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Fredericton Board of Trade Will Continue to Carry on

Mr. R. L. Phillips Again Accepts Office as President—Says That Board Functioned Last Year Under Difficulties — Mayor Clark Holds Out No Hope of a Civic Grant This Year.

At the annual meeting of the Fredericton Board of Trade, last evening, which followed an enjoyable luncheon served at the Palms, it was decided that it would be inadvisable to approach the City Council for a grant, but to carry on with what revenue can be derived from membership fees. President Phillips in the course of his annual address told of the difficulties which had beset the board during the past year and suggested that it might not be advisable to continue to function under such discouraging conditions.

Several members referred to the refusal of the City Council to make a grant during the years 1926 and 1927, counselled against another application to that body for financial assistance.

His Worship Mayor Clark said he appreciated the work of the Board of Trade and was proud to be a member of it, but he did not think that it should be maintained by a grant from the civic treasury. In other words he thought it should be supported by the commercial interests of the city.

The President's Address.

The address of the retiring president Mr. R. L. Phillips was as follows:

To the Members of the Fredericton Board of Trade:

Gentlemen:—

During the past year, your executive has functioned faithfully having been regularly called together on eight occasions on which and at other times they have considered the various problems facing the Board and dealt with them to the best of their ability.

In February our annual dinner was held at the Queen Hotel, the feature of the evening being a very eloquent and inspirational address which was delivered by Mr. F. MacLure Sclanders of St. John and which was very highly appreciated by all who had the privilege of hearing it.

Your Board was represented at the annual meeting of the Maritime Chamber of Commerce held in St. John in December and at that conference Mr. J. A. Reid, was appointed a member of the Maritime executive for the ensuing year.

No Civic Grant.

The Board was forced to operate during 1927 without a grant of a dollar from the city, being the first time in a period of about fifteen years in which a very material civic grant had not been available to the Board to carry on the work which has been a benefit to all classes of our citizens.

Our Transportation Committee arranged for a number of extra passenger trains during Christmas week to bring shoppers to our city. Our treasury being empty we had no money to advertise this extra train service in our local press and I am informed by the superintendent of one of the roads in question that because of this lack of advertising or other reasons the extra trains were not patronized sufficiently to pay for the cost of running same. Consequently, this lack of funds has destroyed to a great extent the value of the work done by our Board and has probably placed succeeding Transportation Committees in a position where it will be more difficult for them to secure this extra Christmas service for other years.

Serious Problem.

The problems facing the Board, at this time, are so serious that I am going, very briefly, to describe our situation at the first of the year and will go into the history of the past year with considerable detail in order that those members who have not been conversant with the work of the executive may be in a position, at a little later hour, to help us map out the future course of the Board.

At the beginning of the year, we had office privileges in the former Board rooms for which we were paying one-third of the total rent, the remaining two-thirds being paid by other parties.

During 1926, Mr. H. A. Watson served the Board as Secretary very acceptably without remuneration. Mr. Watson found the burden of this work exceedingly heavy and realized that, in justice to his own business, he could not carry on another year. Accordingly, at our annual meeting his resignation was presented and regretfully accepted.

After canvassing the situation thoroughly, our executive realized that it was impossible to secure a Secretary who could afford to spare the time to carry on the work of your Board, with-

out remuneration, and our former Secretary, Mr. R. H. Simonds, was engaged on a part time basis at a salary of \$15 per month.

What Was Done.

On consideration it was noted that the obligations for rent and Secretary's salary would more than offset our annual income from membership fees and accordingly, consideration was given to the subject of supplementing our income and three possible sources were noted and followed up as follows:—

First—It was decided to put on a drive for new members, which drive was afterwards made and resulted in our securing about twenty-five additional members.

Second—It was decided to apply to the City Council for a more moderate grant than previous Boards had received. This application was made and refused.

Third—During 1926, the civic Tourist grant had been paid to a tourist committee newly organized and not connected with our Board. As the first tourist committee to operate in Canada was organized as a committee of the Fredericton Board of Trade and as that committee had functioned very acceptably for many years and had been the only tourist association which had functioned in Fredericton up till 1926, the Board felt that it might be possible to take up this work again, particularly in view of the fact that the committee of 1926 authorized a gentleman from outside to publish the Fredericton Tourist literature for that year.

This gentleman came here, made the advertising contracts, had his literature published at the McMurray Press, collected his advertising bills, but neglected the little formality of paying the McMurray Press for their labor which neglect has not been remedied by the new tourist committee.

Tourist Work.

