

The Minister of Public Works Gets Splendid Reception at Goderich, Ont

Accompanied by the Hon. W. L. MacKenzie King, He is Tendered a Complimentary Banquet and Presented with an Address--Inspects the Harbour and Promises to see to its Enlargement and Improvement Along the Lines Approved of by Western Ontario.

(From the Goderich Star, Conservative)

The visit to Goderich of Hon. Wm. Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, and Hon. McKenzie King, Minister of Labor, and the reception accorded them by the Town Council and Board of Trade, marks one of the most successful public functions ever held in the town. The weather was ideal, and everything combined to crown the efforts of the joint committee who had the program in charge with the most gratifying success. The Minister of Public Works, with his deputy, Mr. Hunter, arrived in the Government yacht Speedy, about 10.30 a. m., on Wednesday, and were greeted with a chorus of whistles from every industry at the harbor. They were received by the committee and town officials, and the remainder of the forenoon was spent in an inspection of the harbor, and explanations of the work by Major Lamb, District Engineer in charge, and of the mills and elevators and the work now being carried on in connection therewith. The steamer Kaministiquia with a cargo of grain for the elevator, arrived at noon and gave an excellent illustration of what is needed for the development of this traffic here. After lunch the party were driven to the Square, where on the bandstand, in the presence of a large gathering of citizens, the afternoon having been proclaimed a half holiday, an address was presented to Hon. Wm. Pugsley, who was introduced by Mayor Cameron. The address, which was as follows, was read by the Secretary of the Board of Trade, Mr. Mitchell.

To the Hon. William Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, Dominion of Canada.

Sir,—It is with pleasure that, on behalf of the citizens of Goderich, we welcome you on the occasion of your first visit to the County town of Huron. You are as we understand, making an official visit to some of the more prominent ports on our great lakes, and we are gratified to have you include the port of Goderich in the number of those visited.

Aside from the honor of your presence as representing the important position you fill in the Dominion Cabinet, we are pleased to know that you recognize the growing importance of our harbor, and its possibilities as a factor in developing the great and ever increasing trade which passes over our inland waters, especially as a connecting link in the great systems of transportation which are developing the possibilities of our mighty west.

We recognize the fact that the Government of which you are so important a member has paid due and faithful attention to the development of our great country, and we congratulate you and your colleagues on the success which has attended your efforts in this behalf.

We may be permitted to remind you that our County of Huron is one of the most progressive and prosperous in this province, and as its County Capital, our Town of Goderich has a history for enterprise and business activity not second to even many larger centers in the Dominion. We desire to continue and extend that activity, particularly through the natural advantages of our harbor and its position as a transshipping point on the great lakes, and we feel assured that now you have, personally examined our harbor and familiarized yourself with its requirements, you will give it the attention its importance deserves, and will speedily complete the work which has been inaugurated under your administration.

Again thanking you for your visit and the interest you have shown, we beg to extend to you the freedom of our town, and give you a hearty and sincere welcome hoping that your stay here may not be the least pleasant and interesting in your official tour.

Signed on behalf of the citizens of Goderich, M. G. Cameron, Mayor

And on behalf of the Board of Trade A. G. Gamble, President.

Dr. Pugsley made reply in terms and in a spirit that were received by his hearers with the keenest satisfaction and his references to our harbor and its needs emphasized and enlarged at the banquet in the evening were all that the enthusiastic citizen could wish. He pointed out that the

Government had done much to advance the interests of the Dominion in its public works, and he felt as he saw our Western countryrilling up and the growth of our manufacturing that this was a great country worthy of our best efforts. His Department was more immediately concerned with the work on the wharves and harbors of our great inland lakes, and his trip of 600 miles from Brockville, which, continued to the Soo would mean 1350 miles and 1600 to Port Arthur and Fort William, had impressed him with the great opportunities and advantages of our Province of Ontario. It was the banner Province of Canada, but great as was what had already been accomplished, this was but insignificant compared with what might yet be done in the future. The Mayor had spoken of the interest he (the Minister) had shown in Goderich; he would not say it was a greater interest than he took in other places, but he did take a deep interest in any place where as in Goderich the people had shown such faith in their own future and such enterprise as had been shown in Goderich. He promised his assistance in that development, for he had come to the conclusion that this was a port in every way worthy his sympathy, support and encouragement. The harbor was already cramped and at times congested; it needed greater depth of water, better facilities and better protection. He quoted the work already done and outlined what was contemplated for the future in terms which he repeated and enlarged in the evening, and he closed by assuring the people that he would do his best to impress his colleagues with the importance and necessity of this work. He felt confident they would agree with him and he hoped to see the work commenced ere long.

