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The Monetary Times

Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle

39th Year—No. 10.

Toronto, Canada, September 1, 1905.

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IN ADVANCE.

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THE MARITIME CONVENTION.

Some of the subjects discussed by the Maritime Province Board of Trade at its Yarmouth meeting are worthy of still further consideration. We have already given on 18th and 25th August a pretty full list of the resolutions presented for discussion by the different boards and a synopsis of the debates, as well as of the president's address. We regret that a supplementary report, intended also for last week's issue, and giving fuller reports of the speeches, did not reach us in time. No fewer than nineteen places in the Atlantic Provinces were represented in the convention, and there were more than fifty persons present, representing a membership of over 2,200, so that the gathering was a representative one.

The appointment of a permanent committee of the board, which shall follow up and where necessary take action upon the resolutions passed at annual meetings of the whole body, is one of the most practical steps taken by the gathering. In addition to matters already debated in general assembly there are matters coming up almost constantly in trade which merit the attention of some such authoritative body. And it is not always possible to await the yearly gathering of the board in order to deal with them if the best results are to be attained. This permanent committee will afford subordinate but still practical machinery to deal with them.

Among the matters referred to in the address of the president was a legislative union of the three maritime provinces, Nova Scotia, including Cape Breton, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. This also was to have formed the subject of a resolution, for it was presented as a topic of debate by both the Saint John and the Amherst chambers. One cannot tell at this distance how much significance should be attached to the fact that the St.

John delegate, who had proposed the subject, was not present, and that the Amherst member, who was present, had no resolution to offer. The proposal had been before the convention at Moncton, and again at Charlottetown, but was postponed. However, it reached the form of a resolution on the last day of the Yarmouth meeting, which was passed after some debate and with a few members dissenting. The resolution provides that a memorial on the subject be sent to each of the three provincial Governments, and that they be asked to arrange a meeting of representatives at an early date. The idea prominent in the mind of the proposal of this resolution was the growing power of the West compared with that of the Maritime Provinces. How is the balance of power to be maintained, he asks. One way undoubtedly is to make strenuous efforts to get into the eastern end of the Dominion more population, more capital, more development, so that by force of their productive importance they shall command a greater influence than they do now. We do not pretend to say whether one Government for the three provinces would prove satisfactory; efforts in a like direction elsewhere seem to have shown that local dissatisfactions resulted from a centralization of authority. But doubtless some economy in administration would result; and this is not a small thing.

It is twelve months since the Maritime Board of Trade passed a resolution favoring Government assistance to steel ship-building in terms which it is worth while to repeat. Premising that steel ship-building is handicapped on our Atlantic coast because of the nearness of the British shipyards, the resolution read: "The Maritime Board of Trade hereby endorses and approves of the principle of home steel ship-building as offering a new and profitable field for the utilization of our steel products, the employment of skilled labor, and the creation