

Busy Year For Boards Of Trade

Continued from Page 1

for the same month. The speaker believed that production would be increased by one-third if proper bait facilities were available.

PREMIER'S ADDRESS

Premier Leas expressed great pleasure in seeing the many representatives of the Women's Institute present. The farmers in this province are undoubtedly prosperous, he stated. The potato crop is the staple island crop. Since 1923 livestock and their products have increased as much as the potato industry during the same time. Co-operation has saved much money for the potato farmers. The products of the province are of the highest possible standard. Prince Edward Island potato farmers are grading at even a higher standard than is necessary for Canada A.

Hon. J. A. McDonald stated that he has always followed the work of the Associated Boards of Trade with great interest. Production, transportation and markets are matters of paramount importance. It was gratifying to hear Premier Leas' announcement relative to permanent road building. This work with the co-operation of the Dominion Government should be productive of good results. The fishing industry Mr. McDonald considered a source of wealth well worth tapping. The Provincial Government should give more attention to this industry. Mr. McDonald thought, and suggested the addition of a sub-department to the Department of Agriculture.

Relative to the question of transportation Mr. Horace Wright, M. L. A. agreed with the premier in that the province is losing money in its method of road building. The only policy for adoption is one of permanent road building, and the speaker expressed himself as being glad to hear the premier's announcement on this matter.

Mrs. Mutch, President of the Women's Institutes, expressed much pleasure at being present at the meeting which was one of great educational value. Any time that the Women's Institutes can co-operate in any work they will do so. The new sanatorium, the objective of last year, is now under construction.

Previous to leaving on the Hochelaga Dr. J. A. Clark spoke a few words of welcome to the Experimental Farm.

The nominating committee brought in the following slate of officers in the main the same as those of last year. The report was unanimously adopted.

For President, S. A. MacDonald; Vice-Presidents—Prince County, C. R. Rogers; Kings County, W. L. Poole; Seely, Treas.—Lt. Colonel G. E. Full; Executive—Prince County, O. M. Muttart, A. J. Matheson, J. B. Myrick; Queens County, H. F. McPhee, J. O. Hyndman, C. E. MacKenzie; Kings County, Hon. J. A. MacDonald, H. H. Acorn, C. C. Thompson.

A vote of thanks moved by Mr. R. E. Mutch was extended to the executive. A full report of the resolutions appear elsewhere in this issue.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Following is the address given by Mr. S. A. MacDonald, President. Ladies and Gentlemen Members of Women's Institutes, Farmers' organizations, and fellow members of our Boards of Trade.

We are assembled here today at the ninth annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade of Prince Edward Island, and it is my duty as well as my pleasure, as it has been for the past three years, to submit to you a brief summary of the last year's activities.

No matter of outstanding interest has confronted us during the last twelve months, but we are pleased to say that many important questions which have concerned us for some years have been successfully settled for the benefit of the province. Despite the time that has been devoted to these, the Boards have been ceaselessly active, as well in their concern over those smaller matters of routine and daily interest, which in their combined effect and influence play such a part in our Island prosperity. Of these no mention can be made in a report such as this. All that need be said is that a watchful eye has been kept of all matters large and small pertaining to the public good. This, of course, is in keeping with the past policy of our organization, as has been seen from previous annual reports, and it is hoped that this report will not show the past year to have been divergent from that line of nine years continued activity and success.

During the last few months we have witnessed a period of much less interest in Boards of Trade

activities; due principally to the fact that the country was on the eve of a general federal election. During such a period any active interest by the Boards of Trade, no matter how sincere and unbiased, was very likely to be misunderstood and might only tend to lessen that reputation for independence credited the Boards during all their past history.

It is generally understood that economic conditions throughout the continent are not up to normal. This is equally true of the countries of Europe, and may be said to be world wide in their effect. Leading economists contend that it is one of those periods that is inevitable in the readjustment of trade conditions. While this is true, and applies to almost every country, we might safely say that our own little province is at the present moment almost the one exception. For trade conditions here are good, and our people on the whole are meeting with a reasonable degree of prosperity.

