

Therefore, is it any wonder that the State of Maine is rich and that the city of Portland is claimed to be the richest city (per capita) in the American Union, with one single exception? Gentlemen, a business of this kind going on year after year, and constantly growing, is better than any gold mine ever discovered; it is, in fact, a mine of the richest character, with this advantage, that the more it is worked the richer it becomes.

Turning for a moment to a notable example in the Old World, what is it that has so enriched the little republic of Switzerland, where it is estimated that not less than \$25,000,000 are annually spent by tourists?

I have no doubt that many who are here have been privileged to travel both in Europe and in our own country, and to these particularly I would say: Have we no scenery that is equal to any the world over—single glaciers that are equal to all the Swiss glaciers melted into one and with room to spare?

To detail what we have to show in this way would be waste of time, but there is not a man here who is not fully convinced that for natural advantages there is probably no country under the sun that has so much to offer. This being the case, why is it not good business on our part to make the most of it; to work the opportunity for all it is worth? It is your privilege, gentlemen, to make this known, to work up interest among our own people, so that all may act in unison, and in that way make known to people, everywhere, who have money to spend and more to invest, what we have in this Canada of ours.

If you will pardon me for becoming local I would like to draw your attention to what has been and is now being done in this connection in the provinces by the sea.

In St. John (the Canadian winter port) was started a year ago

#### THE NEW BRUNSWICK TOURIST ASSOCIATION,

which has been doing good work in preparing and distributing literature, describing and illustrating the scenery on the noble River St. John and its tributaries, and also the scenery of the Province of New Brunswick generally. This has already borne good fruit, and only needs to be continued to develop in constantly increasing ratio.

Later on the people in the charming city of Fredericton, on the River St. John, formed a local association, and have been doing good and effective work in drawing attention to the Province of New Brunswick as a "Sportsman's Paradise."

Still more recently the Nova Scotia Tourist Association has been formed, with headquarters in Halifax, for the same purpose, and also as a supplement to the efforts that the various steamship and railway lines centering in that province have been making for some years.

The transportation companies of that province state that during last season more than 50,000 tourists found their way to the "Land of Evangeline," as well as to many other of the charming resorts and beauty spots so freely scattered throughout the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Does not this in itself suggest another thought, viz.: the development of inter-provincial travel?

Why should the people in the western sections visit the resorts of another country while in our own we have many which are equally attractive? Let the people of Ontario and Quebec who desire an outing visit the provinces by the sea, where they will be sure to find a warm welcome, as well as much that will surprise, delight and instruct them.

The interchange of opinions thus made more possible between people living in different parts of our Dominion; the information gained and the erroneous opinions corrected will do much towards

cementing our people more closely together and in welding them into a more compact whole.

No more opportune time can be found than the present to encourage this among all classes. The eyes of the people in the east have been turned toward the wonderful resources of our western heritage and the great future in store for that portion of our land. During the same time, and owing very largely to the development of the import and export business of the country through the port of St. John during the winter season, much attention has been drawn to the eastern seaboard, and Canadians generally are beginning to realize that the maritime provinces are a very important link in the chain of communication between the great centres of Canada and the Motherland, and if, as now appears almost a certainty, this traffic continues to grow the great importance of having it carried on through our own port and over our territory will become more and more recognized, until, it is hoped, the time will soon come when every true Canadian will feel himself in duty bound to concentrate his business through Canadian channels. In doing this we have everything to gain and nothing to lose; we are spending our own money in our own country, and aiding to develop trade along national lines, and helping to foster that national sentiment of the west for the east, the east for the west, Canada for Canadians, which must exist if our country is ever to become great and prosperous.

W. R. FISHER.

St. John, N.B., Jan. 25, 1898.

Upon the motion of Mr. John A. Phillips, seconded by Mr. A. Pattullo, M.P.P., a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Fisher for his excellent and instructive paper.

#### The Newspapers and the Courts.

Mr. John King, Q.C., was next called upon by the president, but as there was not sufficient time before adjournment to permit the reading of his paper, he briefly sketched the most important points. The paper in full—proofs sheets of which were distributed to the members—is as follows:

It is now nearly four years since the Libel Act of 1894, which was promoted by the Canadian Press Association, became law in this province. Its various provisions form part of the consolidated statute relating to libel and slander in the revised statutes of 1897. Experience of the Act in the courts, during that period, has proved that, although incomplete and imperfect, the measure as a whole has been a beneficial piece of legislation. Its merits and defects, and some other points of interest affecting the newspaper press, constitute a fit subject for review at this annual meeting of the association.

#### A PREVENTIVE OF LITIGATION.

The section of the Act limiting the time within which an action may be brought for a libel contained in a newspaper to three months after the publication complained of has come to the notice or knowledge of the complainant, was designed, among other things, as a preventive of litigation. And such, in fact, has been its effect. A plaintiff cannot now sleep on his rights, if he has any; he cannot keep a threatened action dangling like a sword of Damocles over a publisher's head; he must be vigilant and prompt in pursuing the defendant, otherwise his remedy is gone. In several cases reported to the writer, this section has been an effectual bar to vexatious legal proceedings.

#### THE CONSOLIDATION OF ACTIONS AND ITS BENEFITS.

The provisions of the statute with respect to the consolidation of different actions for the same libel, and the assessment of damages and the apportionment of costs, in such cases, have been a boon to the newspapers. These provisions had two objects in view. One was to restrain unscrupulous persons, who made a trade of