Under these conditions, it was thought that the newly created Tourist Association might be willing to turn over the work to the Board's Tourist Committee and a committee of one was appointed to interview Mayor Clark, he being a member of the Tourist committee created in 1926. Your President, also made, on two separate occasions definite requests to the chairman of the newly created committee for a joint meeting of his committee with that of your Board. These requests were refused and the committee's interview with Mayor Clark did not produce any results. Consequently, our hope of securing increased revenue as a result of again assuming the responsibility of the tourist work was defeated.

Before passing, however, it might be well to say that the material secured for the Fredericton tourist literature of 1927 was collected, arranged and published by a firm from another city and was paid for by subscriptions solicited largely, if not altogether, from members of this Board.

Our income for 1927 now being definitely fixed at \$5 per member, it was realized that we would not have sufficient funds to maintain an office and even a part time Secretary and have a dollar left for incidentals at all.

Proposal Accepted.

Mr. Holyoke from whom we leased our share of the office building on

Queen Street was asked to make us a proposition cancelling the agreement in lieu of carrying on. Mr. Holyoke made a proposition which was accepted by the Board and we surrendered our right to hold meetings in that building. Since this time, the Fredericton City Club has very graciously allowed up to use their lounge room or office for any meetings which we wish to hold and it will be in order, a little later, for us to extend our thanks to this Club for their courtesies.

After settling with Mr. Holyoke for a cash consideration, we found that there was a claim for rent in 1926 which had not been arranged and wishing to have all our obligations discharged in a proper manner we paid this bill amounting to \$83.33.

These payments to Mr. Holyoke and the rental of 1926 with other incidentals exceeded our total income for 1927 and our Secretary has not received any remuneration for the last five months.

Taking this into consideration the Board closes the year with a deficit slightly under \$100. If we decide to carry on for 1928, this deficit will have to be the first charge on our income and if we do not carry on it will have to be arranged by personal subscription.

Realizing our unsettled conditions, Mr. Simonds has placed his resignation in my hands and it will be necessary for us to take action on it at this meeting.

Some Achievements.

As I have only been connected with this Board for a very few years I can, without egotism, speak of the achievements of the Fredericton Board of Trade.

For very many years, it cost Fredericton more money to import all goods from the West than it cost the merchants of some southern towns, carried farther, to their doors. This was because of the system of arbitraries imposed by the railroads. This was not only a heavy tax on our citizens but it meant a severe handicap to our merchants who paid this extra freight and then had to go out and sell it in competition with jobbers of more favored centres. The Transportation Committee of the Board carried on a campaign, for a number of years, for the abolition of these iniquitous freight arbitraries imposed on Fredericton and were finally successful in having them removed.

This action of the Fredericton Board of Trade has saved every one of our citizens a material amount every time that they have bought a barrel of flour or other Western products during the last twenty or twenty-five years. It has also made it possible for our jobbing houses in all lines to compete on an even basis with jobbing houses in other centres. This saving, in freight alone, made possible by your Boards of many years ago will certainly cover an amount spread over these nearby counties of many tens of thousands of dollars.

Some Proposals.

As already pointed out, Fredericton

organized the first Tourist Committee to function in Canada, possibly in America, and the work of the Fredericton Board carried on through succeeding Tourist Committees has been of great value not only to Fredericton but to many other points which followed in our footsteps and who have worked with us to swell the total of the tourist travel to our respective districts and Canada as a whole.

Tonight it is for you to consider what our future is to be. As I see it, unless a civic grant is available, we must follow one of the following four plans:—

First—From our membership fees of 1928, we can, presuming on the courtesy of the Fredericton City Club, carry on with a part time Secretary and pay up the balance of our indebtedness to date.

Second—We can arrange our indebtedness to Mr. Simonds by private subscription and go out of business.

Third—We can increase our membership fee but that would restrict membership.

Fourth—We can probably raise a few hundred dollars by private subscription but I believe that the Board is carrying on a work of general value to the community and that the cost should, be evenly distributed among those who benefit rather than be borne in its entirety by a few. It is only through a civic grant that the most equitable disposition of cost can be secured both as regards the benefit secured from the work of the Board for the firm doing a large or departmental business must receive a much larger proportionate benefit than the firm doing a comparatively small business.

Personally, I may say that I have devoted considerable time to the work of the Board during the past year and that all matters coming before me have been given my immediate attention and my best thought. My associations with the executive have been pleasant and I wish to thank you all for the hearty co-operation extended during this the most trying year in the history of the Fredericton Board of Trade.

As regards our future, my personal idea is that it might be as well to suspend operations for a time as to carry on under the handicaps which we have suffered the past year. If, however, this course should not be deemed best by this meeting I will be glad to accord my successor in office the same hearty and loyal support with which I have been favored by so many of you the past year.

Following the reading of his address the president invited an expression of opinion from the members.

Some Discussion.

