

BOARDS OF TRADE CONVENTION

Unanimity on Important Subjects for Parliament and the Legislatures—Railway Men were Present and gave Valuable Assistance—Meet at the Hat Next Year

Prince Albert, June 19.—The second convention of the associated boards of trade of Alberta and Saskatchewan opened here yesterday, there being about 150 delegates present. The chair was taken by President Hutchings of Calgary. Conspicuous among those present were Hon. W. T. Findlay, representing the Alberta Government, Supt. Brownlee of the C.P.R., G. H. Shaw and Supt. Abbott of the C.N.R. After the president's address the election of officers was proceeded with and resulted as follows: President—P. McAra, Regina. Vice-Pres.—K. W. McKenzie, Edmonton. And Vice-Pres.—W. Cousins of Medicine Hat. Secretary—B. W. Wallace, Prince Albert.

McAra Takes Chair
The new president took the chair when the convention got down to business, and proceeded with the resolutions.

Watered Stock
H. W. Laird of Regina presented a resolution dealing with the prevention of watering the stock of joint stock companies. He instanced where the public get fleeced by this process of financial manipulation. The resolution was seconded by A. T. Hunter, Regina. The motion was unanimously passed.

Insurance
President McAra vacated the chair to introduce a resolution dealing with insurance companies. The object of the motion was to compel insurance companies to place with the government sufficient security to cover their business and to prevent the insertion of any stipulation in the policies limiting the liability of the companies. The motion was seconded by Jas. Weir, Strathcona, and after some discussion adopted.

Coal Supply
Hugh McKellar of Moose Jaw, presented a resolution calling upon the Dominion government to appoint a commission to investigate the question of the coal supply in the west. The reason the federal government is being appealed to is that they control the coal areas under the Autonomy Act, the province having no say in the matter. The resolution was adopted.

Natural Gas
The question of conserving the natural gas of the province of Alberta particularly was brought up on motion of Mayor Cousins of Medicine Hat. Hon. W. T. Findlay said that the Alberta government would bring in legislation dealing with this matter at the next session.

Motion Withdrawn
A resolution dealing with the improvement of passenger service was standing to be presented by Moose Jaw and by consent of the delegates from that place it was withdrawn.

No Government Ownership
A motion dealing with the government ownership and operation of railways was introduced by W. J. Blaine of Indian Head and seconded by C. R. Rigby, Balgonie. This resolution was defeated.

Settlers' Rights
At the meeting of the convention this morning A. Whitmore moved a resolution asking the Interior department to publish the rights of settlers from railway companies when delayed in transportation. As was the case with such a large extent this spring. The motion was seconded by C. C. Rigby, Balgonie.

The Fuel Question
The question of fuel supply came up on motion of Jas. Leslie, Saskatchewan, who urged that the Saskatchewan and Alberta governments make effective efforts to prevent a fuel famine such as we had last winter. Supt. Brownlee stated that in the railway territory under his supervision there was consumed last winter 300,000 tons of coal, which means a hundred cars a day for three months. He thought that the safe way is for the dealers and consumers to stock up before the crop begins to move. The convention did not take a decided stand in this matter till later in the program.

The next question dealt with was the better equipment of railway lines in the west. There was no opposition to this resolution.

Navigation
Jas. Bradshaw, Prince Albert, moved that the Dominion government survey the Saskatchewan river from a hundred miles west of Edmonton to Lake Winnipeg. The resolution carried.

Lame Horses

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Bay Route
A very interesting discussion took place on the motion of Mayor Cook of Prince Albert respecting the road to Hudson's Bay. It was urged that the railway facilities of the west are entirely inadequate to the needs of the country and the road to the Bay is necessary as a national highway. Mr. Shaw of the C.N.R. said that Canadian Northern believe that the Bay route is feasible for four and a half months in the year and they have faith in the resources of the country opened up by such a line. Mr. Laird also took part in the debate on this question which was unanimously adopted.

Express Rates
A resolution expressing approval at the action of the railway commission in making enquiry into the express rates charged in western Canada was moved by E. M. Saunders of Moose Jaw and seconded by H. W. Laird and passed.

