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DEERING HAY LOADERS, The Loader that Saves time
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Fredericton N. B. and Branches

THE MARITIME COMMISSION HAS FINISHED ITS WORK AT ST. JOHN; IMPORTANT EVIDENCE TAKEN

Saint John, August 4—The case for New Brunswick was completed before the Royal Commission this morning with the evidence of Angus McLean, G. P. Ruickbie, C. M. Matheson and Hon. J. L. O'Brien, and a summing up by J. D. McKenna. In his summing up of the case Mr. McKenna pointed out that since 1886 there had been a definite policy of development of the west by the Federal Government, and as definite a lack of policy of development of the Maritime Provinces, and that these provinces were "fed up" with political promises and wanted action toward getting their share of the partnership entered into at Confederation. He thanked the members of the Commission for the sympathetic hearing they had given the New Brunswick witnesses who appeared before them.

In his evidence Mr. McLean advocated complete reciprocity between the United States and Canada in wood and wood products, no duty on any article made from wood by either country.

Before adjourning the sitting the chairman of the Commission, Sir Andrew Rae Duncan, expressed their pleasure at meeting the several witnesses who had given evidence.

The next sitting of the Commission will be at Charlottetown, opening on Friday.

Mr. Angus McLean of Bathurst was the first witness. In answer to Sir Andrew he said that his firm at present employed 1,200 men. In 1920 they had employed 2,500 men. The decline in number employed was caused by the decline in the lumber industry, caused by the changing over from long lumber to pulp and paper, which was not yet completed.

The peak of employment was during the war and about two years after. The demand during the war was for war purposes in France and after the war for reconstruction.

At the present time there was no market in England for New Brunswick lumber except at unprofitable prices, caused partly by competition from Northern Europe.

Equal Freight Rates.

Mr. McLean said he recommended the same freight rate for New Brunswick newsprint and woodpulp as from Quebec because they were entitled to the same rate where there was only one line of railway as where there was competition from various lines of railways. The C. N. R. had been asked by the company to put this principle in action and refused because they claimed the United States railways would not share in it. They also felt they were entitled to have this principle be applied because of the fact that this was a basic industry of the province and as such should receive consideration.

Mr. McLean contended that until they were able to ship from Saint John the year round they were entitled to the rates asked for, as they would not ship to Montreal if possible to get ships at Halifax or Saint John.

Panama Traffic.

Mr. Ruickbie said that in 1920, of the total volume of lumber exported from Canada to the United States the passing through the Panama Canal was equal to 11 per cent. In the year 1924 this had increased to 77 per cent.

In answer to Sir Andrew, Mr. McLean said that today the selling price of lumber in the Boston market was about 40 per cent. higher than it was in 1914, while the freight rates had increased about 65 per cent.

The chairman asked for pre-war figures on cost of operation and those today and Mr. McLean said this would be furnished.

The chairman said the natural resources were entitled to entry to other markets at a rate which would allow them to compete, provided such could reasonably be given. The railways said that the appeal that reductions in rates were necessary to keep these industries going was an old story.

Production Costs More.

Mr. McLean said they were producing the lumber as cheaply today as they did years ago, so far as labor costs were concerned. The increase in cost was in the fact that poorer lumber was being cut and that it was further from the mill, making the cost of getting the timber to the mill greater.

Sir Andrew asked if it would be possible to get a closer view of the accounting system of the company.

Mr. McLean said he would be glad to give the information. Sir Andrew suggested a private conference with the railway representative present.

Urges Reciprocity.

Mr. McLean said he would like to have the Government have the duty on high grade papers removed and he felt it would be in the interest of Canada to have reciprocity with the

United States in wood products of all kinds, no duty on anything made of wood by either country.

They were asking specifically now that all grades of paper be placed in the same category as newsprint.

Stumpage Rate.

Hon. J. L. O'Brien, speaking on conditions as they exist on the Miramichi, and C. M. Matheson, for Frasers, Ltd., concurred in the case which had been presented by Messrs. McLean and Ruickbie.

Mr. Matheson said he could not concur in, nor did he disagree with the request for a trade agreement between Canada and the United States, covering all classes of paper, as he did not have the authority of his firm to do so.

Mr. O'Brien gave evidence of the handicap under which the provincial lumbermen were operating owing to Quebec competition. He said the scale in Quebec, to gether with a lower rate of stumpage, was slowly forcing the New Brunswick operators out of business. As an illustration of how this worked out he said that on 45,000 feet of lumber cut in New Brunswick the Government collected \$112.50 in stumpage. On the same logs the Quebec operator paid only \$70 in stumpage and with an added \$1 a thousand for freight made a handicap in New Brunswick of \$77 a thousand.

