

ficient credit then there is something wrong with the banking system. It is such cases that need thorough investigation and The Guide is prepared to assist in such investigation.

We are anxious at all times to receive from farmers their actual experiences with banks and other institutions, whether favorable or unfavorable. We want to know whether these financial institutions are giving good service because such experiences are very helpful to other farmers. We also want to know when they are giving poor service because with such knowledge the service can be improved. Such correspondence is always treated confidentially and the writer's name is not divulged without permission. We would also extend an invitation to country bank managers to give us their side of the question for publication. We should like to know of their difficulties with farmers and receive suggestions for improvement. We will also be glad to receive from bank managers criticisms or suggestions on the banking system or salaries paid to bank managers or anything relating to improve banking service. Bank managers may write freely to The Guide on these questions, and their correspondence will be treated in absolute confidence, whether for publication or otherwise.

THE FARMERS' PLATFORM

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture in Regina last week the farmers' platform, which was drafted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture in December last and which has several times been published in The Guide, was discussed. Since December it has been unanimously endorsed by the farmers' associations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. After careful deliberation the following resolution was approved:—

"It is a matter of the utmost satisfaction to the Canadian Council of Agriculture that the platform formulated by it has been received with favor and unanimously adopted at their annual conventions by the organized farmers of all of the

provinces represented in its membership, namely, those of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and that it has been well received also by many of the citizens of the towns and cities of these provinces. It is, therefore, evident that there are large numbers of people not only amongst the farmers, but also in the urban centres who will be prepared to give their support to the principles enunciated in this platform, once they have been correctly informed thereon.

"An active propaganda of education thru the press and by the distribution of literature will therefore be undertaken by the council, and similar action by them is recommended to the affiliated associations with a view to putting the various clauses of the platform clearly before all the electors of these provinces.

"While the council has no intention of taking any partisan political action, or in any lending itself to an attempt at the formation of a new political party, or of aligning itself with any existing party, it is of the opinion that the farmers and others who adhere to this platform should everywhere exert themselves to assure the selection by all parties of candidates for election to parliament who are pledged to the support of this platform, and to faithful endeavor to give it effect by legislation."

From this it is made clear that the farmers' organization has no intention whatever of becoming a political machine nor of organizing a third political party, nor of affiliating with any of the existing political parties. The platform as drafted represents the views of the organized farmers and they propose to carry on an educational campaign in support of it. They also propose to encourage farmers everywhere thruout the West to give their support only to such candidates as will pledge themselves to support this platform when elected to parliament. The farmers in each constituency will take any political action they choose to secure the selection and election of such candidates, but it is distinctly understood that neither the Canadian Council nor any of the provincial associations will engineer any political campaign. If the farmers who believe in this platform will themselves determine not to cast a vote for any candidate who will not support the platform they will be successful in electing a large number of candidates pledged to this platform at the next election. Wherever there are now no

candidates nominated it would be an excellent and proper move for the farmers and others in that constituency who support this platform to call a convention and nominate their candidate as soon as possible. To be first in the field is a big asset in a political campaign. Where there are now candidates in the field they should be given an opportunity to express their views on the platform. If they accept it and can be relied upon, the victory is already practically won. If they refuse it, then it is time to nominate against them a candidate who will support the platform.

It cannot be impressed too strongly upon farmers who accept this platform that they should give financial support to the candidates who pledge themselves to it. Such candidates who give their time and energy should not be expected to pay their own campaign expenses. Every farmer who believes in this platform and is supporting a candidate who believes in it can well afford to put up \$5 or \$10 towards campaign expenses. If this platform is enacted into legislation it will mean a saving of from \$100 to \$500 a year to every farmer in Western Canada. Surely it is worth advancing \$5 or \$10, or even more, in prosecuting a campaign to secure the enactment of this platform into legislation.

In a last Patriotic Fund campaign, twelve of the largest manufacturers of war supplies in Montreal, where the greatest proportional percentage of this work is done, only contributed \$82,000 or about \$7,000 each. One company, the Montreal Ammunition Company, which has cleared over \$3,000,000 since the war began, gave only \$5,000. There were a lot that gave nothing. Do we need confiscation of war profits?

The German submarine campaign has developed to an even greater degree the spirit of British determination. It is Germany's last stand and she will be defeated as in all her other attempts, even tho the cost will be terrific.



THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

On March 3, at Ottawa, Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, proposed to a committee, representing the organized grain growers of the West, that the Canadian government take over the entire wheat crop of Canada for 1917, at \$1.30 per bushel. The British government required the wheat and were willing to pay this price. The farmers' committee could not agree to the price and it was agreed to take it up at the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture in Regina on March 13, 14 and 15. After careful deliberation the Canadian Council recommended a minimum of \$1.50 per bushel, with a maximum of \$1.90 per bushel, or if the government preferred a flat price, the Council recommended \$1.70 per bushel, as they felt that any lower price would discourage rather than encourage a large production. The Canadian Council of Agriculture consists of the executive officers of nine farmers' organizations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, including the United Farmers of Alberta, The Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company, The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, The Grain Growers' Grain Company, The Grain Growers' Guide, The United Farmers of Ontario and The United Farmers' Co-operative Company of Ontario. The photograph shows the delegates present at the Canadian Council meeting in Regina, where the above prices for the 1917 crop were recommended to the Canadian government.

Back row (left to right):—J. B. Musselman, Secretary Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; F. J. Collyer, Director, Grain Growers' Grain Company; Peter Wright, Director, Manitoba Grain Growers' Association;—C. W. Brown,

Director, Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company; R. M. Johnston, Director, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; J. L. Rooke, Director, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; E. J. Fream, Secretary, Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company; Jas. Robinson, Director, Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company; A. G. Hawkes, Vice-President, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; W. D. Trego, Vice-President, United Farmers of Alberta.

Second row (left to right):—Geo. F. Chipman, Editor, Grain Growers' Guide; C. W. Gurney, Manager, United Farmers' Co-operative Company of Ontario; John Morrison, Vice-President, Grain Growers' Grain Company; John F. Reid, Director, Grain Growers' Grain Company; R. J. Avison, Director, Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; J. S. Wood, Vice-President, Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; J. W. Wood, Vice-President, United Farmers of Alberta; John Kennedy, Vice-President, Grain Growers' Grain Company; Thomas Sales, Director, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.

Front row (left to right):—Fred W. Riddell, Manager, Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company; T. A. Crerar, President, Grain Growers' Grain Company; H. W. Wood, President, United Farmers of Alberta (New President Canadian Council of Agriculture); R. McKenzie, Secretary, Canadian Council of Agriculture; J. A. Maharg, President, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association (Retiring President Canadian Council of Agriculture); R. C. Henders, President, Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; C. Rice-Jones, President, Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company; Hon. Geo. Langley, Vice-President, Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company.