

Economic Seminar at Haileybury

The economic problems of Temiskaming were closely examined last Wednesday night at Haileybury. More than 50 representatives of seven local municipalities gathered for a seminar held with the co-operation of the trade and industry division of the Department of Planning and Development.

Councillor R. J. Miller of Cobalt acted as chairman of the meeting. The panel of experts consisted of W. J. Barr, mayor of New Liskeard and president of the North-Eastern Ontario Development Association; W. Marsh of North Bay who is secretary manager of the Development Association; A. H. Lemesurier and J. R. Delaney represented the trade and industry division.

Following a dinner at the Hotel Haileybury, the delegates split into three groups for informal discussion of industry, agriculture and tourist promotion. Each group then presented its findings for general discussion.

W. J. Barr of New Liskeard acted as chairman of the group studying industry. He said that the group had discussed the proposed Ontario Hospital for Retarded Children, and learned that the Tri-Town area still has a good chance of getting the hospital constructed here.

High costs of transportation on the Ontario Northland Railway was a favorite complaint of the group, he reported. "They feel that it makes a profit and doesn't need to make so much. Perhaps it isn't subsidies but smaller profits and reduced rates that are needed."

He said that a lot of beer is hauled into the area, and the group thought that there may be scope for a small brewery. There is also room for a cement factory. Mr. Carr said that there has been a considerable amount of work done towards finding a suitable quarry but that a lot more is needed. He commented that the construction of one hydro dam alone would provide enough work to keep a cement plant busy for some time. A survey by a natural gas company showed a possible market of 750,000 bags a year of cement.

"If anything is to be done, a group must put up some money for diamond drilling to find a larger quarry," he stated.

Other industries considered necessary for the area is a brick and drainage tile factory. Mr. Carr said that experiments at the provincial Experimental Farm at New Liskeard showed that the use of drainage tile on farm lands was well worth while.

In Sudbury a small shoe factory was doing well making safety boots and other items, and it was felt that a similar venture might prosper in Temiskaming.

Mr. Carr said that the reported closing of the Silver and Cobalt smelter at Delora stimulated the need for a similar smelter in the area. He said that Rudolph Christoph, engineer for the Cobalt Mines had told the group that his company, which has purchased the former Quebec Metallurgical Industries smelter near Cobalt had done the necessary research and engineering to show the feasibility of a smelter to handle local ores, with a separate process to manufacture amoniac sulphates for fertilizer. This was later discussed at some length during the discussion on agriculture.

Mr. Carr said that the group also felt that the district is penalized by extremely high automobile and truck insurance rates. It was the group's opinion that the area is being included in the Sudbury and Elliot Lake insurance areas, which have very high accident rates.

Mayor Barr, on the panel, who is an insurance agent, agreed with the group on this point and said that the area would benefit by a regrouping of insurance zones.

Mr. Carr stated that consideration should be given to the formation of a co-operative association of lumbermen in the district, to arrange for the sawing of logs at one central plant. He said that the plant could handle logs on a custom basis, and as at present, 50 per cent of the logs go to waste, it would make it possible to more

efficiently utilize the wastes. It might also encourage smaller lumber operators who sometimes find it difficult to get logs into saw-mills.

During the panel discussion on the industrial section's report, Mr. Christoph said that the total cost of the smelter project would be about \$280,000 of which about 25 per cent still has to be raised.

He estimated that the plant would employ 60 or 65 men on a 24 hour basis, and produce 15 tons of fertilizer each 24 hours.

Discussing methods of financing local projects, Mr. Lemesurier of the trade and industry division said that some towns had been very successful in raising funds locally for industrial purposes. He said that the department could supply several examples of where this had worked well, although there have been some failures.

E. M. MacDonnell of New Liskeard, an agricultural scientist, and operator of a New Liskeard feed mill, acted as chairman of the group studying agriculture.

He said that agriculture in the area is stymied by freight rates. "We point the finger at the ONR, but the ONR is simply a collection agency, and I doubt if it keeps more than 10 per cent of much of the money it collects, and has to hand the rest over to other railroads," he said.

Mr. MacDonnell said that two prime examples of the freight rate problem for local agriculture were western grains and fertilizers.

It costs, he said, \$1360 to ship a ton of western grain to Temiskaming, but only \$3.60 to ship the same grains to Toronto. This \$10 disparity, plus another \$10 a ton in distribution made a difference of \$20 a ton.

"It costs seven dollars more to finish a hog in Temiskaming than it does in Southern Ontario," he said. Mr. MacDonnell added that hog farming is a \$100 million industry in Southern Ontario. He said that beef cattle cannot be finished in Northern Ontario for the same reason, and that poultry and poultry products are at a similar disadvantage.

He claimed that at present there is about a million dollar industry in the area. If the freight rate disparity could be overcome, this would rapidly become a twelve million dollar industry, plus another six million at the processing level.

"It would mean employment for another three or four thousand persons, and an overall increase in population of 10 or 12 thousand," he stated.

Mr. MacDonnell estimated that it would take one or one and a half million dollars a year to overcome the freight disparity.

He added that in Southern Ontario a very small soya bean industry is being subsidised to the extent of \$1,500,000 annually. He said that now the soya bean growers are seeking an extra subsidy as a new Peruvian fish meal will put soya beans out of business.

"We are not asking for anything not given to other parts of our economy," he said.

He said that there is certainly room for a packing plant in the area, but it will be dependent on getting agricultural fertilizers at competitive prices so that production could be increased to keep the plant busy. Mr. MacDonnell said that there is a tremendous market in Temiskaming for fertilizers, perhaps 15,000 tons a year.

He said that local farmers are only growing about one half tons of forage to the acre, while farmers who can afford fertilizers are raising four or five tons of forage to the acre. "We can't expand beef production without increased forage," he said.