The prospects for this season appear particularly bright, as from reports received at our experimental station here and at our department of agriculture, the outlook for a banner crop is reassured, with a possible yield of root crop being the largest in our history.

Our Potato Industry

The potato growers have continued faith in this great industry and a determination to maintain the high reputation obtained from procuring the high grade that has made it possible to realize the highest prices in competition with all comers. This season we have under cultivation about 45,000 acres, being an increase of 3,000 acres over last year. The outlook at the present time is for a banner crop with no blight or disease to cause any alarm, and the poor crop in Ontario and the State of Maine, and the estimated decrease in the United States generally of about 20,000,000 bushels, should have the effect of stimulating the price and demand for our product. However, during our period of success a word of caution might not be amiss, so that it might help us to be the better prepared for any readjustment that might become necessary.

The United States of America during their present economic crisis have by their farm relief legislation endeavored to supply an artificial remedy. A measure which has been entirely disapproved of by the United States Chamber of Commerce. At their last annual convention recently held at Washington, a resolution was passed condemning as a permanent policy of the government employment of public funds for the purpose of participating in business in competition with established agencies. It is always wise to watch the activities of others to learn and profit thereby, and though at the present moment there is no need of relief yet the possibility of such might arise.

The changed sentiment which has taken a grip of the people of this province within the past few years is indeed commendable. Many who are to be knockers are today the most optimistic and best boosters of our province. This is as it should be, and rightly so and others outside the province are realizing the same thing as can be seen, for instance, in an article published in a widely circulated journal in the United States. It says that Prince Edward Island has per square mile twice as many people, four times as many cattle, and eight times as many poultry as any other province in Canada; also that it has more railroads per square mile, more post offices, more telegraph lines and more churches, and its people have more money in the savings bank per capita than have those of any other Canadian Province.

It might also have well repeated that there has been so often told that we have here also the only cattle disease free province in the Dominion. That we lead the Dominion in the quality of our butter and cheese. Besides these our certified seed potatoes and our silver black fox industry have furnished us an international reputation.

Transportation

It is necessarily a much worn subject for us, for ever since Confederation we have steadily and surely strived for the ideal contained in the memorable documents signed by the province in 1873. Continuous communication is what we were promised and what we have sought. Each year sees the goal a little nearer, sees conditions a little closer to that perfection so urgently needed, and which we hope it will become a reality when the new car ferry is eventually put in service.

Securing this new boat has not been an easy matter, as you all realize there have been innumerable obstacles and setbacks, but finally persistent representation and annual

won the day and we are promised next year a service which will abolish many of the difficulties and annoyances which at present harass connections with the mainland. The new ferry, for which the contract has recently been awarded, will have accommodation for 40 automobiles. The plans include a special deck for them, running right around the vessel, and the terminals, at Cape Tormentine, N. B., and Port Borden, P. E. I., are being improved for their convenience.

The central part of the main deck will be for the transportation of Canadian National Railway cars, three sets of tracks providing room for 16 modern freight cars. A mezzanine deck, a general lounge, a saloon, a dining room, a lunch counter, and a news-stand will accommodate passengers in comfort. The contract for the construction of the ferry, one of the largest orders given a Canadian shipyard this past year, has been awarded to the Davis Shipbuilding and Repairing Company, of Lewis, Que., a subsidiary of the Canada Steamship Lines.

The new vessel will be larger than the Prince Edward Island and will have room for 10 more freight cars it will be 324 feet long, overall; 59 feet in moulded breadth on the main deck; with a depth of 25 feet; and an extreme draft of 19 1/2 feet. The hull will be of steel, specially strengthened and shaped to meet ice conditions in the Straits; with seven water-tight bulkheads and a double bottom for water ballast. The ferry will have two oval funnels, one on each side, amidships. Two screws will be placed aft and one forward, driven by oil-fired boilers, supplying steam to three triple-expansion engines of a total of 8,000 horse power. Quarters are provided for a crew of 35.