The meeting closed, with cheers for the Minister and the band playing "O Canada."

On the platform were the three M. P.'s for the County—Dr. Chrisolm of East Huron, E. N. Lewis of the West and M. Y. McLean of the South; Dr. Rankin, M. P. for North Perth, John Tolmie, of South Bruce, and members of the Town Council and Board of Trade. At the conclusion of the speaking the party were driven about town and over the Attrill property, and were evidently much impressed with what they saw and heard.

Minister of public works, No. 2..... THE BANQUET IN THE EVENING.

At the Sunset Hotel was a social function to be long remembered. About 150 sat down including a good showing of our business men and leading citizens with a number of visitors and guests from outside points. Mayor Cameron presided, with Hon. Dr. Pugsley on his right and Hon. McKenzie King, Minister of Labor, who had arrived from Walker ton on the 7.10 p.m. train seated on his left. The dining room was nicely decorated and three long tables were arranged in such a way as to allow serving with ease and Mr. Lee and the committee who assisted him deserve praise for the military precision and orderliness with which the excellent meal was served.

The program committee and also the printer also deserves honorable mention for the unique appropriate, and tasty manner in which the program was drawn up and printed. It was nearly 10.45 when the chairman inaugurated the intellectual part of the proceedings, the usual loyal toasts of "The King" and "The Army and Navy" being heartily honored. The latter toast was responded to by Col. Hodgins, D.O.C. of District No. 1, London and his remarks made a splendid introduction to the unusually excellent speech making of the evening. Col. Hodgins is an enthusiastic soldier and he made an eloquent plea for the militia of Canada, closing with a quotation from Tennyson which called forth the strong imperial sentiment which showed itself throughout the entire evening. Lieut.-Col. Wilson, of Seaforth and Major Shaw of Clinton, also spoke briefly, and while urging support in their efforts to make the 33rd Regt. of Huron the best in the Province, gave great praise to the location of Goderich as the finest in Ontario for a military camp ground. By request of the Mayor, letters

of regret were now read by the Board of Trade Secretary, a summary of which is as follows:

J. R. MacDonald, President Stratford Board of Trade: Stratford Board of Trade entire sympathy with harbor improvement scheme. We urge favorable consideration by Hon. Mr. Pugsley.

W. S. Dingman Mayor of Stratford: Stratford with Western Ontario generally interested in thoroughly modern port for eastern shore at Goderich. Not local question but one of service to wide interior country. Hope government complete breakwater right.

E. W. Nesbitt, Mayor of Woodstock: Regret exceedingly cannot be with you this evening. Wish you all success.

J. H. A. Beattie Mayor of London: I regret exceedingly that I shall not be able to be present as I expect to be in or near Port Arthur on that date. However, you have my best wishes for success of the banquet. Were it not for the other arrangements which I have made, I should have been pleased to have been with you.

S. A. McGaw, Vice-President and Gen. Manager of the Western Canada Flour Mills Co., Limited, Winnipeg: I will do my best to be there at that time, as certainly we are interested very much in the harbor improvements. I thank you for your letter.

A. A. Wright Managing Director of The St. Lawrence & Chicago Steam Navigation Co., Limited Toronto: I very much fear, however, that owing to other engagements here it seems at present practically impossible for me to get away for even as short a trip as Goderich in August and I think therefore, it would be safer for you not to count on me, although it is needless to say we are heartily in sympathy with the improving of docks and harbors.

W. A. Schantz, General Manager, Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Co., Detroit: I want to congratulate the Council and Board of Trade of Goderich in taving up the subject of improving it harbor as it is absolutely necessary and very much needed at the present time.

President T. G. Shaughnessy and Vice-President Bosworth of the C.P.R., President Chas. M. Hays of the G.T.R., H. H. Gildersleeve, Manager of the Northern Nav. Co., each explained that only absence on tours of inspection prevented their being present. Hugh Guthrie M.P. for Guelph, Mayor W. B. Wood, of Brantford and Mayor C. O. Hahn, of Berlin, also sent regrets at inability to come and with good wishes for the success of the gathering.

