

Panama Canal Conference

In response to the call issued by the Calgary Industrial and Development Bureau and the Calgary Board of Trade to a conference to discuss the advantages to be derived by Western Canada by the opening of the Panama Canal, a large number of delegates, representing boards of trade, industrial bureaus, councils and organized farmers from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, met at Calgary, June 8 and 28. Mr. E. H. Heaps, of the Vancouver Board of Trade, was unanimously elected chairman, while Mr. A. N. Nourt, of the Pincher Creek Board of Trade, was elected temporary chairman, and J. R. Davidson, Red Deer, secretary.

Mayor Armstrong, of Edmonton; E. J. Fream, Secretary U.F.A., Calgary; Mayor J. H. Lee, of New Westminster, and Mayor R. B. Atkins, of Revelstoke, were elected on the Resolution Committee.

Mr. W. J. Tregillus, of Calgary, President of the United Farmers of Alberta, then gave an address on "The Panama Canal and Agricultural Interests of Western Canada," pointing out the necessity of considering agricultural pursuits of first importance in the development of the Western Route. Professor Odium, of Vancouver, spoke on "Agriculture in British Columbia," pointing out that transportation would not, in the present generation, catch up to the needs of the West, and urging the necessity of shorter and better routes.

Mr. B. R. Atkins, of Revelstoke, delivered an address on the feasibility of a route from Revelstoke to the coast, via Columbia River, and submitted a resolution asking the conference to impress upon the government the advantage of this route. Mr. W. A. Blair, secretary of the Vancouver Board of Trade, dealt with the "Pacific Coast Marine." Mayor J. H. Lee, of New Westminster, spoke on the "Panama Canal and Exportation," and showed that New Westminster was already taking steps to provide the necessary dockage facilities to meet the increasing trade. Hon. A. L. Sifton, Premier of Alberta, addressed the conference, expressing his pleasure at being able to attend the conference, and urging the necessity of co-operation between the provinces for their common good.

The following resolutions were then presented by E. J. Fream, chairman of the committee:—

"Whereas the matter of the opening of the Western Route is of enormous importance to all the interests of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and whereas there is urgent need that advantage should be taken of every opportunity in order that the possibilities of this route shall not be lost to Western Canada, and whereas the present system of endeavoring to exploit places, instead of working for the complete plan is liable to result in loss to the West, and whereas it is advisable that steps should be taken to effect a permanent organization, which will work to secure the full value of the Western Route to the people of Western Canada,

Therefore be it resolved, that a permanent organization be effected to carry on the work and to bring into force the wishes of this conference and any other matter relating to the development of Western Canada and the Western Route."

Carried unanimously.

Lower Freight Rates
2. Resolved. That this convention, composed of Boards of Trade, Municipal Organizations and farmers of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, express its deep conviction that excessive freight rates between Saskatchewan and Alberta on the one hand, and British Columbia on the other, are seriously hindering and diminishing the interchange of products under present conditions, and retarding development in the three Provinces.

And it is further the conviction of this convention that the time has now arrived when a substantial reduction on rates should be effected, which will not only be of greatest importance and benefit to the producers and consumers of these provinces, but to the railway companies as well.

Pacific Coast Elevators

3. Whereas steps have been taken by various interests to inaugurate the system of Western shipment of grain, and whereas it is recognized that with the rapid development of the West, the present channels for marketing grain will soon be completely blocked, a conservative estimate giving the wheat crop alone of Western Canada for the present year at 250,000,000 bushels, and whereas the development of the Pacific Coast ports, and all other Western routes, would tend to relieve the congestion in Alberta and Western Saskatchewan, by providing facilities which would be available the whole year round, and whereas, the grain export business by the Pacific Routes will materially help conditions, provided the facilities are forthcoming, and whereas it is essential that terminal facilities should be erected at once, if full advantage is to be taken of these routes,

Therefore this conference of the Boards of Trade, Municipal Organizations, and Farmers of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, do strongly urge upon the Dominion Government and upon the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada, the necessity of at once securing a site and proceeding with the erection of an up-to-date terminal elevator, with sacking and hospital facilities attached, which will be operated on the interests of the people as a public utility. Further, that the government of the three Western provinces be asked to assist in presenting this matter to the Dominion Government so that a speedy action can be taken therein.

4. That in view of the export trade of wheat, and the rest of the enormous traffic that will flow through Western channels following the opening of the Panama Canal, and also in view of the congestion of the Eastern route, resulting in heavy loss to the farmers and to the whole population of Canada, that the Dominion Government be urged to give their best attention to any plans approved by its engineers and endorsed by the municipalities immediately interested, that will tend to relieve the above situation.

Carried unanimously.
On Saturday Mr. E. Hiechener, M.P.P., of Red Deer, delivered an address on the advantages of the Western route and dealt with the merits of the proposed routes, while Mr. E. K. Beeston, of Nelson, spoke on "Mining and Its Relation to the Panama Canal Route." Dr. G.