The ferry will be ready for service, in July, 1931. We must remember, however, that despite the obvious excellence of the new steamer, it alone will not be able to cope with the traffic, and that the present boat will also be required. This is of the utmost importance and must not be neglected. Transportation is inevitably closely connected to accommodation, for there is no rhyme or reason in increasing the influx of visitors unless they can be suitably cared for on arrival. This has always been a great problem despite the obvious excellence of our present hotels. Now we are pleased to see the Canadian National Railway again yielding to our claims and giving us a splendid new building, which will compare favorably with all others in any part of the Dominion.

With these new improvements, the ferry and the hotel, much that has handicapped us in the past will be removed and we can look forward to increasingly better times. The greatly increased trade of the past few years has put such a strain on railway facilities that additional yard room has become imperative; so at great expense some acres of land are being reclaimed at the lower end of the city so that additional tracks can be laid and there will be less delay and difficulty in handling freight

may be expected to produce approximately 35,000 young foxes this fall. Fox prices, realized in 1929, showed a falling off as compared with those realized in 1928, but it is a fact that practically all the skins have been sold and the market should, therefore, be in fair shape to absorb the offering. Prince Edward Island raises just about 1-3 of the foxes produced in Canada. There are approximately 1,200 fox ranches in this province.

Our Increased Trade

On examining railroad statistics regarding freight movements they always offer considerable light on our provincial activities. For the first 7 months of this year we received 7,308 carloads of freight, and forwarded 6,038, while the carloads received in the first seven months of 1929 were only 6,833, and those forwarded being 5,285, making an increase in the number of cars forwarded of 752. The total number of carloads received during 1929 were 12,416 while carloads outward were 10,204. The total number of cars of potatoes forwarded from January 1, 1930, to July 31 were 3,398 against 3,051 in the same period last year.

In tabulating receipts and outward shipments for a period of about 400 weeks, we find an increase of about 400% which is truly a remarkable showing. Statement showing carloads received and forwarded from Borden

Years 1929 and 1930				
	1929	1930		
Month	Ford	Reed	Ford	Reed
January	470	514	900	527
February	604	506	627	608
March	717	590	1049	764
April	902	787	1346	784
May	1193	937	837	1379
June	642	1276	470	1266
July	758	2223	809	1980
Tot to July 31—	5288	6833	6038	7308
August	1037	1630		
September	728	1187		
October	1177	1064		
November	1377	925		
December	645	777		
Total	10304	12416		

LADIES INSTITUTES

Whilst speaking of these matters of rural, yet provincial interest, one's mind naturally turns to that most important organization—the women's institute.

It is a great pleasure to see so many of their members here today. Their attendance for the past year or so has been very encouraging and speaks well for their interest in public affairs. No summary of provincial activities, no matter how brief could be complete without mention being made of the very important part they have taken in the public affairs of this province. Of them it may be said in the words engraven in our provincial building, "Often have they bulled better than they knew." This is especially applicable with regard to the provincial tuberculosis hospital now under construction, where new life and happiness may be shed into many lives. It is largely due to the ceaseless suggestions and agitations of our good ladies that the new institution is now being erected. Its need can well be seen if one glances at the figures of tubercular patients in this province. They are strangely high when one considers this to be a cattle disease free area.

Another matter they have attended to is the naming and beautifying of the country school houses; converting them from uninviting, bare buildings into places of real beauty, where the children are benefited not only by the actual instruction received but by that far more subtle and perhaps equally powerful influence of a good environment.

In many other ways these organizations have done good by their demonstrations, meetings, and gatherings of one kind and another. They have not stopped short at the schools, but have attempted to work changes in the very homes and lives of the people and one can only hope that their advice and instruction will be heartily accepted for the good of all.

