THE FARMERS' PLATFORM

Organized farmers—through the Canadian Council of Agriculture representing the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario—have adopted a platform which demands:—

(1) An immediate and substantial all-round reduction of the customs tariff.

(2) The reduction of the customs duty on goods imported from Great Britain to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff, with such further gradual uniform reductions in the remaining tariff on British imports as will ensure complete free trade between Great Britain and Canada in five years.

(3) The acceptance of the Reciprocity Agreement of 1911 and the placing of all food-stuffs not included in the agreement on the free list.
(The Manitoba Grain Growers and the United Farmers of Ontario also demand that any further reduction of the tariff of the United States towards Canada be met by a similar reduction of the Canadian tariff towards the United States.)

(4) The placing of all agricultural implements, farm machinery, vehicles, fertilizers, coal, lumber, cement, illuminating fuel and lubricating oils, and of all raw materials and machinery used in their manufacture, on the free list.

(5) The immediate extension to Great Britain of all tariff concessions granted to other countries.

(6) The compulsory annual publication of comprehensive and accurate statements of their earnings by all corporations manufacturing products protected by the customs tariff.

(7) The public hearing before a special committee of Parliament of every claim for tariff protection by any industry.

(8) The public ownership and control of all railway, water and aerial transportation, telephone, telegraph, and express systems; all projects in the development of natural power; and of the coal mining industry.

To offset loss in revenue, the following taxes are recommended:—

(1) A direct tax on unimproved lands, including all natural resources.

(2) A graduated personal income tax.

(3) A graduated inheritance tax on large estates.

(4) A graduated income tax on profits of corporations.

(5) The retention by the Crown of all natural resources and their use only under short term leases, such leases to be granted only by public auction.

(6) The levy and collection of the business profits tax only upon the basis of the actual cash invested and without consideration for what is popularly known as "watered stock."

ISSUED BY

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