

# Immediate Start Urged On the North Land Highway

**ASSOCIATED BOARDS OF TRADE PASS STRONG RESOLUTION TO HELP OUT UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM. MEMORANDUM FOR PREMIER ON NORTH LAND NEEDS. USEFUL SESSION OF ASSOCIATED BOARDS OF TRADE OF TEMISKAMING.**

The session of the Associated Boards of Trade held at Haileybury last week was a very helpful and encouraging one from the standpoint of the North Land. It would appear that the North Land has united to make its wants and wishes known, and that the Associated Boards of Trade will be used as the Voice of the North. Harmony, the desire for co-operation, and the emphasis of the general needs of the North, rather than the requirements of particular sections, seemed to be the outstanding features of this session of the Associated Boards. Mr. D. Ostrosser, president of the Timmins Board of Trade, was the representative present for Timmins. The following full and comprehensive review of the proceedings as written by Mr. Alec Dewar, Editor of The Broke Hunter of Iroquois Falls, will give a clear idea of the work and discussion at the session:

The Associated Boards of Trade of the District of Temiskaming, held their quarterly meeting in Haileybury, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9 and 10.

The discussion on matters of interest to the district was long, and from many different viewpoints. But the final result was joint action in regard to the essential questions, with the way open for further discussion in regard to matters of more local interest.

The meeting was of considerable value for the work it did, but the greatest value of all was that the member Boards of the Associated Boards of Trade leaned more strongly than ever to making the Associated Boards the mouthpiece of the North.

In the past the difficulty has been that so many voices shouted the particular needs of the North, or rather of one small portion of the North, that the mingled sound confused the ear of the Government. It needed one clear voice to be heard. That voice is the Associated Boards of Trade, which while not yet the only voice, is now heard loud above the rest—to such an extent that the Government want to know their verdict before decision on any question.

Had the meeting of the Associated Boards accomplished nothing more than closer union of the various parts of the north, it would have been an important meeting. But it did more. It took action regarding roads and unemployment which should yield fruit immediately.

### Business in Brief

The business in brief of the meeting follows:

—That the government be asked to increase the grant for the year to three million dollars for the roads of Northern Ontario and that the road from North Bay to Cochrane be started right away to relieve unemployment.

—That the local members of Legislature be instructed to urge Legislation at next session to put the roads of Temiskaming in such position that they would be available for the 40 p.c. grant from the Federal Govern-

ment, 40 p.c. from the Provincial, and the balance of 20 p.c. from the Northern Development Branch.

—That a memorandum be presented to Premier Drury outlining the greatest needs of the north, including schools, judiciary, roads, fire protection, etc.

—Representation to T. & N. O. regarding freight and passenger rate reduction.

Committee to see T. & N. O. Commission right away re lower rates on coal and wood to be effective this season.

—Committee to see re the remission of crown dues on burned timber to be used as fire wood.

Invitation to Associated Boards of Trade of Ontario, the cabinet and members of Legislature of the Province, and to the Trade and Labor Congress of Canada, to visit the North and see the great resources awaiting development.

Resolution of condolence with the family of Sir Sam Hughes.

Committee of three to study the question of insurance rates.

### The Delegates

The delegates were—R. A. McInnis, President; F. K. Ebbitt, secretary.

New Liskeard—J. W. Bolger, W. McKnight, W. E. Armstrong.

Elk Lake—H. E. McKee.

Cobalt—F. H. Todd, H. G. Mathewson, D. McEachran, A. E. Bryson, R. S. Taylor, Taylor Pipe.

Haileybury—M. B. Grover, W. J. McKean, H. Lockington, E. H. Rochester, W. A. Wilson.

Swastika and Kirkland Lake—John McLeilan, John Gillan, L. E. Lillieo, Ed. W. Harsen, R. J. Pearce.

Englehart—W. R. McVittie.

Matheson—H. B. Child.

South Porcupine—Mac Lang M.P.

Timmins—D. Ostrosser.

Cochrane—Arthur Stevens, Geo. A. Smith.

