

Maritime Expansion Needs Strongly Urged In Commons

OTTAWA (CP) Needs of the Atlantic and Prairie provinces for a greater share of Canada's industrial expansion have been placed before the Commons in an all-day debate.

Speeches about the problems of the east coast provinces predominated as a series of Maritime members took the floor Monday. Their point of discussion was a resolution presented by a westerner, Walter Dinsdale (PC—Brandon-Souris).

His proposal called on the government to use "every possible opportunity" to promote decentralization of industry.

Quebec and Ontario have 60 per cent of Canada's population and 80 per cent of its manufacturing output, Mr. Dinsdale said. Decentralization would spread population and development more fairly, ensure scientific dispersal of vital industries and help reverse the trend to big metropolitan centres "with the accompanying social evils."

ONTARIO CRITICIZED

Ontario and Quebec came in for some criticism in the debate.

A. L. Lusby (L—Cumberland) took the issue with a recent statement by Premier Frost that Ontario is a goose that lays golden eggs and should not be harmed by federal fiscal policy.

"Ontario lays no golden eggs for us," the Nova Scotia member said. "She draws from the wherewithal to lay the eggs for herself."

The Ontario premier's statement had confirmed Maritime feelings that Ontario is not only the heartland but the hogland of Canada."

Mr. Lusby suggested certain areas be given preference in allotment of defence contracts as one way of spreading out industry.

DEFENCE INDUSTRIES

Mr. Dinsdale said defence industries are one place where the federal government can give impetus to decentralization. This should be done if Canada was to have a reasonable defence program. It was not good strategy to have most defence industries in and around Toronto and Montreal.

Besides industrial concentration, Ontario and Quebec had a concentration of political power. The country's development had been obscured by "a game of regional politics." West had been played against East, with the resulting emergence of splinter political groups in the West.

As for the growth of huge industrial cities, Mr. Dinsdale said the result has been a disorganization of society, the rise of slum areas and the breaking up of close family ties.

"Human beings have become less than human in big, booming, pushing urban areas."

NOT MUCH OF SHIFIT

Clarie Gillis (CCF—Cape Breton South) said it would not require much of a shift of industry to overcome the economic ills of the Maritimes.

Before Confederation the Maritimes had industrial wealth. But in a 50-year period more than 50 major industries had been siphoned off to Ontario and Quebec.

Now the Maritimes were paying millions each year because of tariff protection to the government subsidizing the industries and also added to the concentration by establishing its crown corporations in the central provinces.

George Nowlan (PC—Digby-Annapolis-Kings) said Maritimers have been too much in the habit of weeping over the ill effects of Confederation. There had been development in the Atlantic provinces but it was not keeping pace with the rest of Canada.

Maritime members, in the interests of all Canada, supported measures to help western wheat farmers and help build the Trans-Canada gas pipeline and St. Lawrence seaway even though the

FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

Continued from page 5

will broaden the base of agriculture and leave our economy less vulnerable to depressed potato prices.

(k) The lowering of charges on air freight could open the way for the shipment of milk to Labrador and Newfoundland.

(l) The adult educational needs of farm people can be met through the use and provision of the following aids:

Public libraries
Film service
Farm programmes on radio and television
Short courses or workshops
Folk schools
Vocational night classes of a mobile nature
Kitchen meetings
Farm Forums and the programmes of different organizations.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

"It would be most unrealistic to attempt to persuade ourselves that agriculture is not experiencing some difficulties or that the future is not clouded with uncertainty and cause for concern. We realize that not all events and conditions can be foretold and that some expected difficulties never materialize. We believe that the future position of farming in this Province in particular can be safeguarded to a considerable extent by attention to and development of the following programmes. The following suggestions are of a long term nature. They cannot be expected to work miracles overnight but their possibilities are worthy of consideration.

(a) Greater attention to methods of marketing and to increasing the Maritime farmers' share of the Atlantic Region markets.

(b) Organization of joint or community ownership of the more expensive farm equipment.

(c) Intensive production and improvement of quality in all products.

