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Appeal to Macdonald

J. W. Scallion Appeals to the Farmers to be True to the Cause of the West.

To the Electors of Macdonald:—

As a general thing a bye-election is not considered of much importance, and this is especially the case when the government of the day has a large majority in parliament, so that the loss or gain of a seat has little effect on its support in the House of Commons. But owing to the persistent demands and agitation of the Western farmers for wider markets, a reduction in the tariff burdens and an extension of the British Preference, the Macdonald election is of very great importance, not that a victory for the farmers would weaken the government, but it would impress the government with the advisability, if not the absolute necessity, of meeting the demands of the West for economic justice and fair play. Those demands were presented to our two political leaders and the parliament at Ottawa by the farmers of Canada, and will be persisted in until free access to the United States markets, a policy of the progressive lowering of the tariff and an extension of the British Preference leading to entire free trade with Britain, are secured. The Macdonald election should not be regarded as a political party contest, as it will have practically little effect on the standing of the two political parties. But it will have an effect, and it may be a very important one, on the tariff policy of the government. Therefore every farmer in that constituency, no matter what his previous party leanings may have been, should support the farmers' independent candidate, who holds no brief from privilege or predatory interests, but is free to champion the cause of the people on the floor of parliament as he has done before, and as he has done for years both in and out of parliament, on the public platform and through his paper, one of the greatest exponents of Western progressive measures, devoted to the cause of the people today. When the Western farmers were struggling in the grip of the elevator combine, Mr. Richardson was one of their ablest advocates in parliament for securing freedom for the shipment and sale of their grain.

The agitation which now threatens to sweep away the privileges of the C.P.R. in relation to the ten per cent. clause was anticipated by Mr. Richardson when he introduced into parliament in 1897, a resolution to appoint a commission to ascertain the cost of the railway in order that it might be shown that the road was then earning over ten per cent. on the capital invested, and that control of rates might be assumed by the government. His speech upon that occasion, when he laid bare the financial methods of the enterprise, demonstrated the grasp he possessed of the situation, of which most of us were in ignorance.

Mr. Richardson was the only member of parliament to bring in a resolution to interpret the clause in the C.P.R. charter exempting the company's lands from taxation for twenty years, to date from the time the company got control of its lands, but his resolution was opposed by both sides of the House, notwithstanding that an act had been passed by parliament years before to interpret a clause in the charter in order to enable the C.P.R. to bring in iron and steel bridge material duty free, to replace the wooden bridges of first construction. These facts are given to show the stand Mr. Richardson has taken when a member of parliament for the rights of the people. The farmers of Macdonald will not only do credit to themselves, but will earn the gratitude of the farmers of the West by electing Mr. Richardson to represent them in parliament. He is bound to no party, but will, if elected, be in a position to support any measure, no matter by whom introduced, if found to be in the interest of the people.

Surely noise and fury, prejudice and flag-waving, these, now to everyone transparent campaign frauds, can have no effect, but ridicule, in coming elections. Will Western farmers, allow Eastern protected interests and the

beneficiaries of special privilege to dictate to them not only where they must purchase their supplies, but also where they must sell their produce? These plutocrats who invest millions of Canadian money in promoting United States enterprise and industries because they find such investments profitable, have decided that the Western farmers must not enter that country for the sale of their produce, even if found profitable to do so.

Farmers of the West have had some experience now of what the decision of Eastern plutocrats has cost them for the past year. Will they vote to continue the rule of the interests, or will they strike for freedom to buy and sell where they can do so to the best advantage? That is what the election in Macdonald means. That is what every election that will be held in the West for some time to come will mean, and it is for the Western farmers to say whether they will have restriction or freedom of trade. It is "up" to them. They have scored heavily in Saskatchewan. That is the first victory. Macdonald will have an opportunity of speaking, for a part at least, of Manitoba. Every farmer of Manitoba, every farmer in the West, will watch the action of the voters of Macdonald with intense interest. Let Macdonald be the second victory, and when Manitoba has an opportunity to speak as a whole there will be no uncertain sound. Let no one think that the farmers of Macdonald will win an easy victory. It will require the best efforts of every friend of the farmers in Macdonald to win. Government machines will be in full swing in that constituency. If Macdonald can be purchased, no matter what the price, there is little doubt that the attempt will be made. Eastern interests and their friends in the government cannot afford to lose Macdonald if it can be won by any means. Everyone knows that. Therefore if the farmers of Macdonald win against such odds they will deserve the thanks and gratitude of every farmer in Canada.

J. W. SCALLION. Virden, Man., Sept. 23, 1912.

C.N.R. MAGNATES ON GRAIN BLOCKADE

Winnipeg, Sept. 24.—Congestion of grain traffic, greater than that which caused so much uneasiness last year, is forecasted by George Stephen, general freight agent of the Canadian Northern railway. Mr. Stephen has just returned from a trip through the West, and says:—

"It is a well known fact that the crop of 1911 was much later than the crop of 1910 in starting to move; and it is quite evident that the 1912 crop will be three weeks or a month later than the 1911 crop. The Dominion inspection department reports that from September 1 to 21 inclusive, 1,826 cars of grain were inspected this year, as compared with 5,600 cars for the same period in 1911. These figures are official and they explain the conditions which attend the harvesting of this year's crop. It is very evident that even with the best of weather conditions, from now on the railways will not have a longer period than two months in which to carry this year's crop to the lake front prior to the close of navigation."

Discussing the matter, Mr. Stephen pointed out that only one-third of the amount of grain had been inspected to date as was inspected by September 21 last year. "That shows, more than anything I can say," he added, "exactly what we are up against in moving this year's crop."

Sir William Says Otherwise

Toronto, Sept. 16.—Sir William Mackenzie announced tonight that, according to advices received from the agents of the Canadian Northern railway in the West, there would be no appreciable congestion in moving the grain harvested this year.

"I think that it can safely be said that the grain crop will all be moved by spring," said Sir William. "Of

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In other words, the same ambition and energy spent here means many times increased profits. You can start with a small capital. After the first year you can have an income which will meet all payments. Only a few years and you will be out of debt and in possession of a farm and home worth \$250 or more an acre. You will have an income of at least \$40 an acre from just ordinary farming, or if you farm as this land should be farmed, it will be more than twice that.

Alfalfa and a few dairy cows, which you can secure on time from the nearby creamery, have been the start for many. Alfalfa supports cows, horses, pigs, chickens and bees. All these yield you and yours support and money. Alfalfa always sells well, too.

Why not be your own landlord and employer in a land like this? I have said nothing about fruit because that's too large a subject for this space. I am not selling land. I merely want to send you the booklet the Santa Fe has prepared about this wonderful valley and the possibilities for homeseekers here. We will tell you all about the country—its roads, schools, soil, climate, irrigation works and products. Then if you like we will tell you how to get there and see the land for yourself.

The booklet is free, and surely you ought to read them and see if you will be better off in the San Joaquin Valley. Ask any special questions, and if the books do not tell, I'll answer free, too. Address C. L. Seagraves, General Colonization Agent, A., T. & S. F. Ry., 2388 Railway Exchange, Chicago

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