Iroquois Falls—J. O. McKerrrow, Alec Dewar, W. L. Charlebois, Max Crotin, Clark B. Davis, John Vanier, H. G. Schanche, Dr. F. J. Donnelly.

### Welcomed by Mayor

Mayor McAuley welcomed the delegates to Haileybury when the meeting opened. He thought the Associated Boards of Trade was a great factor in the development of the North. Grave questions would come up among them the prevailing unemployment. He was confident all working together could do something to alleviate it.

R. A. McInnis, the president, in thanking Mr. McAuley for his words, emphasized the seriousness of the trade situation. The problem of unemployment should be faced in a very serious frame of mind. It was a grave question but there were possible solutions of local problems.

### The Roads Question

George A. Smith reported on the roads that work was going on well from Timmins to Porcupine Junction and from Cochrane to the Junction, on which the last link was being cut.

The difficulty had been that the department of roads was not authorized

to expend money in unorganized areas so the roads here were not able to get federal aid except by legislation. Without legislation it was useless to speak of macadamizing the roads.

All sections of the north were asking for roads he said. There was not a joint feeling among the Boards of Trade and among the municipalities on this Highway proposition. One of the ministers had told him he would like to see the necessary legislation passed so that the highway from North Bay to Cochrane could be built. He urged the Boards to push for legislation, then 40 p.m. of the cost could come from the Dominion, 40 p.c. from the province and 20 p.c. from the Northern Development Branch. Get together and get Legislation was his advice.

### How to get Things Done

R. A. McInnis said he had given a great deal of study to the methods by which the North can get what it needs. Both in the local Boards and in the Associated Boards, things are left undone because through circumstances the members have not the time to push them through.

To get around this he would make a suggestion. The Associated Boards of Trade was the natural and real organization for expressing the opinion of the North Country,—it is the one big organization for getting things done, and done quickly if properly used. We should make an intensive and extensive study of the needs of the North and then have a big campaign in 1922 and 1923.

There is no place where men take a greater interest in public affairs than in Temiskaming. But the men have not enough time to give to them. He therefore suggested a paid secretary for the Association—not the ordinary secretary but a good man. He was personally prepared to undertake to raise the necessary money to pay one for three years.

In regard to roads he had information from Mr. Stinton of the Roads department that by spring the road from Latchford to Cochrane would be complete. It would be possible by summer and further work done next year.

### Unemployment Serious

Mayor McEachran of Cobalt was glad to hear of progress, but was sorry that there was no word of the road from Cobalt south. Now that there is lots of labor available he thought it a fine opportunity to urge the road to give work to the unemployed.

Last year the Government had squandered thousands in charity to the unemployed and had nothing to show for it. This year if they would build this road they would relieve distress and have the road. Why not utilize the idle man power of the country and at the same time develop the resources of the North.

L. A. Lillieo, Swastika, moved that the local members be instructed to press the Government at next session to pass the legislation needed to get the Federal aid to the Highway.

Mac Lang M.L.A. explained that last session he had tried to get the legislation through but that Premier Drury had told him it was inadvisable at that time to pass it and it had to be dropped.

He said also that better and a larger amount of work had been done in the North through the Northern Development Branch than ever before.

Regarding unemployment he stated

the gold camps were busy and would absorb some labor; silver camps were not active; the worst outlook was in the forests, where the Abitibi was the only large concern operating their woods department this year.

For the road and to mitigate the unemployment, as far as he could see the Northern Development Branch was the only source of funds.

### Appeal to Dominion

Mayor McEachran thought that as the Minister of Labor had sent circulars asking for suggestions, this was a chance to suggest the road to give work to the men here.

Major McCuaig was against applying to the Northern Development Branch. The Government had millions of the Federal grant for roads untouched. We should see the Government and insist that the work be done.

John Vanier, Iroquois Falls, thought the big point was to impress on the Government the necessity of building the road. He did not think the meeting was representative as it did not represent the great army of workers. He suggested a mass meeting in the district, inviting all organizations, to discuss unemployment.

H. G. Mathewson, Cobalt, thought in asking the highway we were going too fast. First the colonization road, then the highway later.

