity of the New Brunswick merchant. He pleaded for more co-operation in this province among its people and there would be less cause for complaint. He declared that this province was worth working for and the retail merchant should look about him for a better development of our natural resources.

#### SASKATCHEWAN CITED.

In regard to markets for which New Brunswick is clamoring, he cited the case of Saskatchewan, from which province millions of pounds of butter and cheese were being shipped yearly while New Brunswick, even with the advantage of freight rates, was letting this industry slip by. Cheese in New Brunswick was selling for 23 cents a pound while about one-tenth of the cheese from Saskatchewan was being produced in this province today.

The speaker declared that New Brunswick had a hard road to travel in regard to its lumber industry. This province was up against the keen competition from the west and the high rail rates, but still 51 per cent of the freight in the Maritime was supplied by the lumber industry. He expressed the conviction that the time was not far distant when New Brunswick would cease to be a lumber centre and the pulp and paper industry would take its place.

#### SARDINE PLANT VALUABLE.

Mr. McKenna took occasion to refer to the local sardine plant, which was regarded as the largest in the world, and which manufactured over 20 million tins a year, with shipments to all parts of the globe. He took sharp objection to the fact that in Ontario there was no sales tax on canned beans and peas while here in New Brunswick the tax on canned lobster was exacted.

Touching on the tourist traffic he said that some of the local merchants claimed they had experienced their best summer's business this year, and he declared, but was an asset. He was not seeking charity but was asking for a full and just share of the benefits as partners in Confederation. He did not like the term "Maritime Rights" but suggested that the East

do something for itself. Premier Baxter, he said, was undertaking a task in New Brunswick which deserved the full support of the right thinking people of this province for "we have been talking too much peanut politics down here." He urged thinking in terms of the Maritime Provinces rather than in terms of Grits and Tories.

#### MR. MAGEE TOASTS "THE KING"

The banquet was voted one of the most successful ever held by the Retail Merchants' Association. David Magee, president of the local branch of the R. M. A. of Canada, presided. Following a tempting menu served in the Admiral Beatty's best style, Mr. Magee proposed the toast to "The King." The toast to the "City of Saint John" was proposed by George Davies and replied to by Acting Mayor V. H. Frink, both of whom spoke in a hearty vein.

A. O. Skinner proposed the toast to "Our Guests," to which Mayor W. D. DeWolfe, St. Stephen, F. Macleure Scandlers, commissioner of the Saint John Board of Trade, W. S. Fisher and R. J. Ritchie replied.

#### MR. SCLANDERS SPEAKS.

Mr. Scandlers declared his belief that business was slowly and steadily

improving. Its very slowness was hopeful, he said. He thought the country had reached the end of a depression of seven years and was on the threshold of better times than had been known for a long period.

One thing that must be borne in mind, he said, was that the people of New Brunswick must get away from their consistent negative attitude to the things in their own province. He believed that this was the greatest province in the Dominion, but emphasized that all our gifts were potential gifts and must be developed by ourselves. The fish must be caught, the lumber must be taken from the forests, the minerals must be sought and mined, and the soil must be cultivated before the fruits could be enjoyed, he pointed out.

#### WEALTH SNEERED AT.

New Brunswick had a great potential wealth, but the people had done nothing but sneer at it. The province had never been properly prospected for minerals, he declared, everyone believing the geologist who had, many years ago, said that the deposits here were of no value. He ventured to assert that New Brunswick was on the eve of a great mineral development. The wrong attitude of mind of the people was attested by what had occurred when an Englishman had gone to a point on the Saint John River to buy a farm. He had regarded it as one of the finest places on earth, the speaker declared, but the neighbors for some distance had

dropped their tools in a busy season and had rushed to tell him he was making a mistake.

#### FARM REVIVAL NEEDED.

He did not think that there was any place on the American continent where the business man had less interest in agriculture than in Saint John. What was needed here, he asserted, was an agricultural restoration. If the province produced the amount of food needed for itself he thought prosperity would follow. He believed that New Brunswick was the greatest province in the Dominion, that it had the greatest people in the country and that, if they were imbued with a proper degree of sane optimism, it would have the

#### CHANCES FOR TRADE.

Speaking of the opportunities for export trade, he said that the first step should be to raise what was needed for ourselves and then, from

greatest future of any province in Confederation.

#### MR. FISHER SPEAKS.

W. Shives Fisher, speaking as a member of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, was the next speaker. He declared that he had intended to give an address entirely different from the one he was going to give. He had been so much inspired by the nature of the meeting and by the address that he thought the message to be taken away by all was one of courage and determination to make the most of the opportunities presenting themselves. The people wanted more enthusiasm, he said. They should not get into that pessimistic frame of mind where they believed themselves worse off than those in the other parts of the country.

The leaders in business or industry had no easy path, he said. He thought there were great opportunities in the Maritime Provinces. He found it hard to separate New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, he said, and he hoped that the near future would see a greater degree of co-operation between these provinces.

#### MARITIMES IMPORTANT.

The Maritimes, with their position right on the seaboard and with their control, for five months of the year, of the outlets of Canadian trade on the Atlantic coast, had an important place in the country and he thought the rest of the Dominion was coming to realize this.

He paid a tribute to The Telegraph-Journal and The Times-Star and to Mr. Belding for what they were doing in carrying to the rest of Canada the story of what the Maritime Provinces considered were their rights under Confederation, and bringing home to others the important position occupied by these provinces.

#### Continued on Page 9.

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