

APEC Vice President Named Research Board President

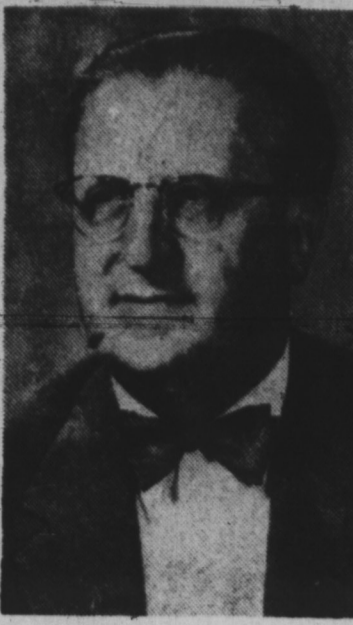
HALIFAX, February 16 — Arthur Johnson, Newfoundland Deputy Minister of Economic Development and a vice president of APEC, has been named chairman of the newly formed Atlantic Provinces Research Board in a joint announcement issued by the four Atlantic Premiers today.

The Board, set up as the result of the Atlantic Premiers' Conference and APEC general meeting held at the same time in St. John's, Newfoundland, last November will coordinate an extensive program of research into matters affecting the basic economy of the four seaboard provinces.

Interviewed in Halifax, where he was attending a Management Committee meeting of APEC, Mr. Johnson said the Research Board is still another indication of unity and regional thinking among the four provincial governments, APEC, the Maritime Transportation Commission and other Atlantic bodies. APEC is represented directly on the Board by its Executive Vice President, Nelson Mann, and the Maritime Transportation Commission by its Executive Manager, Howard Mann.

BOARD MEMBERS
Other Board members are Gordon F. Pushie, Director General of Economic Development and Assistant to Premier J. R. Smallwood of Newfoundland; Robert G. MacLeod, representative of Premier A. W. Matheson of Prince Edward Island; Innis MacLeod, Assistant to Premier Robert L. Stanfield of Nova Scotia; Kenneth B. Carson, Assistant to Premier Hugh John Flemming of New Brunswick; Professor W. Y. Smith, Economic Adviser to the Government of New Brunswick and an APEC director; and D. W. Gallagher, Assistant Economic Adviser to the Government of New Brunswick.

APEC Economist Arthur C. Parks has been named Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, and the Board's offices will be located at the APEC office at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, he said. Mr. Johnson said the Research Board was set up as the



MR. JOHNSON

coordinating body for the region. This will ensure an active program and at the same time prevent duplication of effort. The assistance will be sought of APEC, the Maritime Transportation Commission, the universities of the Atlantic Provinces, departments of government, the Social Science Research Council of Canada, the Canada Council, the Ford Foundation and independent research scientists and other research agencies.

RESEARCH PROGRAM
"At a recent meeting of the Board in Moncton, a research program was suggested which will cover many fundamental areas of our regional economy," Mr. Johnson said. "Already underway by the Maritimes Transportation Commission is a study of the effect of the St. Lawrence Seaway on the Atlantic Provinces". He added that the Transportation Commission will also conduct a study of the importance of transportation to economic growth in the region.

The Research Board chairman said it is expected they will make use of qualified university personnel from both within and outside the region. Further details of the program will be announced as they become available, Mr. Johnson concluded.

Mr. Hessian noted it was not voluntary. "In this case the government has left it up to the people and I am sure that in this age of coercion, Communism and Khrushchevism our people will not stand to be stampeded," said Mr. Hessian.

MATTER OF COLLECTION
Frank Myers (PC 1st Queens) said he would support the resolution but felt the government was heading for trouble when they came to collect premiums. In this connection he noted that the membership in the Federation of Agriculture was available to all farmers but only a small majority joined. He said it was a case of a few carrying the rest on their backs.

Referring to the hospital survey report briefly, Mr. Myers

said he was disappointed to see that no mention had been made of the elevator at Beach Grove. "I have been advocating an elevator for years and I am happy to see that it is now installed. It will be a great comfort to the older people," he added.

