

I have here a copy of a resolution passed by a committee appointed at a mass meeting of Ontario and Quebec farmers, held in the coliseum in Ottawa on July 16, 1932, the time they were so courteously received by the Prime Minister. It reads:

A meeting of the special committee appointed by the mass meeting of Ontario and Quebec farmers held in the coliseum at Ottawa, July 16th, last, for the purpose of working out a plan of closer active cooperation between all farmer organizations of the two provinces, was held in the U.F.O. offices at Toronto, Friday, October 14, at the call of J. J. Morrison, secretary of the committee. Those present were:

R. J. Scott
F. C. Biggs
Mrs. E. C. Guyitt
A. Lalonde
A. Marion
R. Beaudet
J. J. Morrison.

The committee felt it advisable to begin by discussing questions of more immediate concern to agriculture in order to try and arrive at a basis of agreement between the representatives of the two provinces in regard thereto.

The committee reached unanimous agreement with respect to the following matters.

That a moratorium covering the payment of farmers' taxes be put into effect forthwith in a manner similar to the moratorium on mortgages, and where a farmer can give satisfactory evidence to a responsible officer to be named by the government that he is unable to pay his taxes promptly that he be granted a reasonable stay in payment and that the municipalities be requested not to add other charges than the first penalties for a reasonable period.

That the benefits of the back to the land movement, backed by the federal, provincial and municipal governments, be extended to the farmers already on the land.

That money which was previously devoted to promoting immigration be now devoted to the relief of those in agriculture.

That on account of the depleted population of the rural districts and the importance of the agricultural industry that the redistribution of parliamentary seats be effected on a basis that will give a fairer representation to the farmer.

That if during the coming winter or in years to follow our governments find it necessary to create further highway work to meet unemployment conditions that this work be performed in locations and on road work that will be the greatest good to the greatest number of unemployed, also on roads that will be of the greatest good to our population as a whole.

That a national marketing board is a desirable proposition provided its personnel is such as to guarantee the farmers' interests will be duly looked after, and we would strongly petition the government that a board of this calibre be appointed forthwith and when such appointments are made that producers of agricultural products be given adequate representation.

One of the signatories to this resolution has told me that copies were sent to the Prime Minister and the provincial premiers,

and I hope the Prime Minister will give this matter his serious consideration.

I should like to say a few words with reference to many of the items in schedule E, but my time is too limited. It has been demonstrated very clearly by my right hon. leader (Mr. Mackenzie King) and many hon. members on this side that the decrease in the tariff is fictitious as far as certain items are concerned. In order to get back to the reasonable tariff which we had under the Liberal regime, the government would have to make still further reductions.

In conclusion let me say that the revision of the tariff is only a disguised plan of high protection which will continue to strangle trade and oppress the consumers of the country. The stand which I take in not approving of these trade agreements is taken in all sincerity and conviction and I hope hon. gentlemen opposite will not accuse me of a lack of patriotism. I am just as patriotic and loyal to my king and country as any hon. member in this house. We have been called here to discuss and dissect these trade agreements and it is not only my right but my duty to give a frank and open opinion. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that they have been given a clear mandate to apply their protective policies, but I also have been given a mandate—I was elected on the record of the King government, the Dunning budget, a low tariff policy, and our attitude with respect to Imperial and international relations. Should the government decide at any time to have an election I would advocate the same policies, but with more ease and conviction on account of the taste we have already had of the application of the Conservative policies.

Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is now over a week since the debate on these trade agreements commenced and I can assure you that I have given very close attention not only to the speeches made but to the statements and arguments which have been advanced, particularly by hon. gentlemen opposite. I must admit that tonight I find myself in an increasingly awkward position because of the fact that the more one hears from hon. gentlemen opposite the less one knows of what definite plan, policy or opinion they have to offer in connection with these trade agreements now before us.

Commencing with the speech of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), practically every argument he advanced was contradicted before he finished his remarks. The only conclusion one can come to is that lacking any definite argument he