

ANNUAL PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

City Hall, January 24th, 1918.

The City Council.

Gentlemen :-

The Board of Control submit for the approval of the City Council the accompanying report from His Worship the Mayor urging the rehabilitation of the Annual Provincial Exhibition.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Fred Monaghan

Secretary Board of Control.

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City Hall, January 24th, 1918.

The City Council.

Gentlemen:-

The Board of Control deem it their immediate and pressing duty to report to the City Council on the matter of the Annual Provincial Exhibition.

About twenty years ago (Chapter 3, Acts Nova Scotia, 1896), the Government of Nova Scotia and the City Council of Halifax mutually decided that it was expedient to provide for an annual agricultural and industrial Exhibition for the Province, to be held in the City of Halifax, and for the establishment and maintenance thereof on the joint account of the Provincial Government and the Corporation of the City of Halifax in equal parts.

This Exhibition was established and was held every year with one exception up to the present time, war conditions having interrupted ^{it} for the year in which no fair was held.

In common with almost every other property in the City of Halifax, the Exhibition suffered by the explosion of December 6th, 1917, Almost every building on the grounds was levelled to the earth, and such of the structures as were left standing were rendered unfit for occupancy or for permanent repair.

The financial loss, both to the Provincial Government and to the City of Halifax, has been very great, but has as yet not been accurately scheduled.

The explosion came about through no fault of the Exhibition Commission, and that body will use its best efforts to secure from every or any proper source, due and complete reparation.

Whilst these matters are under consideration in detail, the broad question of rehabilitation requires our most earnest consideration.

The Board of Control is firmly convinced that the reasons enunciated in its early days for the establishment of the Annual Exhibition in this City are as sound today as they were then.

The Board believes it ^{to} be unnecessary to elaborate the advantages of the holding of frequent Exhibitions. Practical demonstrations on both hemispheres have established their world wide ^{intrinsic} value.

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The Exhibition receives no annual grant of money from either the Province or the City, and when their receipts do not come up to their expenditures, the difference is called a deficit.

The Commission has always been criticized for this deficit, while the truth is that the word is merely a misnomer brought about through the system of financing and not because of unforeseen eventualities or mismanagement. We give no annual subsidy or grant, such as is the custom elsewhere.

The Board is of opinion that the time never existed in the history of the Province when the need of an Annual Provincial Exhibition was more urgent than the present. The Exhibition must not be looked upon as a holiday-making. The war has created conditions demanding the utmost zeal on the part of our educators in every branch of human endeavor. We must use every effort to present before every individual in the Province every possible bit of information in our power tending to educate our people in regard to all our activities, education, mines, fisheries, lumber, manufactures, agriculture in its multitude of subdivisions, arts and sciences.

There is no better medium for this than an Annual Provincial Exhibition.

This Board therefore recommends to the City Council that every means within their power be taken to reestablish or rehabilitate the Annual Provincial Exhibition in the City of Halifax, and to that end to seek the earnest cooperation of the Provincial Government.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Board of Control.

RESOLVED that the report of the Board of Control respecting the rehabilitation of the Annual Provincial Exhibition be adopted and that His Worship the Mayor, the City Engineer and the City Solicitor be appointed a Committee to await upon the Provincial Government and urge their co-operation with the City in reestablishing the Annual Provincial Exhibition in the City of Halifax, and report to the Board of Control the means suggested for putting the Exhibition on an active and sound basis.