Ex-Mayor John A. Reid said that personally he was in favor of the Board carrying on as best it could. Good work had been done in the past but the burden had fallen on the shoulders of a few. He thought a grant from the City Council would provide a solution for the problems. If no grant was forthcoming a subscription of \$5 from seventy or eighty members might enable the board to carry on.

Mr. George W. Hodge wanted to see the Board continue, but personally was not in favor of going to the City Council for a grant, as he believed it would be useless to do so. He thought the first proposition of the president should be accepted.

Hon. C. D. Richards was inclined to agree with the views of Mr. Hodge. He thought the council should make a substantial grant, but if it did not do so an effort should be made to carry on without it. Personally he could see no reason why the City Council should not make a grant to assist the Board.

Mr. Hodge moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Richards, that the board endeavor to carry on with what funds could be collected from its membership.

The Mayor's Views.

Mayor Clark said he did not think the City Council should make a grant in order that a Board of Trade should function. Mr. Sclanders in his address last year had made no such suggestion and it was not usual for Boards in other places to be kept up by a civic grant. He thought the Board should be sustained by its own membership. Personally he had faith in the Board of Trade and was proud to be a member of it. He would support the motion of Mr. Hodge that the Board of Trade be continued and sustained by its own membership.

Mr. J. T. Jennings wanted the Board to continue, but not under such distressing circumstances such as had prevailed last year. He spoke of the good work accomplished by the late Mr. J. W. McCready on behalf of the Board without reward. It was the Fredericton Board of Trade which got out the first tourist booklet, and it had helped to increase the revenue of the province from hunting licenses. In order to get out the booklet men like Mr. Edgecombe, the late Mr. Neill and the late Mr. Chestnut had pledged their personal credit. If it was decided to continue the Board it should have the support of all good citizens.

On the vote being taken the motion to continue the Board of Trade was put and carried.

The New Officers.

The election of officers then took place and resulted as follows:

President—R. L. Phillips.
Vice-President—H. A. Smith.
Treasurer—W. T. Gerald.
Auditor—F. G. Burr.

Executive—F. G. Burr, C. F. Bailey, H. S. Campbell, H. B. Colwell, Joseph Dolphin, F. L. Cooper, F. B. Edgecombe, R. B. Hanson, M. P. J. T. Jennings, Alex. Murray, J. D. Palmer, John Neill, R. FitzRandolph, Hon. C. D. Richards, H. A. Watson, R. B. Vandine, Dr. C. C. Jones, J. A. Reid, G. W. Hodge and C. K. Palmer.

It was decided to leave the appointment of a secretary in the hands of the new executive.

The report of the treasurer was read by Mr. Simonds and adopted.

It was decided to have the new executive meet at the City Club next meeting for organization purposes.

BUNK

This talk of companionate marriage is just like a flash in the pan; It takes our attention a moment And fades just as quickly again.

After thousands of ages of progress Along comes some bimbo who sees How much he resembles his sires Who Darwin said "lived in the trees."

R. K. Williams of Toronto is in the city today on business.

CITY OF FREDERICTON—NOTICE OF SALE OF LANDS

NOTICE is hereby given, that pursuant to the provisions of the City of Fredericton Assessment Act, 1926, there will, for the purpose of satisfying taxes assessed and levied in the said City of Fredericton, for the years mentioned hereunder, against the parties hereinafter named, unless the several sums due, together with the costs of this notice are sooner paid, be sold at Public Auction in front of the City Hall, in the City of Fredericton, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the 21st day of January A. D. 1928, all the right, title and interest of the parties hereinafter named in and to the lands and premises in the said City of Fredericton, hereunder mentioned and set opposite their respective names.

Property to be Sold	Name of Person Assessed	Arrears for Years	Total Due
Lot of land and building, eastern side of Carleton Street, leased from His Majesty the King in right of Dominion of Canada by said Company.	Arctic Rink Company Limited.	1925-1926-1927 Interest	\$ 416.57 37.63
Lot eastside of Smythe Street, near line of Valley Railway, described in deed from H. J. Patterson to said August Lofstrum dated February 20th, 1918.	August Lofstrum	1925-1926-1927 Interest	\$ 151.22 11.16
1.—Lot at Corner of York and King Street, 43 feet 2 inches on York, and 92 feet on King. 2.—Lot on south side of George Street, deed from Isabella Staples, October 2nd, 1916, to Alonzo Staples. 3.—Lot on Northumberland Street west side, south of Aberdeen Street, 100 feet, 45 ft. front.	Alonzo Staples	1925-1926-1927 Interest Water Rates	\$2159.13 126.32 169.75

Dated the 17th day of November, A. D. 1927.

FRED I. HAVILAND,
City Treasurer of the City of Fredericton.