W. Leech, of Taber, president of the Associated Boards of Trade of Southern Alberta, delivered an address on the transportation question, emphasizing the need of electrical energy in order to bring the work started by this conference to a successful issue. Mr. F. T. Fisher, of Edmonton, secretary of the Edmonton Board of Trade, outlined the several different routes from the Prairie Provinces to the coast, and urged the necessity of being prepared to take advantage of every route as it was opened up.

The Officers

The officers were elected unanimously as follows:—

President—Mr. L. P. Strong, Calgary.
Vice-President for British Columbia—Mr. E. H. Heaps, Vancouver.
Vice-President for Alberta—Mr. J. Bower, Red Deer.
Vice-President for Saskatchewan—Mr. A. T. Turner, Regina.

Executive Committee

For British Columbia—Mayor Lee, New Westminster; Mayor McNeish, North Vancouver; F. Starkey, Nelson; D. R. Kerr, Victoria; and Dr. Hamilton, Revelstoke.

For Alberta—G. K. Norris, Lethbridge; Mayor Armstrong, Edmonton; W. J. Tregillus, Calgary; Mayor Spencer, Medicine Hat; and F. Fulmer, Edson.

For Saskatchewan—I. E. Argue, Swift Current; J. A. Maharg, Moose Jaw; J. Clinskill, Saskatoon; Mayor P. McArn, Regina; and President Board of Trade, Weyburn.

Mr. A. E. McKenzie, of Brandon, was appointed vice-president for Manitoba, with power to arrange for an executive for that province.

Honorary Secretary-Treasurer—Mr. E. J. Fream, Calgary.

The Premiers of the three Western Provinces will be requested to accept the position of Honorary Presidents of the Association.

The convention then adjourned by singing the National Anthem.

At a subsequent meeting of the executive the name adopted was the "Western Trade Routes Association." Another conference will be arranged later.

NEW GRAIN INSPECTOR

By a recent order-in-council upon the recommendation of the Board of Grain Commissioners, Mr. George Serls, of Winnipeg, has been appointed acting chief inspector and acting chief weighmaster for the Western Division—all Canada lying west of and including Fort



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William and Port Arthur. This is the territory in which Mr. F. E. Gibbs was chief inspector, but upon Mr. Gibbs' promotion to be one of the commissioners under the Canada Grain Act of 1912 and his resignation of the inspectorship, a new inspector was required and the position has been given to Mr. Serls. The new appointee has been for many years identified with the grain trade, and is looked upon as a well qualified and fully competent man for the work and responsibility now devolving upon him.

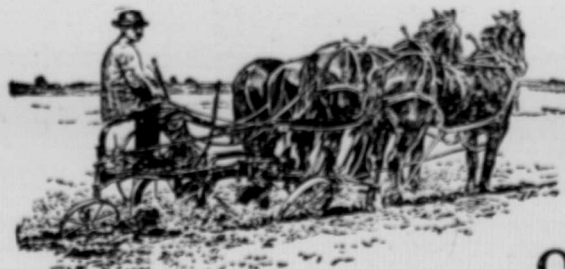
GRAIN GLUT IN MONTREAL

Montreal, July 29.—Scarcely two months will elapse before the movement of the big grain crop will be in operation through the port of Montreal, and fears are expressed now that the harbor commissioner's grain elevator, known as No. 2, will not be finished in time to receive grain from vessels which usually deliver in this harbor.

Major Stevens, of the harbor commissioner, hopes that the new elevator will be ready, but cannot promise this.

No. 1 grain elevator is full to capacity, and twelve to fifteen boats laden with grain are lying in the harbor all the time. Geo. H. Hanna, manager of the Montreal Warehousing Co., under whose jurisdiction comes the G.T.R. elevator, states that fully one half million bushels of grain per week has been refused storage at the Grand Trunk elevator this season for lack of room, which they would have had had no injunction been served forbidding enlargement of their plant.

"Progress and Poverty" has been translated into Chinese by Dr. W. E. Macklin, who has lived for many years in Nankin. The cost of the translation was borne by Joseph Fels.



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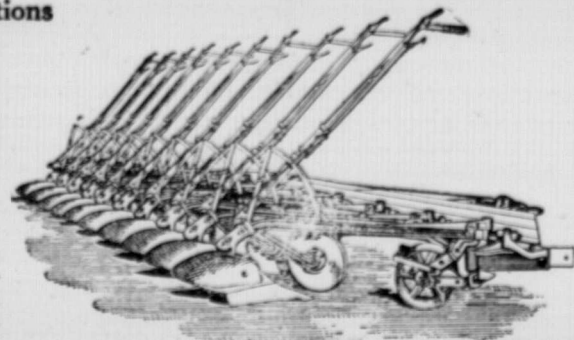
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