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Closer Settlement Conference at Regina

Advancement League Formed—Community Scheme Fails to Receive Support

An important conference, attended by men prominent in banking, commercial, political and agricultural circles, was held at Regina on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week for the purpose of considering a closer farm settlement scheme proposed by the Regina Board of Trade. The scheme suggested had for its object the establishment of communities composed of experienced farmers at present resident in the cities and unable, thru lack of capital, to engage in farming without assistance. The financial backing of the Federal Government would be required to secure the large amount of capital necessary, and it was also proposed that the communities should be bonded in order to secure credit. Among those taking part in the conference were J. H. Haslam, the leading advocate of the scheme; Premier Scott, Lieut.-Governor Brown, Sir James Aikins, M.P., Hon. Arthur Meighen, Prof. Magill, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, T. C. Norris, M.P.P., Vere Brown, A. F. Mantle, Chas. A. Dunning, J. B. Musselman, R. J. Hutchings, F. McClure Schlanders, J. E. Bradshaw, M.P.P., A. Ehmann, W. B. Willoughby, M.P.P., W. G. Duperow, of the G.T.P., and others.

Economic Conditions Wrong

All of these gentlemen addressed the conference and it was evident that all realized the fact that the future prosperity of Canada depends upon increasing agricultural production and that something is necessary to be done to induce or enable more people to go upon the land. After thorough discussion, however, very few of those present, except the

in several Western urban centres have already formed associations for the purpose of enabling farmers financially incapable of so doing, to secure on long terms of credit the livestock required to enable them to adopt mixed farming methods;

And whereas, the work is being financed by the banks solely upon the personal credit of these business men;

And whereas, experience has shown that it is both undesirable and impracticable for governments to have direct financial transactions with the individual;

And whereas, these associations of business men above referred to are by their knowledge of local conditions, men well qualified to act as intermediaries in such transactions between the government and the farmers;

Therefore, be it resolved that this conference respectfully urges upon the Dominion Government, the immediate appointment of a capable and trustworthy officer or officers to take up with these local associations and such similar organizations as may be formed in other centres, the question of arranging methods whereby the credit of the government may be made available in the distribution of livestock, and in such other ways beneficial to agriculture as may be approved.

Endorse Commission Idea

Moved by J. H. Haslam, seconded by J. B. Musselman:

Whereas, the large capital expenditures of this Dominion demand a corresponding increase of production;

And whereas, the extraordinary conditions brought about by the war cur-

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THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, WINNIPEG, MAN.

representatives of the Regina Board of Trade, were found to be in favor of attempting to solve the problem by the establishment of state aided communities. Rather, consensus of opinion was that improved economic conditions, cheaper money, lower freight rates and wider markets, as well as better methods of agriculture, were the chief essentials to make farming profitable and consequently popular. At the close of the conference a number of resolutions were adopted, one of the most important of these being that supporting the memorial presented to the Dominion Government by the joint committee from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Canadian Council of Agriculture, asking for the appointment of a commission of inquiry into agricultural conditions.

The Resolutions

The resolutions were as follows:— Moved by Dr. Rutherford, seconded by J. W. Hutchings:

Whereas, it is very generally admitted that the conditions affecting agricultural development in Western Canada are susceptible to considerable betterment:

And whereas, the government of Canada has from time to time declared itself willing to assist in bringing about improvements in this connection;

And whereas, it is essential to the permanent prosperity of Western Canada that the practice of diversified farming should be more generally adopted;

And whereas, in recognition of this fact and of the fact that business prosperity is absolutely interdependent with agricultural prosperity, the business men

tailoring the supply of foodstuffs thruout the Empire and the world, generally, require the stimulation of production in this country;

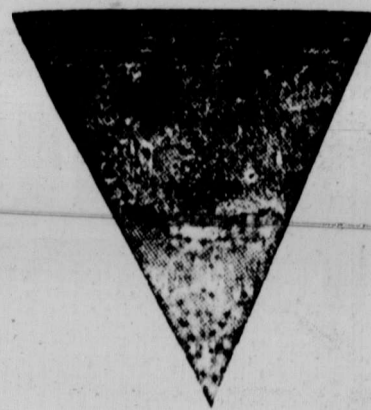
And whereas, the Dominion of Canada has many millions of acres of arable land unoccupied and uncultivated;

And whereas, owing to the consummation of large public enterprises, many thousands who were raised on farms in this and other countries, are now available for settlement on land;

And whereas, for the above mentioned reasons, a large number of horses previously used in railway construction and municipal work could now be utilized for agricultural purposes;

Therefore, this conference of representative men of all classes from the three prairie provinces, convened in the city of Regina for the purpose of discussing conditions of agriculture in Western Canada, and of suggesting means for the employment of our unemployed in increasing agricultural production, hereby expresses its hearty concurrence in the findings of the conference held at Winnipeg on Wednesday, Nov. 11, between representatives of the Western farmers' organizations and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

And we, further, are of the opinion that much good should result from the appointment of the committee or board, as suggested to Sir Robert Borden at Ottawa by the committee representing the Grain Growers' Association and the Manufacturers' Association, and we hereby urge upon him the necessity for the immediate appointment of such committee or board forthwith, so that its



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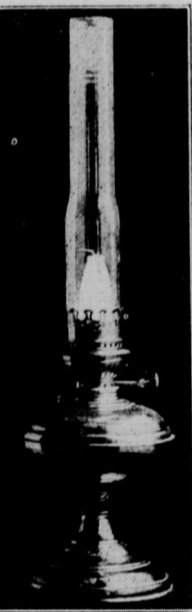
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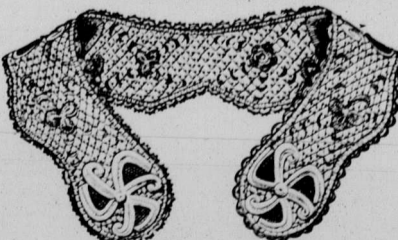
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