

Civic Affairs Discussed By Trade Board Committee

The following report of the Civic Affairs Committee of the Charlottetown Board of Trade was presented by its chairman, Lt. Col. K. S. Rogers, at the Board's annual meeting Wednesday night, February, 1946, saw the installation of a new Mayor and Council of the City of Charlottetown. Many changes were evident in the line-up of councillors, and His Worship Mayor MacDonald is congratulated in his selection as Committee Chairman and as a member of the Board of Trade. While eleven months is a short period to judge of the effectiveness of Committee work, there is every evidence that the new Council is earnestly striving to improve the condition of the City, and have already made considerable progress along certain lines. With another year before them, undisturbed by an election, it is felt that definite action along certain lines will lead to many much desired accomplishments for the good of Charlottetown.

Financial Position

The financial position of the City with its huge burden of debt is by no means satisfactory, nor has there been much indication that practical steps have been adopted which will lead to an accelerated depreciation of debt. Many much needed public works must yet be postponed until the liquid financial position of the City makes it possible to entertain them. The only other alternative, and its adoption is by no means discouraged, is to take on additional debt in order to provide the facilities which a modern and progressive city requires.

There has been repeated discussion among the citizenry with regard to the building of a high school. The need for such an institution in Charlottetown is very evident, and many of our citizens feel that a bond issue to provide finance for this objective would be more than justified.

Civic Expansion

It is understood that a survey has been in progress some time which will provide the necessary information leading to the expansion of the city limits of Charlottetown if, as and when all the presently disagreeing opinions are reconciled. Any further delay in expanding the city limits of this City will be tragic in its consequences. Already the bit or miss type of residential development going on in various outlying districts has made it impossible for a civic planning commission to adequately plot a long term development plan for Charlottetown, such as every progressive municipality in Canada and the U. S. A. had adopted in recent years. Such streets as are being laid out in the outlying districts are too narrow, and in some cases are actually unplanned in every respect as to direction and width.

As long as these new real estate developments remain outside the City limits of Charlottetown, no provision can be made for adequate water and sewage supply from the carefully supervised municipal sources. As a result, repeated analyses of the more congested outlying areas have repeatedly shown serious and dangerous contamination of drinking water. This of course is undesirable where a congested area undertakes to supply its water and sewage disposal facilities as

individual enterprises. The resulting contamination from adjacent septic tanks becomes dangerous and a source of possible epidemic disease such as typhoid fever and other dreaded killers. For the safety of the whole community it is necessary that every citizen, regardless of whether he lives within the limits of Charlottetown, or just on its borders, should accept necessary changes leading to the use of proper water supply and sewage disposal facilities in the whole municipal and outlying area.

Polio Epidemic

Last Summer we were faced with an epidemic of poliomyelitis which was rapidly growing alarming in its proportions, and was only halted by relatively cold weather. It is quite possible that the unsanitary condition of water and sewage disposal facilities both in Charlottetown and definitely in the outlying districts, must bear some responsibility for the epidemic.

Charlottetown citizens will agree that the excellent health record of Charlottetown over a long period of years must be maintained at all costs, even though our primary water supplies must be increased, and many thousands of dollars invested in new sewage disposal lines. Real estate operators entertaining residential and business development projects on the outskirts of Charlottetown should consult with the present City Planning Board before making any such divisions.

Lack of Wise Planning

Little or no official results have been obtained in planning for increased factory and general commercial areas with rail and water transport. It is extremely difficult for outside firms to obtain required factory and storage places convenient to railroad and water transport sites at the present time. One very large concern requiring approximately three acres, and planning to do upwards of one hundred thousand dollars in its first year of oper-

ation with the farmers in this Province has had great difficulty in securing a site near Charlottetown for its plant. Similar enterprises can be and will be attracted to this City with a great financial advantage to the municipality, but only where wise planning and the utmost co-operation of our citizens smooths the way for them.

It may well be expected that the Summer of 1947 will see tourist business offering on a greater scale than ever before. There is yet very little evidence of any official planning to take care of this business, and practically no signs of large scale individual enterprise leading to the provision of good tourist housing and cabin accommodation on attractive sites. In order to properly take care of the tourist business we desperately need a strong and active voluntary committee in Charlottetown which will take some responsibility for the provision of tourist accommodation and entertainment facilities for our visitors while they are here.

Disgraceful Condition

This City is deeply interested in the provision of proper sanitary requirements within the City for visitors, but should be definitely interested in the provision of rest room accommodation at Borden, Tormentine, Wood Islands and Caribou. Those who have made even a casual inspection of Borden and Wood Islands cannot help but feel that the lack of accommodation at these two terminals is a disgrace to any civilized community, and should not be tolerated one week longer than necessary. In the face of this well known disgraceful lack at Borden it is disquieting to learn that no progress is likely to be made in the provision of rest room facilities at Borden for at least two years. The divided authority over these parts of entry to our Province has resulted in disagreement as to responsibility between such bodies as the Dominion Department of Public Works, the Canadian National Railways and the Provincial Government.