J. W. Lyon President of The Guelph Junction Railway Co., Guelph: It is unnecessary for me to say that as a citizen of Guelph with interests identified with Western Ontario, and as President of The Guelph Junction Railway, I take the largest interest in the improvement of Goderich harbor.

Guelph is specially and directly interested; as the city of Guelph owns the Guelph Junction Railway leased to the C.P.R. consisting of fifteen and a half miles of the main line of the C.P.R. between Toronto and Goderich, and every pound of freight shipped over the C.P.R. from Goderich contributes to the revenue of Guelph. This is of course, a selfish interest. We will urge, however, that in the building of the C.P.R. line from Guelph to Goderich known as the Guelph & Goderich Ry., representative men of Guelph did a large amount of work in securing the right of way and urging forward the construction; and that this line is one of the few lines in Canada that has been built without a bonus from the Dominion Government. Some eighty-five miles in length the bonus at \$3,200 a devoted by the Dominion Government would have amounted to over a quarter of a million dollars. This sum if used for improvement of Goderich harbor would materially assist in the development of that port.

I leave it to you to point out the receipts of wheat and grain at Goderich and the proportions he same would assume when the port is developed, but will in which with others point out the necessity of Goderich

as a port of refuge of great value to the whole lake navigation system. This fact needs to be fully emphasized and is of material importance to all who travel on our Great Lakes.

I am extremely pleased that the Honorable, the Minister of Public Works is able to view the situation for himself, and I am satisfied that the importance of the work is so great that the minister will be prepared to recommend that justice be done to the port and to the interests of Western Ontario, which yields a large portion of the Dominion's revenue and which has not had a large portion of the expenditure.

Again regretting that it is impossible for me to be present with you on this occasion.

When the mayor had proposed the toast of "Our Guests" which was most enthusiastically honored, Hon. Mr. Pugsley rose to reply, and in a half hour's address he spoke with such a directness and candor of statement a marshalling of facts and arguments therefrom, and an appeal for more recognition of Canada's great possibilities as delighted and inspired his hearers. He repeated that he was prepared to stand by all he had said at the afternoon meeting. He had the facts and arguments to present to his colleagues and was prepared to carry out what he had promised. His department he considered was of more importance than even that of Railways in connection with the great transportation questions of the country. Speaking of the beautiful and mighty coast line of our Province as he had viewed it on his present trip, he asked if we were fully alive to the greatness of this heritage and its possibilities, are we prepared to do our share in its development? Aside from what was handled through our own port last year, there passed our doors going down the lake 67,639,000 tons of freight, representing over \$732,800,000. We have now two transcontinental lines of railway, and the third, the G. T. P., would, he predicted, open up a second Canada. Are we to keep that traffic in Canadian channels? Now 50 or 60 per cent of our western trade passes through American channels, and we ought to make every effort to carry this through Canadian ports. He held that Goderich from its commanding position, should do a great share in accomplishing this. He was glad to see there were so many members present from other constituencies to show their sympathy with the requests of Goderich. These claims were not new to him. Mr. Lewis, our representative had repeatedly pressed them, and Mayor Cameron had urged them upon him both last year and this. Now he had visited and seen for himself, as he believed was the duty of a Minister. He spoke of what had already been done for the harbor and of the \$80,000 voted last session, of which \$40,000 would be available for the construction of 600 feet of a south-west breakwater. In this connection the Minister paid a high tribute to the ability and faithfulness of Major Lamb, the engineer in charge of the work, whom he characterized as one of the best officials any government could have. The designs for this southwest breakwater had been approved and tenders would shortly be called for and the work proceeded with. As to the remainder, he believed we needed a further extension of 1600 feet to the present northwest breakwater, and dredging to a depth of 21 feet throughout the harbor, to give proper protection and meet the increasing size of vessels. The government was making large expenditures at Port Arthur and Fort William to give a depth of 25 feet, but what was the sense of doing so unless these vessels could enter our Canadian ports on this eastern coast and not be compelled to turn over their cargoes to American railroads? Another argument for this work was that this was a harbor of refuge and must be made completely so. All this convinced him that such an expenditure would not be injudicious. What his colleagues would think he could not say, but the claims of Goderich had his warmest sympathy and heartiest support. He was impressed with the spirit of enterprise and faith in the town shown by our people and our requests were to him an indication

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tion of our faith in that future, otherwise he had not much use for such requests not backed up by the enterprise of the people themselves. He closed by expressing his enjoyment of his visit and his appreciation of the kindness shown him.

