

ANNUAL SESSION OF SUNBURY COUNTY L. O. L.

FREDERICTON, J.C.T., Oct. 13—The annual meeting of Sunbury County L.O.L. was held here yesterday afternoon and evening, County Master H. H. Stuart in the chair, and most of the other officers also present.

Following committees were appointed:

Credential—Geo. H. Bagley.
Audit—Marvin Boone and D. A. Duplisa.

Suspensions and Expulsions—H. R. Kingston, John H. Phillips and B. G. Duplisa.

Returns—R. L. Jones, C. W. Brown and Alfred F. Boone.

Resolutions—C. Percy Harvey, Parker Phillips and R. K. Nason.

County Master's Address

The County Master's address noted slow but steady progress in the order in the county and gratifying co-operation among its members, helped substantially by the Grand Master, Field Secretary and others of the Grand Lodge. Nine county meetings had been held during the year and several public gatherings, and the Royal Scarlet Chapter had been reorganized.

The world over, the County Master said, a regrettable wave of apathy was noticeable. It had resulted in the downfall of the dominant churches in many states of independence in several countries, and of internal freedom in many more. The same tendency to breaking up was present in Canada as elsewhere. In Ontario this month not more than 70 per cent of the possible vote was cast, and only a scant half of that for the winners. So in other elections, including that of Canada in 1935. Governments elected by majority votes even are largely the order of the day. Few, if any, free countries today have governments that received half the registered vote. Yet the stay-at-homes are not slow with criticism. And many, discouraged by repeated betrayals, despair of ever seeing things set right. Others grow impatient, and, as in Alberta, would take an unconstitutional short cut to what they deserve.

The chief obstacle to real progress is ignorance. Too few study national problems. Too few even read the official organs of their own Church Party or Society, much less acquaint themselves with the arguments and beliefs of their opponents! Consequently they let others think for them—at too high a price. If the Orange Order would keep abreast of the times it must avoid the pitfalls that have proved so disastrous to so many other groups.

There was too much waste of effort, the County Master continued, in duplication of Churches, Societies and political parties differing among themselves to a very small, if any, degree. There were also too many commercial sideshows to take the money that needed to be spent for something better, not to mention the gambling devices all too prevalent.

The matter of unemployment, the source of so much evil, not only economic but social as well, must be solved by more co-operative methods. If all of proper age were gainfully employed, the marriage of the clean and fit need not be delayed, and illegitimacy need not be so pressing a problem. In the meantime the orphans must be loyally cared for by private effort.

County Secretary G. H. Bagley reported on the year's activities of the county. All Lodges had educational committees.

County Financial L. W. Slipp and Treasurer R. K. Nason reported on finance, showing a surplus.

Communication from management of the N. B. Protestant Orphanage was formerly received and referred to Incoming Executive.

A message of sympathy was ordered sent James H. Gereau, who was bereaved of his wife since last monthly meeting.

During recess supper was served by the local lodge.

Evening Session

County Lodge resumed at 7 p. m.

Reports of Committees

The Credential Committee reported delegates present from following Primary Lodge: No. 22, Rusagons; No. 30, Tracy; No. 35, Lincoln; No. 36, Patterson Settlement; No. 114, Geary; and No. 145, Fredericton Junction. There were nine present from No. 84, Mauderville, but reports were in from all seven Lodges of the county. Among visitors also present was Field Secretary George McQueen of No. 141, Fairville.

The Audit Committee checked the accounts correct.

No expulsions were reported and the report in returns showed the county membership in good standing.

Resolutions

Among a number of resolutions adopted were the following:

Thanks to the entertaining lodge.

That the Grand Lodge be asked to take up the matter of the enforcement of the act relating to illegitimate children (in regard to the upkeep of the child by the father) with the Board of Directors of the N. B. Protestant Orphanage with a view of easing the burden of the Home in this respect.

That all members of Sunbury County Lodge assist the Orphanage in a special effort to raise funds for 1937-1938.

That every member of the order be urged to take the greatest possible interest in all matters of public importance, exercising his influence and franchise in every election with a view not merely to party affiliations but solely for the public good.

Several bills, for all of which funds were available, were passed and much routine business transacted.

Election of Officers

With Field Secretary McQueen in

HOW THE CONSUMER MAY HELP TO INCREASE OUR APPLE CROP PRODUCTION IN N. B.

W. W. Hubbard, President of N. B. Fruit Growers Association, Says Room For Expansion To Ten Times Present Condition

New Brunswick has room to increase its present apple production to at ten times its present volume and the consumer may help this, was what W. W. Hubbard, President of the New Brunswick Fruit Growers' Association told the Maritime Board of Trade at Moncton this week.