For the good of the Province and of this City it is now imperative that every responsible citizen express his demand that

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these differences be reconciled, and that adequate rest room accommodation shall be provided for Borden and Tormentine, with complete operations to start not later than the first of May of this year. Unless this is done, a further black mark against our City and Province will be made and widely publicized through the tourist grapevine.

Highway Programme

It is to be hoped also that the citizens of this City will realize the extreme importance of having the Provincial Department of Public Works embark upon its road programme at the earliest possible moment this Spring, with a view to improving the riding qualities of the Charlottetown-Charlottetown and Fredericton. Those who had the misfortune to travel continually over this stretch of pavement last Summer, will, I think, agree, it was probably the worst stretch of pavement in Canada, if not in North America. It is also advisable that the 100 yard stretch of pavement immediately in front of the Municipal Airport on the Brackley Point Road should be renewed at the earliest possible date. More and more of our visitors are arriving by plane, and the broken pavement which they encounter when leaving the airport is indeed a poor welcome, and must create an exceedingly bad impression.

In conclusion your committee wishes to commend the very competent and efficient air service which has been provided by the Maritime Central Airways over recent years, and to extend its congratulations to Captain Burke and his efficient staff on the excellent job which they are doing.

Prospects & Opportunities In Tourist Trade Reviewed

The following report of tourist committee of the Charlottetown Board of Trade was submitted by Lt. Col. C. C. Thompson, chairman, at the Board's annual meeting Wednesday night, February 1946. The 1946 tourist season on Prince Edward Island was a good one and if we are to maintain the cumulative results of this and previous years' work the handicaps under which this Province labors in the profitable tourist industry must be tackled vigorously and overcome as soon as possible. Everyone in Prince Edward Island benefits as well as the Provincial Government treasury who make their direct profits from the gasoline, liquor and tobacco taxes, and these profits we believe will be enormously increased as time goes on, provided action on our handicaps is taken now.

The two great handicaps are accommodation and transportation. Transportation in this case definitely includes our highways on which the need for more paving is very urgent.

Tourist Promotion Fund

In the matter of accommodation we recommend specifically that our Provincial Government establish a fund along similar lines to that in Nova Scotia for assisting those who wish to establish new tourist facilities and assisting those who wish to enlarge their present accommodations. This can be done either by setting aside an amount from the treasury or by borrowing from banks or other sources a definite amount which would be loaned out by the Government under mortgages at, for example, one half of one per cent more than what the Government pays. It should be in the nature of a revolving fund and as payments are made these payments could again be loaned out. Persons or groups applying under this plan would have to build according to

safety standards and these places would at all times be under Government inspection and properly insured. The types of accommodation built would necessarily have to be approved by the Government. The establishment of this scheme would be of inestimable value and would also create a great deal of confidence in this growing industry which can mean so much to the Government and to all the people of the Province.

In the matter of transportation there have been several good things, namely, the approaching completion of construction of the new ferry "Abegevit", the addition of two (D.C. 3) passenger planes on the runs of Maritime Central Airways, and the second ferry "Charles A. Dunning" on the Wood Islands-Caribou route, and due to the initiative of a group of men in West Prince a new ferry service from there to New Brunswick will be in operation in 1947.

Rest Room Facilities

Shortly we hope there will be improvements sadly needed at the Borden-Tormentine piers, and at Wood Islands. The Tormentine pier should be paved and proper rest room facilities provided both at Tormentine and Borden. Present conditions in this respect are a disgrace to this Province, to New Brunswick, to the Canadian National Railways, and to the Department of Transport as well as of extreme annoyance to the travelling public. We understand an officer of the Provincial Department of Health two years ago reported on the grave danger of communicable disease being spread by the present filthy conditions.

The National Park visitors were more numerous last year than ever before. More accommodation and recreational facilities are needed. We strongly urge the construction of more eating facilities at various parts of the Park and especially at the Golf Course.

Bus travel is becoming more and more an integral part of our

transportation and we are pleased to note the addition of several new modern buses during the year and have been given to understand that every effort is being made to have more of these available for 1947. Tourists not travelling by their own automobiles moved around the Province in large numbers by bus during 1946. The buses provide a direct revenue to the Provincial Government through gasoline and franchise taxes. They travel about six miles to a gallon of gasoline. Thousands of our local population were brought into Charlottetown during the year to do business here.

For Civic Improvement

For our own City of Charlottetown we make the following recommendations and these are given not necessarily in the order of their importance.

1. Charlottetown is becoming very popular with tourists but badly needs more good accommodation and we recommend that the City Council urge the Canadian National Railways to consider the building of two more floors to the Charlottetown Hotel. Many wealthy tourists make their headquarters at this hotel, and go daily to beaches and fishing resorts. Also busters in October are yearly increasing in numbers.