Coal
The amended coal resolution was reached and adopted as follows: "Whereas, notwithstanding the fact that there are throughout the greater portion of the area of Alberta and Saskatchewan very large supplies of fuel, both wood and coal conditions during the past winter were such that hardship prevailed throughout portions of both provinces; for the reason that such fuel was not available at the points where needed and at times when it was most needed. Therefore be it resolved, that this convention urges that every effort be made on the part of the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan to provide against the recurrence of such conditions, and that the action already taken by the provincial government with that end in view be heartily endorsed, and also that this convention strongly urges upon all coal dealers and consumers of coal in general to stock up with supplies for winter while the railway companies are in a better position to stock same."

Telegraph Service
The inadequacy of the telegraph service of the west was brought up on motion of G. Stockland, who urged that the government extend their present system and that they compel the railway companies to supply lines for purely commercial use. Permission was given Senator Davis to address the convention on this matter which has received a great deal of study and enquiry by him, he having brought the question of the inadequacy of the service and the expense thereof charged in the west to the attention of the senate in a lengthy and comprehensive speech in which he furnished important data. He contended that the people of the west pay a dollar for what the people in the east get for twenty-five cents. The resolution carried unanimously.

Government Insurance
Mr. Cunningham of Edmonton presented a resolution calling upon the government to investigate the question of government fire insurance.

More Agents
G. Stockland submitted a resolution contending that it is necessary for railways to place agents at all points of stations, and would greatly augment the usefulness of the system here established in Alberta.

A postal service resolution urging the government to provide better postal service was moved and adopted.

Best Oats
The question of a separate grade for Alberta oats came up through a resolution from Calgary. Both H. V. Horison and A. T. Hunter opposed the motion stating that Saskatchewan oats are just as good as the product of Alberta and on a vote the motion was defeated.

The question of the government supervising the selection of townsites met with approval, although many thought that perhaps the government patronage in this matter would not result satisfactorily in all cases.

Stand Together
Alberta delegates brought in a motion to divide the associated boards of trade and have provincial associations, but they voted alone and were snubbed under.

The Hat Next
It was decided that the boards of trade convention will meet at Medicine Hat next year.

Vote of Thanks
On motion of H. W. Laird a hearty vote of thanks was tendered Prince Albert for the very cordial reception to the delegates.

The delegates from Alberta were out after organized labor in a resolution calling upon the government to supply a better class of skilled labor. He knew that the labor organizations were averse to this action and this was advanced as a reason why the hands of the government be strengthened in this respect.

The resolution was strongly opposed by H. V. Horison of Moose Jaw, and H. W. Laird. The latter stated that there is no scarcity of either skilled or unskilled labor in the industrial points of Saskatchewan. The resolution on being put to the meeting was carried with the Regina and Moose Jaw delegates dissenting.

For Roads
A good roads movement was endorsed through a resolution introduced by F. T. Fisher, Edmonton. The purpose of the motion is to have a comprehensive plan of road making adopted, together with appointment of a road commissioner, and the abolition of statute labor. The motion passed.

The next resolution was recommended

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ing a government enquiry with a view to establishing a live stock market in Canada.

Municipalities
The convention on Friday morning opened with a discussion of the resolution from the Saskatoon board advocating the establishment of municipalities instead of improvement districts as at present. The motion passed.

Redemption of Notes
A resolution was introduced by R. J. Hutchings of Calgary asking the government to establish a point of redemption in each province for bank notes. This was agreed to.

Timber Fires
A resolution was passed urging the government to be very strict in protecting the forest area against fires and also recommending re-forestation.

Thomas Millar, Moose Jaw brought in a resolution dealing with grants to hospitals and government inspection.

Government Phones
An important resolution by K.W. McKenzie was: "That this convention heartily expresses its approval of the action of the Alberta government in so far as they have already gone towards giving effect to the principle of government ownership and operation of telephones along the lines advocated by this association at every convention held since its organization, and the attention of the government of Saskatchewan is respectfully drawn to the very great benefit that would accrue to the adoption of a similar policy in that province which would not only be of great service to Saskatchewan but would greatly augment the usefulness of the system here established in Alberta."

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