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Many Important Questions Before Associated Boards

Gathering of District Boards of Trade at Cochrane on Friday. Quarter Section Lots Advocated for Settlers, Also Bonuses. Mail Service, Immigration, T. & N. O. Extensions, Indigents, Settlers' Claims Against Mattagami Pulp Co. and Other Matters Dealt With. Smoker Given by Cochrane Board of Trade in the Evening.

The Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade held their annual meeting at Cochrane on Friday last, with President Alec Dewar conducting the proceedings. Delegates were present from Kirkland Lake, Haileybury, Matheson, Iroquois Falls, Ansonville, Timmins, Cochrane, Kapuskasing and Hearst. Owing to the season of the year, election matters, business and other circumstances and conditions, some of the boards of trade in the district were not able to send delegates at all, and none of

the boards were fully represented as they should have been.

Friday morning a short session was held at which routine matters were dealt with. In the afternoon the more important questions of the day were taken up.

When the matter of the election of officers was taken up, there was a very pronounced desire to have President Alec Dewar continue in office, together with the very capable secretary. Mr. Dewar, however, explained that he would not take the position again this coming year, giving as his reasons the fact that he could not devote the time he felt was necessary for the work, and also suggesting that an organization that did not change its officers often was sure to retrograde. The gathering, however, disagreed with the President on all points of his argument. A motion was pressed for a secret ballot, every delegate to place on the ballot the name of the man he desired for president. When this ballot was taken it was found that President Dewar was insisted upon for the coming year, the success of the Associated Boards of Trade during the two years he had been at the head of the organization being stressed by Mr. Geo. T. Smith, of Haileybury, Mr. Stevens, of Cochrane, and others. Well-merited praise was also given to the secretary, Mr. F. E. Wood, of Iroquois Falls, to whose talent and interest, the Associated Boards of Trade owe much indeed. Mr. Orser, of Kirkland Lake, an able and faithful worker in the Associated Boards for several years past, was elected by acclamation as vice-president. The other officers are selected by the president.

Kapuskasing Board of Trade submitted a resolution, moved by Messrs. Millar and Lacroix, to the effect that owing to the fact that settlers in Northern Ontario are in the majority

of cases unable to earn a livelihood from a farm lot comprising an eighth section, the Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade request the Government to revert to the sale of lots of a quarter section (150 and 160 acres), and if it is considered that some limit should be put on the amount of pulpwood to be cut from the unpatented lots that an eighth of a section (75 or 80 acres) of timber on all lots hereafter sold by the Government be reserved until at least 20 acres shall have been cleared. The resolution was heartily endorsed by the meeting. "Under the present regulations," said Mr. Geo. T. Smith, "the limit of 75 or 80 acres for a settler's farm means that right at the start the settler gets a bad set-back, as it is not practical in this country to confine a farm to 75 or 80 acres. The former plan of 160 acres (and 150 along the Transcontinental) is the reasonable one." Mr. Smith Ballantyne, of Kapuskasing, pointed out that when the question of reducing the size of farms for settlers had first been considered, he was one of those commissioned to secure data in the matter. In no case had they found a small farm either in Canada or the United States among the most profitable. The big scale farms were the successful ones. The resolution was carried unanimously, with a rider added to the effect that in the case of settlers who had bought 75 or 80 acre farms under the present regulations, the Government provide for their securing adjacent lots or transferring them elsewhere, where they could have the privilege of 150 or 160 acre farms.

The third resolution from Kapuskasing urged the Ontario Government to grant a bonus of \$20.00 per acre for all land cleared and put under cultivation by bona-fide settlers, no settler to receive more than \$100.00 from the source in any one year. The \$20 per acre was to apply until 40 acres had been cleared. While seconding the resolution moved by Mr. Ballantyne, G. A. Macdonald, of Timmins, urged the necessity for every possible assistance to the settlers. Mr. W. O. Langdon, of Timmins, while voting for the resolution, pointed out that it might clash with the Government's existing loan regulations, and also with the scheme under which it was intended to bring settlers out from the British Isles with financial assistance from the British Government.