2. The city restaurants did a better job in 1946 and we recommend the closest co-operation here of a Provincial Museum under Provincial Government auspices. If this is not done soon many more valuable historical items and records will be totally lost. Such a museum would be a highly instructive and educational place for all of us to visit and a splendid tourist attraction.

3. Charlottetown should be one of the most popular convention cities of the Maritimes and with the enlargement of the Charlottetown Hotel and improvements we understand are contemplated for the Queen Hotel we could handle many conventions which would leave considerable money in the City.

4. We strongly recommend the continued marking of the Streets and numbering of houses and business places. More recreational facilities are needed. We strongly urge the construction of more eating facilities at various parts of the Park and especially at the Golf Course.

5. More parking space is badly needed and we offer for consideration the suggestion that fifteen or twenty feet around the edges of some of our city squares be laid off and cemented with painted lines for parking spaces and perhaps the construction of a low fence at the edge of the concrete strip so that cars could not go ahead into the rest of the square. Another suggestion is to take up with the Provincial Government the possibility of a double parking space between the Court House and Grafton Streets. We realize there are difficulties in the way of these suggestions materializing but the parking situation is becoming so desperate that some unusual means must be taken to alleviate it.

6. We recommend a further study be made towards establishing public toilet facilities.

Summer Steamers

7. We urge the City to press for

the resumption of Charlottetown as a port of call for the summer steamers from Montreal and Boston, and to have some plan worked out to entertain tourists arriving on these boats. Usually they are only here for a day or part of a day.

8. Victoria Park is a great asset to the City. We suggest further improvements be made and that the bathing houses be repaired, painted and supervised.

9. Colored arrows should be placed on the important business streets indicating the way to the race track and to the golf course.

10. The approach to Charlottetown certainly could be much improved and we suggest a careful study be made of the best methods of improvement. This should be done in co-operation with the Provincial Government.

11. The inauguration of motor boat trips up the Hillsboro and West Rivers and to points outside the Harbour would be a decided tourist and local citizen attraction. These should be well advertised.

12. An up-to-date city directory is badly needed and would be of great benefit to tourists and business generally.

Provincial Museum

13. The City of Charlottetown and the Board of Trade should join forces with the Provincial Government in the establishment here of a Provincial Museum under Provincial Government auspices. If this is not done soon many more valuable historical items and records will be totally lost. Such a museum would be a highly instructive and educational place for all of us to visit and a splendid tourist attraction.

14. A flower show in Charlottetown would be of benefit locally and a fine tourist attraction.

15. A Prince Edward Island handicraft exhibition would be a tourist attraction and bring out many articles of great beauty and utility. This might be held in connection with the Provincial Exhibition and Old Home Week.

A continuous and busy tourist season would add very materially to the business welfare of Charlottetown, as well as the whole Province, through the spending of money brought in by visitors which is definitely new money in our commercial economy. It should be gone after in a serious business like manner, in full co-operation with our press and radio, station.

(In submitting the above report Col. Thompson made special reference to one of the committee members, Mr. B. Graham Rogers, in preparing the material.)

INDIA-SOVIET CONTACT

NEW DELHI—In keeping with the government's policy of extending diplomatic contacts throughout the world, the government has appointed K. P. S. Menon, agent-general for India in China, as special representative to Moscow. V. Krishna Menon was also appointed to visit a number of European countries to establish diplomatic relations.



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Georgetown and Vicinity

The annual meeting of the Georgetown Branch, No. 16, of the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L. was held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, January 15th. Zone chairman Major J. A. MacDonald of Cardigan, presided and nominations were called for the office of President of the Branch. Comrade Neil Wright was the only name offered and he was duly installed as president. It was decided by the meeting to adjourn until a date to be set by the executive, at which time the balance of the slate of officers would be appointed.

Mr. C.H. Llewellyn has returned home after spending a few days in Charlottetown.

Mrs. Mabel Lavers returned home from a visit to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Judson Baker of New Glasgow.

Friends of Allister H. Stewart are sorry to hear that he is ill and all hope for a speedy and complete recovery.

An all-star team from the three teams in the Southern King's County Hockey League, has been registered with the M.A.H.A. for intermediate hockey playoffs in the Province. This team will soon commence a series of exhibition games with Island intermediate teams.

There are approximately fifty tons of potatoes still in storage in the Government potato warehouse here. Shipments are going out by

POULTRY

Buying poultry daily for another two weeks.

FARMERS

For some years now you have been making weekly sales of large quantities of poultry throughout the entire year to the Militia and the Air Force. This business is now non-existent.

At the present time we have several wholesalers and poultry-processing plants still operating. Should not all of you give your poultry a good culling now?

Any farmer wishing to pay for his next Spring's chicks with old hens can do so providing he sends the shipment in within the next two weeks.

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