At the conclusion of Mr. O'Brien's testimony the members of the Commission held a short private conference with Angus McLean on the financial matters of the Bathurst Lumber Co., at which I. C. Rand, regional counsel for the C. N. R., was present.

N. B. Case Summed Up.

After this conference J. D. McKenna briefly summed up the request of the Province of New Brunswick.

Mr. McKenna said one of the things the province wished to impress on the Commission was the absolute need for a policy of the development of the Maritime Provinces by the Federal Government. Since 1886 the history of the Dominion showed that the development policy of the Federal Government had been entirely directed to the west, and these provinces had been totally neglected. He felt that it was one of the functions of the Commission to impress on the government that the people of these provinces were "fed up" on promises and suggestions of what might be done, and were of the opinion that if Confederation could not do any more for them than it had done already, it did not amount to much.

The government could not any longer hide behind the excuse that the rest of the Dominion were not favorable to concessions to these provinces as they were able to prove that every province was now favorable to wrongs of these provinces being righted.

The Upper Canadian delegates to the Charlottetown conference had gone back and reported that these provinces were "a land flowing with milk and honey" and the most prosperous part of Canada.

If these same men came back today they would see a different picture, and would be able to realize how we had suffered. He expressed the hope that from the investigation conducted by the Commission these provinces would get what they wanted and if they did not the words of Mayor Murphy, at Ottawa, that if the government of the Dominion could not solve our problems no person could object if we asked to solve them ourselves.

Sir Andrew said he thought this was better said at Ottawa than before the

FISHERY LAWS ARE BEING VIOLATED

(St. John Telegraph-Journal)

The taking of grise and undersized salmon in New Brunswick rivers has become so common a practice in defiance of the law that there is now very grave danger that the province will lose its valuable coastal salmon fishing according to officials. Recently fishermen along the Saint John River were arrested for taking the small fish and there are reports that on no less than four of the salmon rivers of the province the small fish are being caught and shipped to market. It is estimated by those who are familiar with the facts of the case that several thousand of the small salmon have been sold in New Brunswick this season.

By law, salmon nets are required to have a mesh large enough to allow the small fish to escape but fly fishermen this season have caught many salmon that were net marked and there is evidence that a smaller mesh is being used.

Warden's Statement.

It is stated that in one instance the game warden in a certain district was asked why the law was not better enforced and a determined effort made to conserve the salmon fisheries, and he replied that when he had attempted to deal with offenders he had been prevented by persons with "influence."

It is pointed out that the illegal practice of taking small fish is a criminal way of "killing the goose that lays the golden egg." It is pointed out that for a small temporary profit the man who nets undersized salmon is robbing himself of the fish he might have in future years and is robbing also the men who depend upon the salmon fisheries at the mouth of the salmon rivers for their livelihood.

(While there may be some fishermen on the Saint John River who are none too keen in observing the law, they cannot be accused of catching undersized because they use nets of regulation size mesh. The fishermen on the Miramichi, however seem to be past masters at illegal fishing. The undersized fish which they drive into pounds and catch are eagerly bought up and peddled throughout central New Brunswick. Hundreds of fish have been sold this season which could not possibly be held by a net with the regulation mesh of five inches.)

Commission, and Mr. McKenna said in that case it might be considered unsaid.

In closing Mr. McKenna expressed his thanks to Sir Andrew and the members of the Commission for the kind and sympathetic hearing given the New Brunswick witnesses.

LEGION WILL ORGANIZE THE WHOLE PROVINCE

The New Brunswick Council of the Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League, met Wednesday at the quarters of the Fredericton Branch for the purpose of furthering the transfer from the Great War Veterans' Association and the organization of branches of the Legion among returned soldiers in the Province. The meeting was called by President C. R. Hawkins of Fredericton and was well attended.

Those Present.

Present were President Hawkins, Rev. Father Lockary, Woodstock; P. E. McLaughlin, St. Stephen; E. J. Morris, Riverglade; L. T. Tingley, Moncton; W. C. Whipple, McAdam; A. L. Barry, Newcastle; J. S. Scott, Fredericton; H. Preisman.

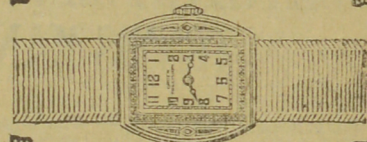
The formal transfer of the funds and documents of the New Brunswick Command, G. W. V. A., was made.

Organization.

The question of organization in the province was discussed thoroughly and it is hoped to have a branch of the Canadian Legion in every large centre of New Brunswick within a short time. Branches already in organization presented satisfactory reports. The expectation is that the Saint John Branch which dissented from the transfer when it was voted upon in June will join the Legion next month.

Poppy Day will be observed as usual on Armistice Day. The emblems to be sold all will be supplied from the Vet Craft Shop in Saint John for the first time.

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