

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, November 21, 1917

SUPPORT FARMERS' CANDIDATES

Now that nomination day has passed it is definitely known who are the candidates in the various constituencies. There are not nearly as many representatives of the organized farmers in the field as it was hoped a few months ago there would be. At that time there was every prospect of a political battle between the two old parties and the Western farmers were heartily sick of both. Had such a party fight ensued the farmers would have nominated their own candidate in practically every constituency and would undoubtedly have elected a large number of them. Following the formation of the Union Government very great pressure was brought to bear by both organizations to unite upon Union candidates. It is true the two old parties got together in most constituencies, but in so doing they generally took care to have the farmers' candidate squeezed out. The result is that there are only comparatively few farmers' candidates left in the field. It is in the best interests of the organized farmers that every one of these candidates should be elected with a good majority regardless of whether or not the Union Government is returned to power. The present truce on economic and party questions will not last after the conclusion of the war. The farmers will find they have just as much and probably more reason to develop their organization and maintain its strength than ever they had in the past. For this reason it is highly important that they should have some representatives in the next parliament who will be able to place before the House the demands of the West and the economic handicaps under which the Western farmer labors. If the Western farmers are true to their best interests they will at least see that every representative of their own who is in the field is elected.

CONSCRIPTION AND PRODUCTION

Reports from the country are to the effect that the local tribunals under the Military Service Act are disallowing large numbers of claims for exemption made by farmers and farmers' sons. A still further appeal can be made to the central tribunal in each province and a final appeal to the central authorities at Ottawa. In view of the imperative necessity for greater food production there was a general impression abroad that few, if any, men would be conscripted for the army from the farms of Canada. Farmers or farmers' sons, as men, are no more entitled to exemption than any other men, but as food producers when food is as great an essential as soldiers, it seems to be of absolutely vital importance that no farmers should be taken into the army. We have absolutely unimpeachable evidence that more food is required, in fact we are told by authorities whom we must believe that unless the food supply is increased victory cannot be guaranteed to the Allied armies. This being the case it is impossible to understand the policy of refusing exemption to farmers and farmers' sons. Unless these exemptions are allowed there will be many farms not operating, the acreage of thousands of others will be reduced and livestock will be sold off because there will be no person to take care of it. In the interests of greater production some clear understanding should be had immediately, else there will be a great decrease in the production of food on the prairie farms next year. Incidentally the political situation will be profoundly affected and the chances of Union Government candidates being elected will be greatly reduced under the present conscription policy.

Nearly every member of The Grain Growers'

Guide office staff, and the majority of them are women, have purchased one or more Victory Loan bonds.

FOOD PRODUCING MACHINERY

Every pressure should be brought to bear upon the federal government to lift the duty from agricultural machinery of all kinds, particularly farm tractors. The food situation is acute. The surplus food supplies of Great Britain and France are comparatively small and the Allied armies are absolutely dependent upon Canada and the United States for their food. The shortage of labor has curtailed food production in the prairie provinces. It should not be forgotten that one farmer in the prairie provinces produces more food on the average than one farmer in any other part of the world. The only method by which the labor shortage can be alleviated is by increasing the use of labor-saving machinery, and the use will increase as the price is reduced. In the face of our national crisis it is no time to maintain the protective system, particularly on food producing machinery. Every farmers' organization in the prairie provinces should forward a serious and earnest demand to the federal government to have the duty lifted from farm machinery, and particularly farm tractors. The extensive use of the tractor is the only possible means of getting agricultural production anywhere near its maximum in the prairie provinces.

NEW PROTECTIONIST DOCTRINE

At the last session of the Dominion Parliament a subsidy of \$50,000 per year was voted to the Canadian Press Service. This is to provide for a special press telegraph service throughout twenty-four hours of the day from Halifax to Victoria. The purpose is to give Canada a better news service through its daily newspapers than has ever been possible up to the present time. Industrial Canada, the organ of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, declares that this is the formulation of a protectionist system for the benefit of the Canadian newspapers and says it was largely the free trade papers that petitioned for this grant. It must be a most remarkable economist who figures out this new protectionist doctrine in the manufacturers' organ. It has always been the policy of free traders that if any industry is actually deserving of governmental assistance it should receive that assistance in the way of a subsidy or bounty and not by a protective tariff. When a subsidy or bounty is given the exact figures are known by everybody and if the industry receiving it does not need it, public opinion can force its termination. In the case of a protective tariff on the other hand, it is simply a method of allowing the manufacturer to charge a high price for his product at the expense of the consumer. No one knows exactly the benefit the protective tariff gives to the industry that it protects, but it is well known that the protected industry always wants a higher tariff. If the Canadian manufacturers generally favor the bounty or subsidy system in the place of the protective tariff, we believe that free traders generally would support them. We would then know how much the manufacturers are getting and public opinion would mighty soon demand to know whether they are entitled to it or not.

CUTTING THE PACKERS' PROFITS

The Ottawa government announces that control of the packing houses is being taken over and their profits are to be taxed. No packer will be permitted to make over two per

cent. profit on his turn-over. Half the profit between seven and fifteen per cent. on his capital will be taken by the government and all profits over fifteen per cent. will be commandeered. This is good news and no person will consider the tax a very heavy one. It is to be hoped that in arriving at the profits the government will investigate thoroughly the bookkeeping system adopted by the packers. Profit or loss is often a mere matter of bookkeeping. Large profits have been hidden by many corporations through the valuation of their assets and by paying huge salaries to their chief officials.

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR BOND

Elsewhere in this issue there is a full explanation of the Victory Loan and every ordinary question that can be asked is answered. Reports are to the effect that thousands of farmers are purchasing Victory Loan bonds in a considerable quantity. It should be the aim of every farmer to have one bond or more if he can afford it. Not only is it a patriotic duty to assist the government in the prosecution of the war, but it is also good business for farmers to buy Victory Loan bonds. Great Britain can only purchase food supplies in Canada to the extent that Canada loans her the money or grants her the credit for the purchase. The larger the subscription to the Victory Loan the more food will Great Britain be able to buy from Canada. And the more food Great Britain buys the better will be the price which the Western farmer will receive. Therefore every farmer who subscribes for a Victory Loan bond helps to create a good market for his farm produce.

VICTORY OVER SUBMARINE

Last week the British admiralty announced that the loss of shipping due to submarines was the lowest since the submarine warfare began. One prominent naval authority announced that the submarine had been beaten and that the construction of new shipping is far surpassing the destruction by submarines. The submarine has for some time been the greatest menace to the Allies. It has cut down shipping to such an extent as to curtail seriously the necessary food supplies. No public statement has ever been given as to the method advocated for fighting the submarines, but the British naval authorities have evidently developed a system that has conquered the German undersea boats. The greatest hope Germany has had for success has been the submarine. The Kaiser has based his chief hope on starving out Great Britain and France by the destruction of food carrying ships. If the victory over the submarine is final and complete, the reverses in Russia and Italy will be looked upon with comparative complacency.

SECURE YOUR SEED NOW

In order to ensure the highest grain production next year it is essential that all seed put in the ground should be of the highest quality obtainable. Every farmer who expects to purchase seed for next spring should look around for it immediately while the supply is plentiful. A good system that is followed by many of the best farmers is to secure a small quantity of well-bred seed every year and put it in a small plot. It multiplies rapidly and soon there is sufficient for seeding the entire farm. By maintaining this method year by year the quality of the seed is gradually improved and the result is shown in increased yields and higher grades. It is a mistake to leave the purchase of seed until near seed time.

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