Hon. McKenzie King, Minister of Labor, followed his colleague with an address of nearly an hour which, in at least its latter half, was one of the most eloquent and inspiring efforts ever listened to here at such a function. He heartily endorsed what his colleague had said as to the growth of Canadian trade and the need for these improvements, and he made a reference to Goderich and its advantages which we venture to say is not as fully realized even by our own citizens as it should be. First he pointed out its natural beauty and advantages of situation, equalled by but few places in the Dominion, and then he emphasized its geographical situation on the midway between the manufacturing centres of the older and eastern part of the Dominion and the ever widening and growing markets of the newer western parts, and this trade must naturally flow through such ports as Goderich. His references to the great resources and possibilities of Canada led him to a comparison of this land with the conditions that exist in the home land and in other lands as he had observed them when he made his trip to the far East as a member of the commission which dealt with the opium question in China, and it was in this part of his address that his appeal to the patriotism and pride of Canadians called forth the admiration and rapturous applause of the entire gathering. As one listener expressed it, this was a missionary address which alone amply repaid attendance at the function and should be heard by much larger gatherings.

At this point President Gamble, of the Board of Trade, as vice chairman took charge of the toast list, and in response to his invitation, Messrs. John Tolmie, M. P. for South Bruce, M. Y. McLean, of South Huron, Dr. Chisholm of East Huron, and Dr. Rankin, of Perth, all spoke in hearty support of the importance of this port and the necessity of the harbor improvements asked for. They were followed by Mayor McLaren, of Hamilton, acting Mayor Rudd, of Guelph, and Mayor Malcolm, of Kincardine, all of whom spoke with an unselfish heartiness and a strength of business argument that merited the kindest thanks of the people of Goderich.

The toast of "Transportation Interests" was responded to by Mr. J. W. Moyes, President of the Ontario West Shore Railway, and that of "Commercial Interests" by Mr. J. I. A. Hunt, of London, and both gentlemen spoke with a wealth of information and such a strength of business argument as made their hearers wish that the hours of the fast approaching morning could be delayed to allow of their speaking longer.

ECHOES FROM THE DAY.

The gospel of a "Greater Goderich" as proved to be a popular theme abroad as well as at home, and it was ably presented by all who spoke. And the letters from those unable to be present at the banquet show that this is more a provincial and even national necessity than a local one.

The wide awake heads of great corporations would consider the money well spent to get such an advertisement as Goderich has received in this demonstration.

It would be a good move for the committee who arranged the demonstration, or the Board of Trade, to compile and edit for publication in convenient form some of the facts, statistics and arguments, with the authorities quoting them, for distribution amongst the members of Parliament and elsewhere. It is a good case that can command such a strong and wide spread endorsement.

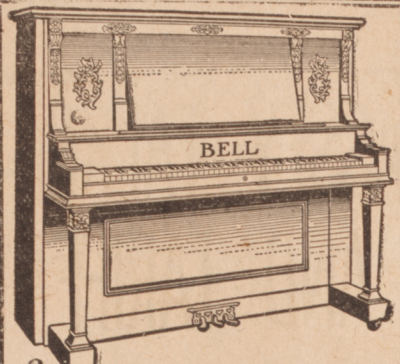
Mayor McLaren, of Hamilton, cites the notable fact that the outward trade to the northwest in the whole sale grocery trade of his city exceeds that from Toronto, and the weight of freight outwards from Hamilton, owing to the centralizing of the wholesale hardware trade there, is perhaps equal to that of Toronto. These are arguments for the speedy completion of the missing link of rail way that would connect them with the Guelph and Goderich branch of the C. P. R. and this would mean a great deal to Goderich also in the package freight which could be shipped through this port for the Northwest.

Ex-Mayor Macklin had reason to broaden his always winning smile as he listened to the speeches on Wednesday evening and heard the whole sale endorsement of the claims of Goderich harbor. He is entitled to no small credit for his share of work in crystallizing the favorable sentiment expressed by the representatives of different interests throughout Western Ontario. And the Dr. is pat-

(Continued from page two.)

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