

under consideration an immigration policy, and discussed the advisability of such a move. The question, he thought, should be considered apart from politics. He proposed that the Board of Trade should work with the Provincial Government in the matter, and asked the Board to appoint a strong committee to co-operate with them in framing a policy, and to bring pressure to bear on the Federal authorities.

The suggestion was spoken upon by others present, and the sentiment was all in favor of such a move. The Board of Trade will follow up the suggestion and appoint a committee.

The idea, it must be understood, is not to attempt the encouragement of immigration on any large scale. There is only a certain class of farmers which would be suitable for this Province, or who would be likely to prosper here. This is the small tenant farmers of Great Britain; proprietors who thoroughly understand farming, and who have preferably a capital of one or two thousand pounds. They would of course, have to buy improved land, which in this case means, more properly, land which has suffered from neglect and the lack of improvement. There are scattered over the Province a considerable number of farms, either abandoned or poorly worked, which it is hoped might be profitably operated by the capital and well-known thrift, diligence and skill of the British tenant farmers. These farms have been neglected through various causes: the migration of the sons to the cities or to the United States, the "shiftlessness" of the occupiers, or their lack of skill, and the depression which existed in the farming pursuit until within the past few years being among the principal ones. Farming in the Maritime Provinces to-day is on a better footing than it has been, but except in rare instances it is not followed up to its full capabilities, and has not proved attractive to the rising generation. There is no one district of any considerable extent where these farms are to be found, but nearly every district has one or more of them. The success of the project will depend on careful deliberation and preparation before it is advertised. Many of the farms are "run out," and would require several years of careful cultivation. Unless the British farmer were made fully acquainted with the conditions the result might be disastrous. Many of the farms would certainly be excellently adapted for sheep raising, which would also be an excellent means for bringing them back into condition again. The scheme is attracting a great deal of interest.

The Halifax Board of Trade held its annual meeting last week, and a report was presented of the work done during the past year. The showing is by far the best in the history of the board. The interest was great, the rooms being crowded beyond their capacity. A year ago a special committee was formed to devise means of creating a greater interest in the work of the board, and a "Forward Movement" was inaugurated, as you have been advised. This committee undertook to enlarge the membership of the board and strengthen its finances. Its success may be gauged by the fact that the membership has increased over 50%, and the board has a credit balance in its finances of over seven hundred dollars. Subscriptions were solicited; kindred bodies, such as the Tourist Association and the Retail Merchants' Association, were amalgamated with the board, and a new and efficient secretary appointed. The achievements of the board during the year can only be briefly touched on, but they were notable when viewed from a Provincial standpoint. They have pushed the tourist work vigorously; paved the way for the shipbuilding yard; worked hard and hopefully for better insurance rates; and procured many advantages for the trade of the city which have been referred to from time to time in this correspondence.

The Committee on Reduced Rates for Fire Insurance in Halifax presented its report to the Board of Trade a few days ago, and it was to the effect that they have found it troublesome to make much headway with the underwriters. The latter have decided to re-rate the risks on a new basis. The result will be to leave the rates practically as they are at present, but that each risk will be charged according to certain well-defined rules, and in such a way that insurers could ascertain the reasons for any change of rate. If certain improvements are made in the water and fire protection services reduction of from one-half to three-quarters of one per cent. will be made in the rates. The improvements suggested will be made.

Halifax, 6th February, 1905.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Annapolis Royal Board of Trade was held in that Nova Scotia town last month. The president, Mr. F. C. Whitman, delivered his annual address. He referred to the amendment to the Act for the protection of forest fires. "There is now a well established body of men under the supervision of chief fire rangers in Western Nova Scotia; and the loss by forest fires this past year has practically been nil, as compared with an actual loss in our County of Annapolis in the previous year of \$150,000, and proportionate losses in other counties. There is to-day a marked increase in the values of timber land, part at least caused by the better protection now afforded." The port shows for 1904, he said, a larger export than in any previous year in quantity and value. New wharves and larger piling grounds have been provided. Another matter suggested by this board in 1903 was the preservation of the shore fisheries from the ravages of the dogfish shark. The Dominion Government has provided a sum of \$25,000 to adopt means of extermination of this pest. And the board works, as it has done in the past, towards the preservation of historic grounds in the province—a praiseworthy object. The chairman also mentioned the celebration of the ter-centenary of Annapolis, last June, a pleasing event, to which we referred at the time. It was Mr. E. D. Arnaud and Mr. F. Leavitt, who suggested this celebration, and planned the carrying out of the programme under the auspices of the Nova Scotia Historical Society.

It is expected that the Fruit Growers' Association of the province, and also the Annapolis County Fruit Exhibition, will be held this year in the pretty town, and the citizens are expected to welcome these gatherings as no doubt they will. The election of officers being next proceeded with, the following were elected: President, F. C. Whitman; vice-president, A. D. Mills; secretary and treasurer, A. E. Atlee. Members of Council: A. M. King, E. D. Arnaud, H. A. West, W. J. Shannon, J. M. Owen, S. Riordan, H. R. McKay, F. W. Harris.

Mr. Atlee pointed out that the rates of exchange on cheques in the Maritime Provinces are excessive, particularly on amounts up to thirty dollars. On motion, a resolution was adopted, a copy of which was sent to the Clearing Houses at Halifax and St. John, embodying the view that the rate should be reduced to "a basis at least equal to that charged by express companies for transmitting similar amounts." The next item is of interest. The town council passed the following resolution: "That this council, believing that the Board of Trade being a representative body of the citizens of the town, ask the members of the Board of Trade to select suitable candidates for nomination for mayor and councillors, who will serve for the coming term." This duty the board will undertake.

KING'S COUNTY BOARD OF TRADE.

The tenth annual meeting of the King's County Board of Trade was held on the 24th ult., at Kentville, N.S. The attendance was large and representative, and the topics discussed local and general questions of interest to the citizens of the county. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, C. O. Allen; vice-president, Joseph Kinsman; secretary-treasurer, J. H. Cox, Cambridge. Council: J. W. Hubbard, E. A. Lewis, John Donaldson, J. Everett Kinsman, George McLean, E. S. Congdon, A. N. Griffin, Ainslee Bishop, Frank Gertridge, A. Bowser, W. C. Hamilton, H. D. Woodbury, W. W. Pineo, A. MacMahon, S. C. Parker, James Bryden, J. W. Ryan, R. S. Eaton, R. W. Starr, F. Porter.

CALGARY BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Board of Trade for Calgary, Alta., took place on the 31st ult., with a large attendance of members. Mr. Cushing, the retiring president, in the annual report, spoke of the great increases in the insurance