

## Saskatchewan Farmers' Parliament

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placed in homes that are not suitable to them in the formative stages of their lives.

A special message requesting the utmost assistance in the February drive for the fund to assist in agricultural relief for the farmers in devastated Belgium and France was sent by D. R. Jas. Robertson, secretary of that fund at Ottawa.

## The Labor Discussion

On Wednesday evening, F. Hedley Auld, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, addressed the joint convention on labor control and distribution. Mr. Auld's address was one of the most lucid and satisfactory of the whole four days. He dealt with the pressing need for food in Allied countries, the losses by submarines, the necessity of America supplying the food which could not be imported from other points. He reviewed the hog production campaign, the removal of the tractor duty, the purchase of tractors. According to the last Dominion census a Saskatchewan farmer raised as much cereals as 12 farmers west of the Rockies or east of the Great Lakes. Good seed grain was essential this year.

The greater production campaign meant the getting together of the proper proportion of men, machinery and seed so as to make this year's production of food unsurpassed. There were farmers who were endeavoring to break more land than they had the power and equipment to handle.

There were other farmers who had more acres than were being used. Here was a chance to get the tractor to do a little more work and get a greater acreage broken. There were districts where there were large tracts of uncultivated land, and he would like to see an arrangement whereby the government would break up some of this land for the farmer, and then charge him up for it, taking a lien upon the land until it was paid for. This would help wonderfully in bringing about an increased acreage.

Some farmers had a half section of land and could not crop any more although they had the equipment and power to do so. Here was an opportunity to take some of the unsold school lands in the various districts, and use them for cultivation.

There was a chorus of protests at the usage many men had received at the hands of exemption tribunals. The following was a typical case and there were very many: A delegate in the gallery rose and pointed at a soldier in uniform sitting just in front of him he said that the soldier farmed 120 acres and had 26 head of stock. "At Saskatoon, where he was examined, he was put in class A2. When he was brought down to Regina he was put in class B but they won't let him go. He wants to go either to the trenches or back to his farm, not to some forestry battalion. He has a letter signed by the deputy minister of justice from Ottawa that they cannot do anything for him. What could be done?"

Mr. Auld told him to immediately take the case up with Mr. Molloy, commissioner of labor for the province who would fix it. Protests were so numerous that Mr. Molloy was called upon. He told them of the recent labor conference at Ottawa and the steps now taken to release farmers. Those with special trouble along this line should take the matter up with him by writing or calling at his office in the Parliament buildings, Regina. The pre-election promises of the Minister of Militia came in for criticism. A long resolution dealing with the labor problem was tabled in view of the particular preparations for labor distribution now being made.

## Agricultural Relief Fund

The same evening Mr. Auld told the audience, in the absence of Dr. James W. Robertson, of the great need for agricultural relief for stricken farmers in the war devastated areas. His speech was very devasted and following it this resolution was unanimously passed:—

Whereas our fellow farmer, in the war devastated areas of Europe have suffered almost incalculable loss by the deliberate destruction carried on by our

mutual enemy; and whereas we believe this terrible destruction was entered upon for the deliberate purpose of defeating our mutual ends; therefore be it resolved that we heartily endorse the object of this fund and that a grant of one thousand dollars should be made to it from the patriotic acre fund of this association. In passing the resolution the convention pledged its support of the fund through the various locals in the province.

Dr. Stapleford, President of Regina College, gave a short address on the work of the college. There were 500 students in attendance at Regina College he said, of whom 350 were girls. Before the war the number of boys exceeded that of the girls. The college had been founded about six years ago in order to give boys and girls whose early education had been neglected or not completed a chance to catch up in their studies. It made no difference at Regina College what stage the students or intending students had reached. They were made welcome and were started at the place where it seemed to the faculty they would make the best progress.

## Seed Oats and Mill Feeds

Considerable valuable information and scores of pertinent questions arose when A. E. Wilson, Dominion Seed Commissioner, and Hon. George Brown answered inquiries on the seed oats and feed situations respectively. In commencing Mr. Wilson said he had his present position through the confirmation of Hon. T. A. Crerar and free of any party patronage considerations. He said the supply of good clean seed oats was considerably less than the demand for the entire Dominion. Most of the unfrozen seed oats were coming from Alberta. He intended to see that the requirements of the west are satisfied first before the east is supplied from the west.

In reply to questions as to price, Mr. Wilson said that No. 2 C.W. oats could be supplied at a price of about \$1 a bushel in the vicinity of Saskatoon, prices at other points varying with the freight rate. While No. 1 oats were free from weeds No. 2 contained up to 10 wild oats to the pound, and the difference in price between the two grades was 10 cents in car load lots. The varieties were mixed except in cases where they had been able to buy a straight variety in considerable quantity, in which latter case the varieties were separately binned. Mr. Wilson went on to say that seed and feed oats were being sold at cost to the farmers plus the cost of handling.

With reference to feed oats Mr. Wilson said that the government was purchasing extra No. 1 feed oats at 83¢ cents at Moose Jaw, and these could be shipped out to the farmers in any quantity desired.

Several delegates announced that good seed oats could be purchased in the Melville district and also at Lancer, and Mr. Wilson said if the farmers holding these for sale would send in their names he would send a man out and have them inspected with a view to purchase for distribution.

Declaring that it was impossible to raise hogs on oats alone a delegate wanted to know whether any barley could be secured to which Mr. Wilson replied that barley was available at a cost of \$1.65 or \$1.70 a bushel.

The Hon. Geo. W. Brown explained the regulations under which mills are controlled by license, and the principle of prices laid down by the food controller. He declared most emphatically that the mills were obliged to sell at these prices, otherwise licenses could be cancelled. He had, however, received a telegram from J. D. McGregor, the western representative of the food control board announcing that several car loads were available from Ontario points, and he suggested that those requiring feed should get into touch either with the provincial department of agriculture or with Mr. MacGregor at Winnipeg.

Delegate Dane had interviewed the manager of a retail feed store in Saskatoon, who informed him that it was almost impossible to get feed from a certain mill without placing an accompanying order for flour, and that he intended to quit handling these feeds on



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account of the difficulty in securing them. Other delegates offered similar testimony, the name of one large milling company being mentioned several times by delegates from different parts of the province.

Mr. Brown said that it was quite true that some of the mills were doing their utmost to hinder the farmers from getting mill feeds, but stated that a collect telegram to the western representative of the food control board would set the matter right. The western representative of the food controller had the power to send out an auditor to examine the books of any milling company accused of trying to evade the order,

and promised that this would be done in the case of any complaint which the offending company refused to rectify.

He advised purchasers of feed to pay for their purchases by cheque and they have ample evidence of the price they were required to pay.

He did not expect there would be any more screenings available from Fort William. There were, however, three or four car loads at the terminal elevator at Saskatoon, and they were endeavoring to arrange for having them crushed before being sold to the farmers.

A striking part of the convention was the banner competition. Hanging from the gallery were a score of beau-



wanted to go not let me at open a gate horses, then them, so on I and went too. we could not other went to boat. The ed. So my nt to a house some pigeons eh them but ns went to a there. Then e of them got riend climbed on some glass adly. I had a that off and d. It was such d dropped all a long time

MEL EYER.

## SOCKS

a member of I like to read on your page. as Societies in member of the e Merry Work- and concerts ies and basket e funds which g expenses are We also do as in find time to pairs of socks has my sister. packed a large ided among the have no friends m enclosing 25 e which I hope e poor horse's Cross continued

HOWARTH.

