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Farmers' Movement Makes Steady Headway

Council of Agriculture Meets in Regina. Movement to be Extended. Farmers' Interests Being Protected.

H. Bronson Cowan, Editor-in-Chief of Farm and Dairy.

THE farmers' movement in Canada continues to make steady, even rapid, headway. Through the various business and educational organizations of farmers that now extend from British Columbia to New Brunswick, with their main strength in the prairie provinces and Ontario, the economic and other interests of the farmers of Canada are being safeguarded and promoted today as never before. These facts were made clear at the meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture held in Regina, Sask., March 11 and 12. They were further revealed at a two-day conference held between the members of the Council of Agriculture and representatives of the leading business interests of Western Canada, that took place the following two days, March 13 and 14. The latter gathering was a meeting of the Joint Committee of Commerce and Agriculture, organized some two years ago and which has held several meetings since. The purpose of the committee is to secure joint action, wherever possible, on the part of the business and agricultural industries in matters of mutual interest.

The meeting of the Council of Agriculture was attended by leaders in the farmers' movement from all three of the prairie provinces, with three delegates present representing the organized farmers of Ontario, Messrs. J. J. Morrison, of Toronto, secretary of the United Farmers of Ontario; J. H. Kervichian, of Goderich, and H. H. Cowan, of Farm and Dairy. The attendance was large throughout. Among those from the west who were in attendance were Messrs. H. W. Wood, J. A. Maharg, M.P., R. C. Henderson, M.P., the presidents respectively of the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Farmers' Associations, J. B. Mueselmann and W. H. Wood, the secretaries of the two latter associations, C. Hiebohn and J. R. Murray, of the United Grain Growers' Limited, F. Riddell, manager Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., Ltd., Hon. Geo. Langley, and numerous directors of all the foregoing organizations. The sessions of the council were crowded with business, the various items of which were dealt with definitely and with dispatch.

The Business Done.

The main business done was as follows:

A lengthy resolution was passed expressing the unalterable opposition of the organized farmers of Canada to the proposed 15% increase in freight rates and setting forth in detail their reasons for such action. A copy of this resolution was telegraphed to Premier Borden, at an expense of about \$25.

A second resolution stated the wholehearted appreciation of farmers of the services being rendered by the members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, their belief that the Dominion should provide liberally for disabled soldiers, but warning the Dominion and Provincial Governments that efforts to place returned soldiers on the land are in the vast majority of cases doomed to failure until existing economic conditions in Canada, which now bear with undue severity on farmers as a class, are materially altered. In proof of this contention the resolution pointed out that in the case of many millions of dollars having been expended to encourage emigration of farm laborers to Canada and to promote the interests of agriculture, farm population in Eastern Canada has declined by hundreds of thousands during the past forty years, while even in Western Canada urban population

has increased much more rapidly than rural population.

A third resolution urged the Dominion Government, in the interests of greater production, to set the price for the 1918 wheat crop not also to set a guaranteed minimum price for the 1919 crop.

A fourth resolution urged the Dominion Government, as a war measure, to remove the duty from all necessary farm machinery and implements and from all raw material used in their manufacture.

An Important Decision.

On the recommendation of a special committee that had been dealing with the matter the Council decided that its activities should be greatly extended in the direction of promoting and watching proposed legislation relating to the welfare of farmers, promoting educational work among the members of the farmers' organizations on economical and public issues and other similar work. To this end it is proposed to advance the membership fees in order to greatly increase the finances of the Council so that an expert may be engaged as secretary, to cooperate with the present secretary, Mr. Roderick McKenzie, whose duty it will be to energetically push all this class of work.

It was decided, also, to reduce the number of delegates that may be appointed by the organizations affiliated with the Council of Agriculture from five to four each, and to hold meetings of the Council twice a year, the annual meeting to be held on the first Tuesday of March each year.

Election of Officers.

Officers for the coming year were elected as follows:

President, H. W. Wood, Calgary. Vice-President and Secretary, Prof. Roderick McKenzie, Winnipeg. Executive Committee, Messrs. Wood, McKenzie, G. F. Chipman, Winnipeg; J. A. Maharg, M.P., Moose Jaw; Peter Wright, Mrylle, Man.

Council's Work.

The annual report of Roderick McKenzie, as secretary of the Council, showed that the Council had held six meetings during the year; in February, March, May, two in June, and August. Amendments to the Grain Act had been made to govern the increase in freight rates, and thousands of copies of a pamphlet explaining the farmers' platform had been printed and given wide distribution among farmers in Canada. The press in both eastern and western Canada. Copies had been sent, also, to members of the Dominion House of Commons.

Financial Statement.

The financial statement showed total receipts of \$11,181.88, expenditures of \$10,419.20, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$762.68.

The principal sources of revenue were: Grain Growers' Grain Co., \$1,914.66; Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., \$1,881.79; United Grain Growers, \$900; Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co., Ltd., \$656.46; United Farmers of Alberta, \$300; Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, \$250; Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, \$100; Grain Growers' Guide, \$100. To promote the printing of the pamphlet on the Farmers' Platform, the United Grain Growers, Ltd., made a special grant of \$2,124.21 and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., Ltd., \$1,965.86. Ontario farmers contributed \$200, which was

(Continued on page 11.)

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VOL. XXXV

Is 'With Proper

It will not be to in the fields and seedling crops. One's thought question of soil in this connection may

Last spring I saw papers manifesting a "seed bed," to "work" of these exhortations would depend largely on work done in the observations lead to

work is, perhaps, in crop production, crop appropriation which was being simply that the medium importance; rather, without this work, no amount of mechanical or produce good if such it be, I am peeling out to this vent farmer may win

The Con

I will begin by quoted comparing the early days. But the surface in those crops anyhow? Ad

prove the accuracy of province as a whole truth in it. A farm that a ranch broader harvesting, with from another field, under times, may be cultivated, and seeded even produce one-third to use a slang expression, notice," and it is my Farm and Dairy read not liberally received received in the farm

Roughly speaking, loam and clay, remain of various sub-kinds, in the series. Sandy farms are the finest, fine of the soil, capacities, clay soils, the soil particles, have, while loam soils position. Every farmer the differences between

There is, however, an all soils—humus, or do makes itself less of prime importance.

Humus Makes

A soil with plenty of work" and fertile; and no amount of mechanical humus. The object vertice and stir up the additional objects but, speaking generally idea of loosening, stirring Now, anyone knows that "pulverizes" these spots that can be greatest difficulty. Such moisture content, of the soil particles, upon of the humus, or upon a man goes on to the tries to work it up, a

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