Speaking on the subject Mr. Hubbard said:

As increased production from the soil of New Brunswick is urgently needed to assist in the establishment of the economic independence of the Province our Honorary Secretary has asked me to say a few words under the above very broad caption to draw to the attention of this Board a condition which urgently needs our best consideration.

While my mission, during the last few weeks, as a representative of the New Brunswick Fruit Growers' As-

sociation, has been to enlist the co-operation of all consumers of apples and other native fruits in the development of a fruit growing industry in the province, an industry that has great potentialities, the subject for your consideration is really much broader in its scope than merely fruit production.

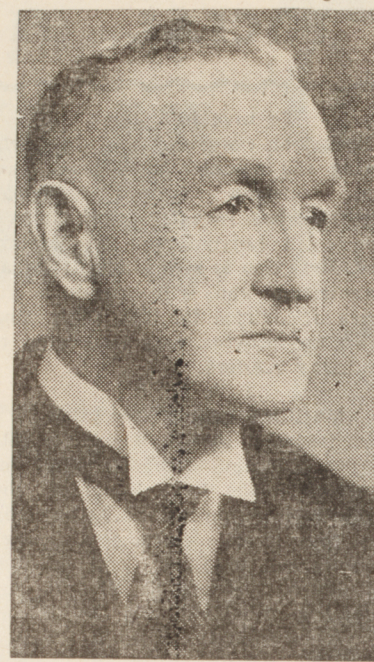
Can Raise More

With a total land area of 17,734,400 acres in the province the Topographical Survey of Canada estimates that there are 10,718,000 acres of good agricultural land, certainly not an excessive estimate, and of this area scarcely a million acres are producing crops, showing room for expansion to at least ten times the present production. A close observer of the crop growing capacity of the average New Brunswick farm as presently conducted, can come to no other conclusion that, except in isolated instances, each farm might be producing four times the amount of food-stuffs that it does now. Therefore we have the possibility, under favorable economic conditions, of harvesting forty times our present annual output of farm products.

In the face of these possibilities we are importing annually over \$10,000,000 worth of foodstuffs for man and beast. Before the days of railway transportation, and before the heresy of the supposed economy of mass production and trade monopolies was accepted, New Brunswick was practically self supporting and incidentally the per capita wealth of its people was nearly four times larger than now.

From the earliest days lumbering has always overshadowed agriculture in this province and probably nine tenths of our farm occupants have depended largely upon the revenue obtained from their forest products and work in the woods rather than from the products of the soil. In fact at the present time I was struck by the statement in a letter recently written, which was to the effect "that our farmers were more prosperous in 1936, than in recent years, because of the increased price of pulp wood." I do not think that this statement was intended to be ironical, but simply the naked truth.

With the disappearance of long lumber as a farm product if it may so be termed and the cutting of pulp far in excess of its natural growth, the occupant of New Brunswick farms must look more and more to revenue from the soil and supply some of the \$10,000,000 worth of foodstuffs annually imported as well as enter more largely on the export trade of those



W. W. HUBBARD
President N. B. Fruit Growers Association spoke on Apple Production

products for which he is specially equipped to grow. To enable this transition, and to promote the extension of agricultural production is where the Consumer may help. Provincial Governments past and present have been and are moving probably as far and as fast as public opinion warrants and here is where every citizen may exert some influence.

Governments Try Hard

I believe that we have had and have particularly at the present time Provincial Ministers of Agriculture and Executive Governments that have tried to lead, but they have been retarded by an apathy even among occupants of farm lands that has prevented them from diverting to agricultural promotion, revenues now devoted to other forms of public service. In this connection I cannot too highly commend the action of the Provincial Minister of Agriculture in opening up and encouraging the marketing of our potatoes in South America, which has resulted already this season in the sale of seed potatoes alone to the gross value of over a million dollars and distributing among our potato growers more than half that amount. This was done in spite of the fact that the bureau of the Department of

Trade and Commerce declared that such market existed and not only refused to assist but actually tried to divert buyers from New Brunswick to undermine the work the New Brunswick Government was trying to do.

Not only have the potato growers benefited from this trade development; for over three million feet of lumber is being used in constructing crates and many hundred workers employed in their construction, railways are running trains night and day and port workers are getting a share of the proceeds.

The same good work can be done for other products especially in supplying the home market, but the consumer must join his voice to that of

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the producer and use his influence if we are to have a demand in the Province which will stimulate production.

Last year this province imported some 650 carloads of fruit and vegetables of which at least 300 carloads were of potatoes that could have been grown at home. Time and your patience will not permit reference to grains, flour, meats, dairy and poultry products imports of which take millions of dollars out of the province, which with the possible exception of grain and flour could all be advantageously produced here, but will content myself with a few words regarding the possibilities of apple growing and some of the difficulties we are encountering in the marketing of that crop.

