

Finds Maritime Problems Of Transport Fascinating

By STEWART MACLEOD
Canadian Press Staff Writer

MONCTON, N.B. (CP)—Howard Mann's smile gave way to a grave expression at the suggestion that he is sitting on the economic powder keg of the Atlantic provinces. "No," he said seriously. "I don't know if it's an economic powder keg. Actually it is a very fascinating job."

Mr. Mann is the executive manager of the Maritime transportation commission. Transportation has long been linked with the economic problems of this area and anyone who has a say in the vital issue automatically comes under every business eye in the four provinces. Most importers and exporters feel the pinch of Canada's size, many claim the Maritimes are getting a poor deal in freight rates and others say the area is being neglected.

When Toronto-born Howard Mann was invited to take over the top business post of the commission he knew it wouldn't be easy. But so far he is not sorry he gave up the job of general secretary of the Canadian Industrial Traffic League to come to the Maritimes.

Although he has only been here since last fall he already has reached some firm conclusions. Many of these conclusions were reached in preparing a heavy brief for the Gordon economic commission—one of his first assignments. And to him freight rates are a major problem.

"Horizontal increases"—flat percentage increases—are detrimental to maritimes industry, he says because they hit harder at distance shippers. As a result the Maritimes suffer more than other provinces.

He says the whole procedure of freight rates increases should be reviewed.

LACK OF COMPETITION
Mr. Mann, a graduate in economics and political science of the University of Toronto, also thinks the Maritimes suffer from lack of competition. "In some areas of Canada rates are lower than they



MR. HOWARD MANN

were in the depression years. Competition did it."

Another problem, hard to overcome, he says, is the time element. With keen competition on the main central Canadian market distributors must have quick delivery. In this respect Maritimes shippers have little chance. "Actually this is terribly important... local distributors must give good service."

Mr. Mann summed it up: "The Maritimes needs lower freight rates and faster service."

He knows there are many obstacles to surmount before transportation ceases to be a problem here, "but that's what makes the job fascinating."

"If you can get something done it will be for the benefit of the region as a whole. And there is a greater awareness of the problems by the people of the area. I haven't been here very long and don't presume to know too much, but I

know the people here don't want to live on hand-outs."

Until Mr. Mann took over this job, the commission was headed by Rand H. Matheson, now with Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation in Montreal.

CONCERNED ABOUT SEAWAY
Many businessmen have expressed worried views on the new St. Lawrence seaway which they say might have a detrimental effect on local industry. But Mr. Mann is not yet convinced of this.

"So far of course it is such a bewildering array of opinions, and I am pretty cautious on what I say about it."

"I wonder," he added, "if with a little vision one can see where it will work out to our advantage. We need a thorough study of the seaway as it affects the Maritimes."

Mr. Mann wouldn't make any great predictions about a proposed causeway across Northumberland Strait between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

"It is an interesting vision, and if it is feasible it should get sympathetic consideration," he said.

Any move to help local transportation problems should be exploited," he says. "Let's be dynamic."

NOTICE

The property of Mrs. Jane Daley of Commercial Cross, opposite the bird sanctuary is private property. No trespassing and no fishing allowed.

BUILDING FALLS, 4 DEAD

VIENNA (AP)—Four workmen were killed and one seriously injured Saturday in the collapse of a bomb-ruined apartment house

which they were clearing away for a new building site in downtown Vienna. The men were working in the basement when the walls gave way

CREAM ROUTE

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HEADS DENTISTS

Word had been received from Edmonton, Alberta, that Dr. Arnold H. Lane, formerly of Montague, P.E.I., son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Lane, that he was elected president of the Edmonton and District Dental Soc.

buy farms, a Netherlands official said Friday. Dr. Bastiaan Wouter Haveman, here to discuss Netherlands immigration to Canada, said Netherlands immigrants find more opportunities in Canada than the United States "because both Canada and The Netherlands are agricultural countries."

DUTCH LIKE CANADA
VANCOUVER, (CP)—Immigrants from The Netherlands would stream into Canada at the rate of 20,000 a year if they could

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The public is cordially invited to visit the Travel Bureau, Charlottetown during National Tourist Week, May 7-12. Continuous showing of Island films, free literature and information. "Know your Island better" during this National Tourist Week.

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