R. S. Taylor, Cobalt, thought this a splendid time to press for the road. The Dominion Government was asking suggestions to relieve unemployment. Let the Boards suggest the road. We could leave the request for legislation till the result of that suggestion was known.

Wesley McKnight, New Liskeard, was afraid Hon. Mr. Biggs was not in sympathy with the National Highway running through Cochrane. He had figured via Sudbury and the Soo, though via Cochrane was the shorter. Also the fact that it would take business from the T. & N. O. was against the scheme in Toronto.

Alec Dewar did not consider the motion of Mr. Lillieo covered the question. That would leave all action till next year, what was needed was immediate action. He proposed the mover alter his motion to include first that it be urged on the Government that the road be gone ahead with immediately with funds from the Northern Development Branch, and then that legislation be asked.

The motion, unchanged, was first carried.

### For Immediate Action

R. A. McInnis said that he believed it possible to get an increase in the appropriation from the Northern Development Fund, on the basis of the present unemployment and the extraordinary development of the North since the grant was first arranged. He thought a definite amount should be asked for, for 1922 and a smaller amount for 1923.

W. R. McVittie, Englehart, then moved that the Government be asked to increase the grant for 1922 to three million dollars from the Northern Development fund, and to start right away on the road from North Bay through this district to relieve unemployment.

The motion carried and the secretary will send a copy to all the Boards of Trade in Northern Ontario.

Mayor McEachran feared this would go the way of all resolutions. He thought there was hope at Ottawa, as the Minister of Labor was asking suggestions regarding unemployment.

He moved that when the unemployment conference was held at Ottawa the Boards be represented by their president.

This was carried. Mr. McInnis said that Mayor McEachran was pessimistic. So was he, but he was pessimistic about Temiskaming. The district was asking more than could be granted. The real needs should be first determined and the requests confined to these.

Mr. Ostrosser moved that in view of the amount of work done this year a letter of appreciation be sent to the Government. This was seconded by Harry Child, Matheson, and carried.

Mr. McInnis informed the meeting that in a recent conversation with Premier Drury, the latter had expressed a desire for a memorandum of the needs of the district.

F. H. Todd moved that this memorandum be prepared by a committee, the president to name the committee. Carried.

The committee was named as follows: Messrs. Ostrosser, McKee, McKnight, McCuaig and Mathewson.

The Committee reported Saturday morning that a memorandum be forwarded to the Premier, putting forth the need of roads, greater aid from the Northern Development Branch, greater attention to schools, the judiciary and fire protection.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Mathewson of Cobalt, seconded by Major McCuaig of Haileybury, and carried unanimously.

### Meet at Falls in October

R. S. Taylor brought up the subject of a paid secretary introduced in the president's address. He was heartily in favor of it. If we got a man with

broad visions the money would be well spent.

He moved, seconded by Dr. Donnelly, that the executive take the necessary steps to raise the money to pay a secretary and report at next meeting. Carried.

Iroquois Falls was decided on as the next place of meeting.

### Invitations

Invitations to visit the North and see for themselves the great resources of the county were extended to:

The teachers of Ontario.  
The Associated Boards of Trade of Ontario.

The Cabinet and members of the Legislature.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

The resolution of the Cobalt Board of Trade regarding the taxation of the T. & N. O. properties, was endorsed. As it is now the children of employees have to be educated while the

employees being in T. & N. O. houses pay no taxes.

A committee of R. S. Taylor, Cobalt chairman; S. L. Bradley, Cochrane; W. R. McVittie, Englehart, was named to go into the question of insurance rates in the north, as compared with for the south, with the aim of having a more equal charge.

### A Splendid Banquet

Friday evening the delegates were entertained to a banquet in the Armory where a very excellent meal was served by the Ladies of the Anglican church. Mayor N. J. McAnlay presided and addresses were delivered by Mac Lang, H. T. Routley of Toronto, John Elliott of Belleville, R. A. McInnis and A. J. Young. The orchestra rendered several fine selections and two songs by Mrs. L. W. Cooper were enthusiastically received. Miss Cora de Foe gave a recitation "The Avenging Angel" in a manner much above the ordinary.



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