I would here make a suggestion to the Ladies Institutes that they take into consideration the advisability of taking some definite steps with a view of formulating a plan for preserving the home of Lucy Maude Montgomery at Cavendish by the sea, and having it set apart as one of the points of interest for tourists visiting our province. Apart from the historic room in our provincial building, where confederation first had its birth, it is doubtful if any other incident in the life of our province has so much interest for visitors to Prince Edward Island. We are all interested in the increased tourist traffic to the island, and it is in proportion only as we capitalize those incidents in our history that appeal so strongly to visitors to our province that we can receive the reward that is due us by being able to take advantage of such splendid opportunities.

Then, there is that other important branch of our Island activity the fox industry. Last year it netted a revenue of \$1,500,000 for live foxes and \$2,000,000 for 20,000 pelts. The only figures we can give are those with regard to registered ranches, as there does not seem to be any definite information regarding foxes in unregistered ranches. In the 1929 breeding season there were some 23,000 adult foxes in Prince Edward Island, that reared some 25,000 pups to majority. This year the ranchers have some 30,000 registered breeders in their ranches which

Field Crops

Whilst speaking of these things it is appropriate to mention here certain figures referring to what is after all the backbone of our province; namely, agriculture. The past year has been a successful one for the farmers, prices were good and there was a demand for produce of all kinds. This really follows from what has been already said, for when agricultural conditions are favorable the entire Island basks in prosperity, when times are hard in the Country then also there is depression over the entire province; so that really provincial prosperity to a very great extent depends upon agricultural prosperity. It is well for us to bear this in mind and realize its importance.

The total value of agricultural produce for the past year amounted to \$19,500,000 made up as follows: Field crops \$12,000,000 Dairying \$1,250,000 Potatoes 11,000,000 bushels valued at \$5,250,000. Hogs 32,000 valued at \$500,000 Lambs 146,000 \$250,000 Eggs \$666,000 Poultry \$250,000 Besides these figures there may be added the harvest from the sea; the value of fish exported was in excess of \$1,000,000.

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REPORTING THE CONCLUSION OF THIS report there are one of two recommendations which I would like to make that have already been recommended by this board regarding matters which strike one forcibly in presenting a report of this kind. In review of this year's doings I have encountered the same difficulties which presented themselves these past three years at the same time; that is, the tremendous difficulty one has in securing accurate information concerning the province. Some figures are kept in one place, some in another, and many unfortunately not at all. Thus much of the material contained in the past three reports has been drawn from odd clippings here and there. One would suggest the establishment of a bureau of statistics, where all records of provincial interests could be kept on file and comparison made from one year to another. Thus accurate information would always be available and one year could easily be contrasted with another and a check kept on all provincial interests.

This would be great assistance to all business interests, to advertising and to all generally. In making a final summary of the Board's activities for years past we find that the outstanding questions which have engaged our attention; namely, a new car ferry, better hotel accommodation, widening of the gauge of the Island railways, the Murray Harbor branch being brought up to standard, the enlarged railway facilities at Charlottetown and the potato warehouses. We are consoled that in the fulfillment of these that the Boards of Trade have played a most important part.

With the accomplishment of all these we are now confronted with the greatest problem of all, namely good roads. The other provinces, by their system of permanent highways have brought the tourists to our doors. The car ferry, the next coming link, will make auto traffic to the province more attractive. Our hotel accommodation is being improved one hundred percent. All of these will fall if we have not at least one permanent highway in this province. We are lax in our duty to ourselves and to the prosperity of the province to allow this, the most important matter now confronting us, to be neglected any longer. I would like to see the Associated Boards of Trade again placing itself on record favoring this policy and urging its adoption at the earliest possible date.