(d) Marketing practices brought up to similar standards of efficiency as existing in other industries, otherwise increased production will do little to increase income.

(e) Promotion of interest in vocational education for agriculture to the end that young farm people will be better equipped with scientific knowledge and practical skill.

(f) Extension work directed more towards processing, storage, and marketing, rather than to production.

(g) Increased attention to and improvement in the farm woodlot as a means of providing increased income and lowering costs.

(h) Cheaper port, all-weather roads, and the development of air freight will serve to increase net income.

(i) Improved credit facilities offering more favorable rates of interest and longer terms for payment are necessary to assist agriculture in its present situation.

(j) Increased production of small fruits and vegetables with the development of processing facilities

ORGANIZATIONS

"The virtues of rugged individualism are typified we are told to a marked degree in the farm people of Prince Edward Island. We have no quarrel with this quality in our people provided that adherence to it does not discourage group activities among rural people in an era when labour, industry, and business work to good advantage collectively. It may be that rural Prince Edward Island has reached the point where it can no longer afford the cost of unlimited individualism. With these thoughts in mind, we are conscious of the fact that farm people have in the past experimented with and devoted a portion of their time to the development of a variety of organizations.

"Some of these organizations operate in commercial fields, others are social, while still others are of a promotional or policy making nature but regardless of the type we believe that farm people must continue towards the perfecting of groups which will make the benefits of united action a reality. It is suggested that any group of rural people that form themselves into a Credit Union, a Cooperative, a Farm Forum, a Film Council, a 4-H Club, a breed Association, a Musical or Drama Society or organizations which may be Provincial in scope, such as, rural beautification societies, women's insti-

WINTER ROADS

"The severity of the present winter has focused attention on and created more than the usual amount of interest in the problem of winter transportation and in the removal of snow from our highways and roads. We recognize that there has been provision of the past ten years such additional snow removal equipment. We would point out, however, that rural people are today more than ever dependent upon motor vehicles for transportation during the winter. Horses are almost a thing of the past. Economic necessities force the farmer to maintain his activities at a high level throughout the year. Hibernation is a luxury of the past.

"We submit that snow removal is a sound investment for the people of the Province and for your Government and believe that it is entitled, to compared with summer transportation, proportionately greater attention than it is now receiving. We believe that greater efficiency is possible in the operation of snow plowing equipment and recommend that if at all feasible a system of wireless telephones be provided for the use of dispatchers and operators and that roads be definitely classified as to priority for snow removal with due provision for dealing with emergencies.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this Brief we wish to thank the members of our Board of Directors on behalf of our farm people for this meeting. We trust that the various matters discussed and recommended in this Brief will receive the study and consideration of the members of this House both individually and as a group. Any of our Directors are, we believe, prepared to discuss these matters at any time. Our Executive and Officers would welcome at any time the privilege of further discussion either with Members of the House, with the Government, or with the various House committees.

"We submit that this Federation representing as it does thirteen affiliated member Organizations which themselves represent practically all farmers in the Province is in a position to fairly express rural opinion.

"For the courtesies of this Hearing we again express our appreciation.

THE BOARD

P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture Provincial Board of Directors 1956:

President—A.M. Johnstone, Burlington, Q.C. Federation; Past President—Lloyd Martin, Cherry Valley; Vice-President—Colin Waugh, Wilton Valley, App. P.C. Federation; Vice-President—George Riley, Malpeque, P.C. Federation.

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(4) None.

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CRITICIZING PROPOSAL

Some members criticized Mr. Dinsdale's resolution.

R. F. L. Hanna (L—Edmonton-Strathcona) asked who would direct industry to decentralize. It should be more a matter of local organizations trying to attract industry, and Fernand Via (L—St-Basile) said the resolution would lead to regimentation of industrial development.

S. R. Balmoc (L—Halifax) said decentralization is chiefly a responsibility of industry. He suggested, however, that the government review its legislation on freight assistance to Maritime shippers. Nova Scotia's greatest problem was the cost of getting its goods to central Canada markets.

