

able to supply the needs of Western business, and heartily endorses the steps now being taken to get farmers to become shareholders in the Home Bank of Canada, the stock of which is now being placed among its people, and believes the farmers should respond to the request to become shareholders in order that they may more closely attach a strong financial institution to their interest.

Moved by Partridge, seconded by Langley: That Mr. Geddes be advised to partition the expenses incurred by him as secretary of the Inter-provincial Council, together with his remuneration in the proportion of two-fifths each to Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and one-fifth to Alberta, and that he bill each Association for their respective amounts.

Moved by D. W. McCuaig, seconded by George Langley. That the proceedings of the Conference be treated as confidential until the Premiers have an opportunity to take them into consideration.

(Signed)

R. MACKENZIE,

Sec. Pro Tem.

It will be noted that the first proposal, which emanated from the Honorable Mr. Scott, simply suggests that the three Provinces should use their influence to try and induce the railway companies to provide loading elevators and storage bins, when as a matter of fact even the Dominion Government cannot persuade them to give so much as a decent freight service. Companies that force the farmer to supply most of the car door could scarcely be relied on to supply storage. There was no evidence to prove that the railway people had been approached with respect to this proposal. Again, had the people desired the railways to provide storage of this kind they would have asked for it. The Premiers were asked to meet to consider the demands of the farmers not to present proposals of their own. They asked through Mr. Langley that reasons be given why their proposals should not be accepted. There are two good ones. They had nothing tangible to offer; the railways had not consented to give the storage even were the farmers satisfied to take this in lieu of their demands for Government ownership. In the second place, when one asks for an apple and one is offered a turnip in its stead the only reason one needs to give for declining the turnip is that one asked for an apple, and did not want a turnip. In other words, the farmer knew what he wanted and why he wanted it. It is the Premiers who should give reasons for not immediately granting the requests of the farmers.

The second proposal, offered by the Honorable Mr. Roblin, signified that either the Premiers were in the confidence of the Grain men or else that they had no authority to make the proposal at all as it involved the consent of a large number of elevator owners. The proposition is vague to the point of absurdity and its presentation for the grave consideration of the farmers' representatives is anything but a compliment to their intelligence.

Even the Ambassador, Mr. Langley, hardened politician as he is, fairly squirmed under the satire levelled at him as the bearer of such a proposition communicated with such gravity and formality as an important secret of state. It is but fair to Mr. Langley to state that the absurdity of the proposals he bore was fully appreciated by him before he presented them.

One absurd feature of the whole thing was the proviso for secrecy. If the Premiers were acting in good faith, why the need for secrecy?

The proposals could not be accepted by the Council without laying them before the people whom they represented. They could be declined, however, as they had had no other instructions than to go after the various Governments and secure public ownership of elevators and so were justified in declining any substitute.

The next point to be considered is this. What good purpose was to be served by keeping the result of the meeting of the Inter-provincial Council secret? We had done nothing we were ashamed of and we presumed, perhaps with-

out sufficient warrant, that the Premiers had also done nothing of which they were ashamed.

However, the proceedings were only to be treated as confidential until the Premiers had an opportunity to take them into consideration. They have had ample time to make a move in that direction, but nothing has yet been done.

This is a signed article, the reason being that the writer is acting on his own responsibility in publishing the whole circumstances. He consulted the other members of the Council by letter and two of them, Mr. McCuaig and Mr. Sanderson, replied and most strongly opposed the idea of making the matter public. It is but proper that the attitude taken by them should be made known for their own protection. For myself, I have no compunction, believing it to be in the public interest that everything should be known.

The farmers want this thing, and they want it now, not after they are dead. It is not a matter of politics with the farmer, it is a matter of bread and butter.

E. A. PARTRIDGE

EDITORIAL BRIEFS

THE ATTEMPT OF THE GRAIN GROWERS' GRAIN COMPANY TO ENLARGE THE BANKING FACILITIES OF THE WESTERN FARMER.

We take pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to the Prospectus issued by the Grain Growers' Grain Company, having reference to the Home Bank of Canada.

The Company is endeavoring to interest the Western farmers and workmen generally in this bank, which, by the nature of its organization and the character of its connections in the East, is essentially a bank of the common people. The management of this bank has shown a preference for doing business along the old-conservative lines of lending money for legitimate business purposes rather than for the financing of the larger interests which are concerned in speculation and exploitation.

The Company desire that everyone among the farmers and workmen desiring a safe investment, should become stockholders in the bank, and that those keeping money on deposit should open an account there. They will then know that their contributions to the capital account and their deposits will be employed in financing the business of the West. The fact that one bank will be prepared to do their share to supply the legitimate needs of the country will have a tendency to bring other banks to a realization of the necessity for them to adopt a like policy under penalty of losing the greater portion of their deposits. The money stringency of last fall occasioned by banks sending their money out of the country caused a great loss, not only to the farmers, but to many of our working people.

The money stringency of last fall forced the farmers to take less than their grain was worth, which lessened their purchasing power, thus affecting the prosperity of the producers and handlers of commodities commonly purchased by the farmers.

We would bespeak a careful reading of the prospectus, and also of certain letters written by representative men and commenting favorably upon the proposition.

AN EXAMPLE WORTHY OF IMITATION

Mr. R. J. Donnelly, Secretary Treasurer of Foxwarren Grain Growers' Association, in sending us a list also remits \$1.00 for subscription, although in our request for these lists we stated that we would be glad to put those complying with our request on the complimentary mailing list. Mr. Donnelly evidently is not so anxious to get something without paying for it as he is of seeing the Guide put on a satisfactory financial basis. Oh, that such men were a little more plentiful than they are.