In speaking of the tourist traffic to the province by auto we find from the first introduction of tourist auto traffic that we have had an annual increase of twenty percent and this needs no further proof to show that we must have an improved our share of the great harvest that is being derived from this traffic in highway system in our province if we are going to continue to receive other provinces of the Dominion.

The following comparative figures of autos ferried at Borden will be of interest. There is a total for 1929 of 4,284, against 3,832 in 1928, and for the first five months of this year, or up to August 23rd, number arriving here from Tormentine is 3,770, against 3,083 for the same period last year.

Statement showing autos ferried for years 1928, 1929, 1930

Mth.	Borden to Tor.	Torm. to Borden	1928	1929	1930	1928	1929	1930
April	2	15						
May	83	78	198	160	130	294		
June	418	399	436	562	484	607		
July	765	915	1068	1049	1163	1395		
Aug.	1233	1447	1108	1170	1306	1246		
Sept.	631	726		525	642			
Oct.	304	385		283	395			
Nov.	93	192		71	149			
Dec.	16	9		12	15			
Total	3601	4151	2915	3832	4284	3770		

Permit me to conclude this report by conveying to the members of the Executive my sincere appreciation for their co-operation during the term just ended. Our Federal and local representatives have always assisted us in all matters. The railway executive, both here and at Montserrat, we have always found sympathetic to our requests. To Mr. J. A. Clark, the capable manager of the Experimental Station here, and his obliging staff, we are deeply indebted for making it possible for us to meet here once again under such happy auspices and I would like these present on this occasion to join in extending to Mr. Clark our sincere congratulations on having the degree of Doctor of Science conferred on him since our last annual convention. And to the press of the province who have assisted the Board of Trade on all occasions—in extending a tribute of praise to them, I feel quite sure I am voicing the sentiments of every Board of Trade member in this province.

RECOMMENDATION

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The following address on the meeting of the British Chambers of Com-

merce was delivered by Mr. James Paton: Your Secretary Colonel Full has asked me to say something about co-operation. Strange to say, a few days after our conversation, when looking over some old Charlottetown newspapers, I came across one dated January 14th, 1909 containing a report of the annual meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade, and presidents address delivered by myself. One paragraph of which reads: "I would strongly recommend, that the different Boards of Trade on the Island, get together, at least once a year, to discuss matters pertaining to the three counties. There is no denying the fact, that petty jealousy exists. If questions which are sometimes looked upon as local, were discussed upon broader lines, the welfare of our Province would no doubt receive support and better attention from the hands of the Government at Ottawa, and at the same time be the means of binding Kings, Queens and Prince Counties into better fellowship. This co-operation suggested 21 years ago has been more than accomplished by having with us delegates representing Womens Institutes and Boards of Trade from all parts of the Province. Three months ago I had the pleasure of attending the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, held in old Guildhall, London. To give some idea as to the aim of this world wide association towards cooperation, allow me to quote extract B from their rules. "The object of the Congress should be to provide an opportunity for fuller and more representative discussion of and decisions upon the many questions affecting Empire, Commerce and industry, and an occasion whereon leading members of British Chambers of Commerce may come into personal contact." May I be allowed to transpose this rule to read thus, "The object of the Prince Edward Island Associated Boards of Trade and Womens Institutes shall be to provide an opportunity for fuller and more representative discussion of, and decisions upon questions affecting the welfare of the Province of Prince Edward Island, and an occasion whereon members of the Associations may come into personal contact. It is a great advantage to have meetings such as this, friendly gatherings of this kind enable us to discuss important questions pertaining to the whole Province. If politics can be kept outside the doors today, I should say outside the gates, the resolutions considered, and to be considered will no doubt bear good results.

The Empire Congress was composed of over 300 delegates, the greater number of them being business men, representing 158 Chambers of Commerce in all parts of the Empire. The first session was opened by the Prince of Wales. On his entering Guildhall he was loudly cheered. The Prince expressed the great pleasure he had, as one of his first duties on his return from his African trip, was to welcome the delegates from every part