He said that it is possible to grow practically every type of potato and vegetable in the area, except citrus and similar fruits.

During the panel discussion Mr. Marsh reported that there have been some tentative enquiries from a company interested in setting up a fertilizer plant in the area.

There was some discussion on various types of filler or base used in manufacturing chemical fertilizers. Mr. Marsh reported that the Guelph Plywood Company at

Mattawa is experimenting with the use of bark for this purpose. It was thought that if a suitable local filler could be found, then a chemical mixing plant could be set up.

Mayor Barr reported on progress being made to encourage potato growing in the area. He said that the project started four years ago, when it was realized that 700 to 900 carloads of potatoes are shipped into the area each year.

Last year some potato growers from New Brunswick were brought in to look over the area.

A syndicate was then formed with Kirkland Lake and Englehart capital to assist two local farmers plant some 65 acres of potatoes. These two farmers, one at Elk Lake and the other at Englehart, had done so well that they were now trying to buy out the syndicate's interest of more than \$7000.

Mr. Barr said that one New Brunswick farmer is now interested and there are problems to be solved involving land clearance and finding the best potato land. He added that surveys today showed land in the Englehart, Tomstown, Charlton and Elk Lake areas to be the best.

He said that one New Brunswick man is talking in terms of spending \$30,000 and planting 200 acres.

Mr. Marsh reported that the North-Eastern Development Association knows that one New Brunswick man is certainly interested, and that a Southern Ontario farmer is on his way north to look over the area.

Mr. Delaney enquired if local grains could be produced for hog and cattle feed.

Mr. MacDonnell said that the present climate seems to be more suitable for forage growing than grain, and that corn raising is a very risky business in the area.

Dave McLaughlin of Haileybury acted as chairman of the tourist trade group.

He reported that the group felt there is a need for more trailer camps in the area, either municipal or privately operated.

Standard signs for businesses selling hunting and fishing licenses is another need, he said.

The group was also in favour of investigating the possibility of converting a local mine into a demonstration plant, open to tours by visitors.

"We must do more than we have," he said. Mr. McLaughlin said that tourist establishments in the area are so widely separated that they are difficult to organise.

"It is difficult to get the visitor who is interested in a certain thing in touch with the right man who has it to offer," he said.

"People drive right through the area because they can't get the information they need," he added.

There is a need for a proper information bureau at the south end of the district, he said. He also suggested that some system of radio communication between the bureau and outlying camps might be a farfetched idea, but could pay off. The group was also concerned about highway 101, and what must be done to attract traffic through the area.

Mr. Marsh said that in his opinion the north as a whole doesn't pay sufficient attention to tourist promotion, although parts of the region in the south and west enjoy lucrative tourist trades.

He suggested that the area should concentrate on trying to improve existing facilities, although he admitted that tourist operators have a difficult time getting finances. "It's a big problem," he added.

Mr. Marsh said that in the Timmins area the Chamber of Commerce had been very fortunate in getting co-operation from the mines and that two mines now offer daily tours.

He said that the Department of Travel and Publicity has operated a portable information center at Barrie for several years, and that this will now be replaced with a permanent information center. He suggested that really strong representation might result in a portable center for a start.

Mayor Barr said that legislation by the government was recently enacted to aid municipalities in setting up trailer camps.

Mr. Delaney commented that in Toronto people don't think of North-Eastern Ontario as a tourist area, but rather as a mining center.

Mr. Lemesurier added that 24 tourists a day would leave as much money in a municipality as an industry with an annual payroll of \$100,000.

Summing up the work of his department, he said that it was largely intended to help people help themselves.

The department subsidises regional development associations on a dollar for dollar basis up to \$10,000. It also subsidises the Ontario Research Foundation where smaller industries lacking their own research facilities are assisted in solving industrial problems.

Seminars on industrial development are held throughout the province, and full time industrial commissioners are invited to an annual school where they can meet industrial leaders and learn what they want.

The new products branch is concerned with finding out what is not manufactured in Canada, and particularly with assisting manufacturers who want to manufac-

ture under license from foreign companies.

The department has men who spend their time surveying industrial techniques in foreign countries, while information on industrial opportunities in Ontario municipalities are circulated throughout the world.

He said that if a municipality has an empty building suitable for an industry, information on it will also be circulated to interested persons around the world.

R. J. Miller of Cobalt thanked the government officials for attending the meeting.

Honor Club Pins Award

The following, having obtained 75% or better average in 1959-60 work, have been awarded pins which may be worn during the time the average is maintained. The Board has kindly consented to maintain the supply of these pins.

Junior Pins: Grade X — Paul Hough, Sally Macdonald, Ron Olson.

Grade XI — Jack Groom, Donna Hennessy, Denny Herbert, Robert Visser.

Senior Pins: Grade XII — John Mikkola.

Grade XIII — Sally Whitby.

C.C.F. RALLIES



DONALD C. MACDONALD, M.L.A.
Ontario CCF leader

at
TEMAGAMI GODDARD'S HALL
Thursday, September 22, at 8:15 p.m.
LATCHFORD TOWN HALL
Friday, September 23, at 8:15 p.m.
NEW LISKEARD COMMUNITY HALL
Monday, September 26, at 8:15 p.m.
HAILEYBURY LEGION HALL
Tuesday, September 27, at 8:15 p.m.
COBALT COMMUNITY HALL
Wednesday, September 28, at 8:15 p.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME — BRING A FRIEND

Mrs. Simone MacDonald is accompanying her husband and will attend teas at Englehart, New Liskeard and Cobalt.

WIN WITH TAYLOR

CAL TAYLOR X

Temiskaming CCF Association