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## MANITOBA WINTER FAIR AND FAT STOCK SHOW AND MANITOBA POULTRY SHOW

Brandon, Manitoba, March 5th to 9th, 1917

The Winter Fair of 1914 has not been forgotten. The next will be as good,  
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 The Most Efficient, Best Constructed, Auto-  
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 Construction—26 gauge galvanized iron,  
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 Capacity—125 bushels per hour.  
 Efficiency—Thoroughly sprinkles and then  
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 PRICE: Galvanized iron for Formalin, \$15.00  
 Copper for Bluestone, 20.00  
 Freight paid to your town.  
 For further particulars write to  
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 215 Hammond Bldg. Moose Jaw, Sask.

## Strong Farmers' Platform

Farmers' Platform Adopted Unanimously—Dunning on Rural Credits—

Hon. Geo. W. Brown on War Debts.

The farmers' platform drafted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture was introduced at the Moose Jaw Convention on Wednesday evening by G. F. Chipman, Editor of The Guide. The platform was taken up, clause by clause, with explanatory remarks by the speakers and each clause was passed unanimously. The vast audience was very enthusiastically in favor of the National Platform which had also been adopted by the United Farmers of Alberta and The Manitoba Grain Growers' Associations. After the platform had been passed clause by clause a resolution was moved to adopt it as a whole. Sidney Godwin, a delegate, who is also editor of the Non-Partisan Leader of Swift Current, moved as an amendment that the federal political platform prepared a few weeks ago by the Non-Partisan League be substituted for the platform which was drafted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture. President Maharg ruled the amendment out of order, it not being really an amendment. It was now about 11 o'clock at night and a delegate moved that the meeting adjourn and take up the discussion the next day but this was voted down almost unanimously. Mr. Godwin then moved that the Farmers' Platform then be tabled until the Non-Partisan League resolution came up for discussion. He got only about 20 votes in support of his resolution out of more than 1,200 present. The Farmers' Platform was then adopted unanimously.

A resolution was also passed instructing the board of directors of the association to take whatever steps were necessary to give effect to the platform. There was some discussion as to the best method to follow to have members elected to the House of Commons who could be depended upon to support the platform in parliament. It was decided however to leave this to the board of directors. This platform has now been officially and unanimously adopted by the organized farmers of the three prairie provinces.

### Dunning's Rural Credit Measure

Hon. Chas. A. Dunning, provincial treasurer of Saskatchewan, explained to the delegates his rural credit scheme which will shortly be introduced in the legislature. This is to be practically the New Zealand system of straight government loans on the amortization plan for 30 year terms, interest and principal to be paid in equal annual installments. There will be a farm loan board of three men, one on salary and two in an advisory capacity. In order to keep politics out of the scheme, the chief commissioner will be engaged for 10 years and will be only removable from office by vote of the legislature. Mr. Dunning also said that to show that the rural credit scheme was not an election dodge he would promise that no loans would be made until after the election which must be held by midsummer. Money could be loaned under the new scheme up to 50 per cent. of the appraised value of a farm and for productive purposes only. The money could be used to pay off existing mortgages. He could not give any promise as to the rate of interest, but he illustrated his talk by using figures 6 1/2 per cent. as the rate. Money might cost more or less from year to year, but whatever the rate it would be loaned to the farmers at cost. He estimated that the cost of administration of the scheme would be one per cent. If therefore the government could borrow money at 5 1/2 per cent. it would be loaned to farmers at 6 1/2 per cent. For illustration, at 6 1/2 per cent. a loan of \$1,000 for 30 years would be repaid in full by 30 equal annual installments of \$76.67. Practically all mortgages were now bearing 8 per cent. or over in Saskatchewan so that under the new scheme the farmers would pay a lower rate of interest and would at the same time be paying off the principal.

Provision would be made that any borrower could pay off his loan in full on any annual payment date. It would also be provided that the borrower could

place his insurance in any reliable company. The bill had not yet been finally drafted, but would come up before the legislature very shortly.

### How To Pay Our War Debt

"Canada's Debt after the war and how we are to pay it," was the interesting subject upon which the farmers were addressed by Hon. George W. Brown, former lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, on Tuesday evening. St. Andrews Church was packed and the speaker was paid the compliment of close attention throughout.

Western Canada being the agricultural section of the country where the greatest exportable wealth was produced would be the purse out of which this debt would be paid for the most part.

Before the war Canada's National Debt had been \$335,000,000 this was now increased to \$749,000,000 or, if the latest war vote were included \$1,300,000,000. When the war was over there would be \$220,000,000 interest to meet on public and private borrowings. This was two thirds of the entire National debt before the war and it would have to be paid annually. It could be done, but it was going to spell death to the middleman and all who looked for class legislation and sought to reap tribute where they had not sown.

Bankers and lawyers who called western farmers "Wheat Miners" showed bad judgement, for Saskatchewan alone produced one fifth of the total livestock of the Dominion. Mr. Brown demanded for the farmers right to sell wherever they could get the highest prices and to buy where the buying was most advantageous. Lower tariffs would be the solution of the problems facing them and it was a solution that lay with statesmen, not politicians. The answer to the east's cry of "Production and more production" was "Markets and more markets."

Mr. Brown touched upon free wheat and reciprocity, then dealt with after the war trade.

Prof. W. W. Swanson, of the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, also delivered an inspiring address upon "Economic Reform and the good citizen."

### POLITICS AND BUSINESS

Does the following clipping from the Toronto News indicate a change of heart in regard to the nationalization of railways or an election move on the part of the government?

We face a serious demoralization of railway services. The motive power is wholly inadequate to the demands of traffic. The railways have shown very little precision or foresight. Nor have they shown any acute conception of their obligation to the public. As a result thousands of cars loaded with coal cannot be moved to their destination. Factories are closing and there threatens to be a serious interference with the manufacture of munitions.

In such a situation there must be stern and ruthless reduction of passenger services unless some other method of relief can be suggested. No doubt the public will suffer grave inconveniences and the mails will be greatly disturbed. But as between continuance of vital industries and employment of labor reduction of passenger traffic is the less serious alternative. Probably if the railways had been in the hands of the government we would have no such situation as has developed. A railway system controlled by government is more apprehensive of the public needs and more responsive to public opinion than any private railway corporation is likely to be. Looking at the facts, it is not hard to believe that if the government for the last quarter of a century had absolutely controlled transportation in Canada there would have been no such waste of money and credit, no such unwise duplication of services and no such condition of paralysis as now exists.