George E. Saville (Lib. 5th Kings) felt the plan was a very important step in the care for the sick. He would like to see it more inclusive—one that would cover everybody. He did not think however that a sales tax would be the answer since, in his opinion, a poor man with a large family would be paying a high tax while a rich man with a small family would get off light.

Harvey Douglas (Lib. 2nd Kings) said, "I am in favour of the plan so long as no one is shut out just because they do not have the money to pay the premium."

Mr. Douglas said he had first thought that with the Federal Government paying over half the cost and with the P.E.I. government now paying \$108,000 in per diem grants to hospitals, it would not cost people a cent.

He could not understand what was causing hospitals to increase their rates. He said they pay their nurses hardly enough for shoe leather and most patients eat very little when they are in hospital.

MEANS TEST
The Kings member observed that those unable to pay would be admitted free but he wondered who would decide who was capable of paying or not. He felt it would result in some sort of means test.

"You can't say on the one hand it is available to all our citizens and at the same time say it is going to cost from \$2 to \$4 per month," said Mr. Douglas.

Hon. Dougald MacKinnon said it could hardly be expected that complete unanimity would be experienced with any resolution but felt it was just another modern trend. "However it is going to be paid for—it has got to be paid," he said.

Mr. MacKinnon said those unable to pay would have to be taken care of by those who could. "We have to bear their burdens—we have committed ourselves to this plan and just as we have met problems in the past we will no doubt be able to look after this," he said.

MUST GO ALONG
C.C. Baker (Lib 4th Prince)

said "we just have to go along with the plan, we can't let the rest of Canada get away from us." He felt that for the most part people would take it on. As for those who cannot pay, they will have to be paid for somehow. At the present time, it is the hospitals that are absorbing the cost of the non-pays, he said.

Mr. Baker felt that the success of the plan would depend greatly upon the way in which it was administered by the Commission.

Hon. Prosper Arsenault said, "I believe the people of Prince Edward Island are willing to pay for hospital insurance." He went on to say that a single person under the Blue Cross at the present time was paying close to four dollars a month compared to \$2 a month under the government plan. He felt that many people now unable to get help for hospital care will now be able to benefit.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

Morley M. Bell of Summerside said the voluntary feature could be either commended or condemned. He noted that only 15 per cent of the present population now carries hospitalization in spite of the fact that it is available to most everyone.

Mr. Bell said he expected there would be a considerable increase in the demand for hospitalization under the new plan and in the case of the Prince County Hospital an expansion program would be required.

The Summerside member felt there should be a government extension grant set up by the province. He said the PC Hospital now was carrying a heavy burden of a half million debt and with the new scheme coming into effect it would be more difficult to come to the public looking for funds.

WINGS FOR WOOD IS. AIRMAN

Graduation ceremonies culminated 17 months of training for Flight Cadet E. Stewart, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Stewart of Wood Islands, P.E.I. Flight Cadet Stewart was one of 33 students from Canada, Denmark, Norway and Turkey to receive

his pilot's wings. He also received his commission as Flying Officer with the award of his wings which were presented by Group Captain G.A. Hiltz, AFC, CD, Commanding Officer of RCAF Station Portage la Prairie. (National Defence Photo).

Premium Basis

(Continued from page 1)

According to Dr. Bonnell there are 22,682 householders on the Island and the population of those over 18 years of age is 57,930. He said that by multiplying this 37,300 by \$24 per year, it will get very near the amount required to finance the plan.

ONTARIO 93 PER CENT
In Ontario, the Minister said, there is no compulsion and already 93 per cent of the population is covered. He added that the Government of P.E.I. decided to try the plan on a voluntary basis. "I know the people of the Island will co-operate and we will have 93 per cent or more before a year is out."

He said the hospital commission plans to embark on a fairly extensive advertising campaign so that all may know what benefits it has to offer.

Dr. Bonnell gave several reasons why he thought people would be willing to co-operate. The first that hospital rates have now gone so high that no one can afford to be without it.