The resolution from Kapuskasing asking the influence and assistance of the Associated Boards of Trade in securing a direct mail service (through the use of locked bags) between Kapuskasing and Fauquier, Moonbeam and Hearst and with intermediate points between Strickland and Hearst, brought up the whole question of poor mail service in this North Land. President Dewar thought a demand should be made for a general re-arrangement and improvement of the mail service. G. A. Macdonald pointed out that this would necessitate mail clerks on Nos. 1 and 2. Mr. Otto Thorning, secretary of the Cochrane board, pointed out that if mail clerks were to be put on all trains on all lines in Canada the cost would be enormous. Mr. Arthur Stevens, of Cochrane, said that when Sir Henry Thornton was in the North some weeks ago he had thrown out the hint that from the first of the year the time of the Continental Limited between Cochrane and Winnipeg was to be reduced by the cutting out of many stops. An oil electric service was to be put on to provide the local service. This would perhaps take care of the local situation as outlined in the resolution. After considerable discussion the original resolution was passed.

From the New Liskeard board there came a resolution asking the Northern Ontario Associated Boards to urge upon the Ontario Government the necessity for immediate extension of the Nipissing Central Railway Line from Chimimis, Ont. to Rouyn, Que., in view of the recent decision of the Privy Council in the dispute between the two Governments. This resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Orser, of Kirkland Lake, seconded by Mr. W. J. Grummet. There was practically no discussion, all apparently being in favour of the motion as it stood.

Another resolution from New Liskeard was as follows:—"That the Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade undertake the management of an Old Boys' Re-Union for the whole Districts of Temiskaming and Cochrane along the following lines: 1. That the Re-Union continue for a fortnight, in conjunction with the opening of the Trunk Road. 2. That the Government be asked to co-operate in the expenses in connection with the advertising. 3. That a programme be worked out for each town along the T. & N. O. Ry. in such a way that the dates will not conflict. 4. That each town have charge of its own programme for the day. 5. That the Associated Boards of Trade get out a booklet, which will include the programme for each town and country district. 6. That the Northern Ontario Associated Boards seek the co-operation of the Ontario Associated Boards in urging upon the Government the necessity of opening the highway from North Bay to Cochrane by July 1st, 1927." A letter from Mr. McKnight, of Liskeard, accompanied the resolution, and explained in detail the plans for this North Land celebration thus suggested. The members, however, felt they could not do much in the matter, for lack of the necessary

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funds. It was also pointed out that the proposed celebration would more or less conflict with the big Dominion-wide celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Confederation in Canada next summer. There was very hearty approval, however, of the part of the resolution urging the Government to rush the completion of the highway so as to have it ready for through use by July 1st. The resolution was tabled but the President suggested that help might be given in getting publicity for the proposal by sending a copy of the resolution to all the boards of the North, so that any action desired may be taken by the individual boards.

A resolution relative to the Government's recent legislation in regard to indigents was the cause of considerable discussion. The president pointed out that he had been in communication with the Government in the matter, and that the wording of the act showed that Southern Ontario only had been considered. It was the desire to have the act so worded that the procedure in the case of Northern Ontario would be definite and clear. The basis of the legislation was the county organization and there being no county organization in the North the procedure was left indefinite. The Government's intention was to right the difficulties in the dealing with indigents, and he did not think there would be any particular trouble in getting the government to add the necessary clauses to the act so that the situation in the North Land would be adequately covered. G. A. Mac-

donald suggested an amendment to the resolution submitted, the amendment asking the Government to provide definitely and clearly that in the case of indigents coming from unorganized districts the Government should take the place of the municipality. He believed that this was the one fair way and that it would make the whole matter clear and equitable. The Government was the only body receiving any revenue from the unorganized territory. It was only reasonable that the Government should accept the responsibility for indigents from the unorganized territory. President Dewar, however, said that as it was hoped that in the coming session of the Provincial Legislature a clause would be inserted in the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act extending the provisions of this legislation explicitly to Northern Ontario, he thought it better to take up the question again with the Government rather than pass the amendment to the resolution suggested. He thought it would be better to defer until the next meeting of the Associated Boards at least, and this was agreed to.

The resolution moved by Messrs. Smith Ballantyne and J. Lacroix, of Kapuskasing, that the road programme outlined for 1926 be completed in 1927, and also that if possible a bridge be built across the Missinabie, was enthusiastically endorsed by the delegates. The suggestion of Mr. Lacroix that the Northern Development Department be approached on the subject of making all road grading work

Continued on Next Page

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