A careful survey has shown that of nine million acres in the southern half of the province approximately 500,000 acres are suitable for orchard sites. Throughout this area, here and there, we are now producing commercially in a small way certain varieties that are not excelled on the American continent in the qualities of desirable flavour and colour. Also in the northern part of the province there are many isolated small orchards of promise and throughout that area, with the newly devised methods of grafting hardy stocks on hardy roots to build a thoroughly hardy tree frame work, on which can be grafted desirable varieties, we believe it is there possible to have profitable commercial orchards. In addition to this composite grafting work the Experimental Stations at Fredericton and Ottawa are cross breeding varieties in an effort to get a highly coloured apple with desirable quality that will keep through the winter and they are meeting with encouraging success. We are now testing in orchards throughout the province several of these new cross breeds that give excellent promise.

The extension of orchards will however only come with a demonstration of profitably marketing our apples and the removal of some of the hindrances now existent.

Appeal to Consumers

The first of these hindrances is the comparative absence of consumer demand and a trade habit following along the line of least resistance. We are therefore asking our New Brunswick consumers to acquaint themselves with the names of the varieties we grow and the season when they can be best utilized and to ask their dealers for them.

Our next hindrance, has been the high cost of distribution in this province, high compared to similar costs in other provinces. Until within the last few days, New Brunswick growers could obtain no reduction in freight rates although for the past several seasons our competitors in Nova Scotia and Ontario have had substantially reduced rates. Never until this year have we had any export rail rates, now we can ship to Saint John on the same basis as Nova Scotia shippers can to Halifax, but prior to December 1st we cannot get to overseas markets with less than shipload quantities because the export rates to Halifax and Montreal place us at a hopeless disadvantage on a competitive market. Our rates within the Province are also much higher than those prevailing in Ontario.

The cost of wholesaling fruit under the system now prevailing also seems to be considerably more than in other provinces. Thus while we are receiving prices very close to and sometimes below cost of production, our consumers are paying more than consumers elsewhere. We ask the co-operation of Boards of Trade and all interested to help us in this matter of distribution.

Freight Rates

Since we first began to put our apples on the market in a commercial way, properly graded and packed, our principal demand has been from the cities and small towns of the Province of Quebec. When this trade was first opened up we had a reasonable freight rate. Later on this was almost doubled and from this the Maritime Freight Rate Act gave us 20% off for part of the journey. Last week an arrangement was concluded whereby with an increased carload minimum we got a slight reduction. I notice that the Railway by the increased minimum will have a higher earning per car than it obtained with a higher rate and smaller minimum so both shipper and carrier should benefit when it is possible for the former to sell the increased carload to all his customers.

The fifth class rate which I believe is applied to dry goods, boots and shoes, etc., seems rather unfair for a primary product like apples where the freight rate sometimes comes to more than half the value of the shipment.

I wish to express the appreciation

of our Association for the efforts made by and the accomplishments of the Transportation Commission and to Rand Matheson and John D. Palmer personally for the new freight arrangements and general reductions in Express rates within the Province which enable growers to serve personal friends and sometimes small dealers that could not be reached under previous rates, furnishing new business to the transportation companies and enabling us to introduce our products where they are comparatively unknown.

My remarks may be criticized for being too provincial for an interprovincial meeting such as this; my excuse is that New Brunswick in proportion to its area is much less developed than either of its Maritime neighbours and that its progress and development must react to the advantage of the other provinces.

Many years ago, in 1849 to be exact, the Government of New Brunswick in response to a resolution of the House of Assembly engaged Prof. J. F. W. Johnston, a noted English expert in Geology and Agricultural Chemistry to make a survey of the Province and report on its agricultural capabilities. He made his survey and submitted a very comprehensive report from which he concluded that the Province could supply food, after reserving adequate forest area for fuel from agricultural lands to support a population of 3,640,000 people, 300,000 horses, 1,200,000 cattle and 250,000 sheep and swine, and in view of the record of other countries this does not seem at all extravagant for witness the Netherlands with an area of only two thirds of that of New Brunswick carrying a population of well over 5,000,000 people. Therefore it can be claimed that there are almost unlimited opportunities, if economic conditions can be made right, for the agricultural development of this province.

Adjustment of Customs tariffs that will enable suitable trade agreements with other countries, correction of transportation costs that will enable us to place our products in other parts of Canada in return for the products and manufactures we take from them and a return to the Province of some of the sources of revenue unjustly usurped from us by the Dominion are some of the economic adjustments that would help.

New Brunswick is not and has not been for many years part of Canada from an economic standpoint for we are compelled by an artificial tariff to buy where we are not allowed, by the high transportation costs, to sell, consequently we are being bled white largely for the benefit of Central Canada and in an economic sense we in New Brunswick have no economic status as Canadian citizens.

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