A. J. Brooks (PC—Royal) said it is not too late for establishment of defence industries in the Maritime provinces. If that had been done during the Second World War, the plants would have been available for post-war private enterprise to take over.

Alan Fraser (L—St. John's East) said there are limits to federal action in decentralization. But some steps were possible, including maintenance of equitable freight rates, surveys of natural resources and placing of government contracts in under-industrialized areas.

AGRICULTURE

4-H CLUB OBJECTIVES

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It is interesting to note that O'Leary has one calf club in which all the calves are purebreds, one potato club, and they have requested to have a swine club organized in the area. It is further interesting to note that the Holstein breed largely predominates in the 4-H calf clubs in this County. Seven of these clubs are completely Holstein clubs for 1956 with Shorthorn and Guernsey mixed with Holstein in the remainder.

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This assistance may be the formulation of practical and economical rations for livestock and poultry, and livestock nutrition in general; bull inspections; problems on silage, etc.; the blood testing of poultry; the judging of cattle at county fairs; teaching junior farmers how to judge cattle in 4-H club work; the supervision of 4-H clubs; arranging for the purchasing and selling of livestock for farmers; and other assistance as required.

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At the present time there is one A. I. breeders club established at Summerside called the Eastern Prince County Artificial Breeding Club. In the very near future the Provincial Department of Agriculture will establish A. I. breeding clubs in the O'Leary and Kensington areas and at other suitable locations in Queens and Kings counties.

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MALPEQUE SEA-CREST CALF CLUB

The Sea-Crest 4-H Calf Club reorganized for 1956 at the Hamilton Hall on February 27th at 8 p.m. The meeting was opened by reading the 4-H pledge in unison. Following the reading of the minutes, it was moved by Ann Ramsay and seconded by Carol Pickering that the minutes be approved as read. Roll call was answered by 11 members. Three new members joined.

Mr. Keith Ely, Agricultural Representative, told the members of various changes in the competition for going to Amherst and Toronto. Frank Bearsto, Keith Mann and Lloyd Lockerby were nominated for club leaders. Lloyd Lockerby was elected as club leader, Heber Pickering, Keith Mann, Frank and James Bearsto were nominated for adult directors. Frank Bearsto and James

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TABLED IN LEGISLATURE

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Dr. George Dewar yesterday asked the Minister of Education to table answers to the following questions:

(1) Who is the Provincial Co-ordinator under the Act for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons?

(2) Who are the remaining members of the staff under the Act?

(3) How many people were rehabilitated under the Act for the fiscal year ending 31 March, 1956, to date?

(4) What has been the cost to the Provincial Treasury for the fiscal year ending 31 March, 1956, to date, of this program?

Answer:

(1) Brig. W. W. Reid.

(2) None.

(3) Number referred to Co-ordinator for Rehabilitation - 18; Number accepted - 18; Number rejected, - none; Number rehabilitated, - 9; Number still in training, - 6; Number found fit for work - (Employment being sought for them), - 3.

(4) Cost to the Provincial Treasury up to February 29, 1956 was \$4,174.47 This includes the salary of the Co-ordinator, 50 per cent of the cost is recoverable from the

PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE

Dr. George Dewar asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

(1) Who are the members of the Board of Trustees under the Prince of Wales College Act?

(2) Who is Chairman of the Board?

(3) Who are the members of the Committee of Administration for the College?

(4) How many meetings of the Board were held during the year 1955?

(5) Who is the present Director of Adult Education?

(6) If no appointment has been made, is it the intention of the Government to make one?

Answer:

(1) Hon. A. W. Matheson, Hon. E. P. Foley, Hon. Keir Clark, Dr. Frank MacKinnon, Hon. Eugene Cullen, Dr. L. W. Shaw.

(2) Hon. A. W. Matheson.

(3) Dr. Frank MacKinnon - Principal, James B. Brow - Vice-Principal, Gordon L. Bennett - Registrar, W. A. MacPhee - Supervisor of Teacher Training.

(4) None.

(5) None.

(6) A matter of Government policy not yet decided.

AGRICULTURE