COMPARES RATES
He said the plan, because of the fact that the Federal Government was sharing over 50 per cent of the cost, could be obtained more cheaply than Blue Cross or other hospital insurance plans. He said the cost on P.E.I. was less than in any other part of Canada.

He reported that insurance companies have already written the Commission asking them for information regarding the plan and these organizations stand ready to co-operate in combining their coverage for medical and surgery as well as the differential between ward and private room is \$1.70 per month, he said.

DR. DEWAR'S REMARKS
Dr. L.G. Dewar (PC 2nd Prince) said it was a historic day in the Island legislature and he was happy to have the satisfaction that he, personally had played some part in bringing insurance to its fulfillment.

Dr. Dewar recalled that in 1957 when the Premier, "Like Jason and his Argonauts sailed away for Ottawa, they did not come back with the Golden Fleece—they didn't get a refund on the million and a quarter that had been overpaid the government but they exchanged it for a promise—the promise of hospital insurance."

"We were a bit suspicious as to what concessions the Premier had made but one thing came out of the meeting, he promised to give the Island hospital insurance and for this we are thankful," Dr. Dewar said.

TRACES HISTORY
Tracing the history of hospital insurance, Dr. Dewar said he had brought the matter up in the House in 1956 and again in 1957. On both occasions, he noted, that the opinion was, "we could never afford it."

He noted that bill 320, the Federal Hospital Insurance Act, was passed on April 10th 1957. "So the Liberal Government achieved some distinction even though on another 10th they came to political disaster."

Continuing, the 2nd Prince member observed that PC Health Minister Montgohery removed the limitations of six provinces and allowed any individual province that was in a position to do so, to open negotiations for entering the plan.

"Some people—yes I believe some members of this House—are not entirely convinced that hospital insurance is needed. They say people paid their hospital bills in the past, why can't they continue to do it?"

Dr. Dewar commended the

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minister on the presentation of the resolution and said it should receive the unanimous support of the House. He said the Minister should be allowed to go forward without timidity. "We have good facilities for hospitalization and as far as the cost goes—anything good costs money," he added.

The O'Leary member noted that three million dollars was spent in the Province for liquor last year. "There should be no trouble in raising one million dollars for the alleviation of suffering and mitigation of disease," he said.

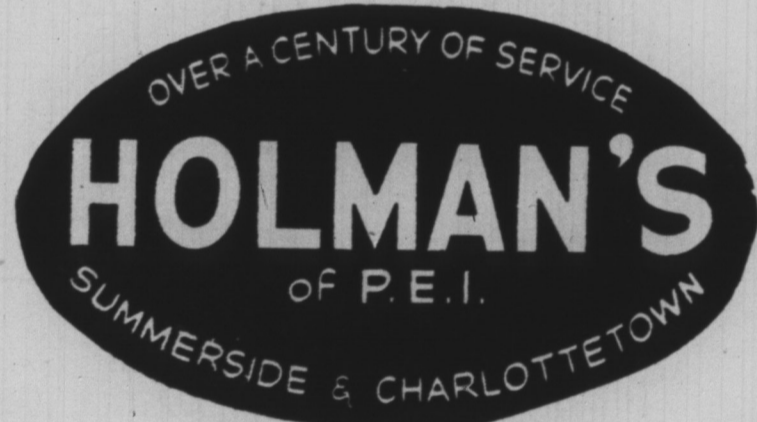
NIGGER IN WOODPILE

S. S. Hessian (Liberal 5th Kings) said he could not help but think—in view of the complete accord between the Minister and the Opposition member, both doctors—there was a nigger in the woodpile somewhere.

He recalled a former resolution of the House under the Premiership of the late John H. Bell. The bill had to do with the imposition of a \$3 poll tax for education and at the time Mr. Bell had the firm support of two other lawyers, J. J. Johnston and Justice A. E. Arsenault.

"Someone said at that time, 'there's a nigger in the woodpile,' but being young and believing that whatever the government did was right, I too thought it was a good thing. So we went to the country and we all got chased."

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