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## U.F.A. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 1914

Back Row:—F. C. Clare, Edmonton, Director Edmonton District; W. D. Trego, Gleichen, Director Medicine Hat District; P. S. Austin, Ranfurly, Director Victoria District; D. Buckingham, Stettler, Director Red Deer District; J. Quinsey, Noble, Director Macleod District. Second Row:—H. W. Wood, Carstairs, Director Calgary District; Jas. Speakman, Penhold, Second Vice-President; D. W. Warner, Edmonton, First Vice-President; W. J. Tregillus, Calgary, President; Jas. Bower, Red Deer, Honorary President; Rice Sheppard, South Edmonton, Fourth Vice-President. Front Row:—W. G. Vicary, Strome, Director Strathcona District; P. P. Woodbridge, Calgary, General Secretary; E. Carswell, Red Deer, Third Vice-President.

ployed. Promote co-operation among the producers and the consumers and find more effective and cheaper methods of marketing. I do not say these are the only remedies that can be devised, but they are remedies that commend themselves strongly to me, and so far as is possible this government will be prepared to act along these lines and to assist in every possible way in keeping the people upon the land and in promoting co-operation between the producers and the consumers throughout Canada."

The most astonishing feature in connection with these out-and-out declarations in favor of protection on the part of the Prime Minister and his Minister of Finance was that they were based upon an amendment to the address moved by Sir Wilfrid Laurier which was not by any means a direct attack upon the policy of protection. The amendment simply expressed regret that: "Whilst it is admitted that business is in a depressed condition, yet there is no indication of any intention on the part of your advisers to take any steps towards relieving such a situation."

The Opposition leader, it will be noticed, did not make any reference to his free food policy, and for that he was chided by Mr. Borden and Mr. White, who both accused him of having undergone a change of opinion since he declared for that policy at Hamilton, on Nov. 26 last. Sir Wilfrid is undoubtedly still a good deal of a protectionist, but it would perhaps be quite unsafe to assume that it is not his intention to follow this rather innocuous amendment up with others more specifically setting forth his policy. At the time of writing it has been arranged to have a vote on this amendment on Tuesday evening next. On Tuesday morning the first Opposition caucus will be held, when it will be decided whether or not to move other amendments to the address, or to defer them until a later date. A prominent member has expressed the opinion to The Guide that it would not be fair to move an amendment calling for free

wheat at the present stage, because an amendment to the address is a want of confidence motion. It would be better, he thought, to have such a motion made by a private member, so that Western Conservatives could vote for it without their votes being interpreted as a challenge of the whole policy of the administration.

## Laurier For Free Wheat

Speaking in support of his amendment Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that existing conditions could be relieved by giving to this young and expanding country wider markets than it has at the present time.

"There is," he said, "One thing which they can do simply by the stroke of a pen; they can give to the producer the American market. They have received delegation upon delegation asking for that. I understand that the Minister of Public Works, who told us last year that he knew how to win elections, stated, during the election in Macdonald, that, if it was in the interests of the people to have free wheat, free wheat it would be. What more evidence does my hon. friend want? He has received a delegation from the grain growers of the Western Provinces asking for free wheat. In the very legislature of the province which he represents here a resolution has been passed unanimously not moved by a Grit, but moved by a Conservative, to the effect that wheat ought to be made free. There was a delegation only a few days ago, of some twenty members of the Alberta Legislature asking for free wheat. How is it, then, that the speech from the throne does not contain the announcement that wheat will be made free? When this admission was made that the economic conditions of the country were not satisfactory we had reason to expect that some action would be taken. We have been disappointed in this. Is this all they should do? No, they ought to do that which they have been asked many times to do—they ought to relieve the farming community

of the burden of taxation which the farmers are carrying at the present time."

## Dr. Clark Upholds Farmers

Dr. Michael Clark, who replied to the Prime Minister, made a somewhat extended reference to the question of free wheat. He drew attention to the fact that the Argentine Republic has already availed itself of the United States' offer. This, he thought, was a most vital matter for the government of this country. "I am surprised," he said, "that the Prime Minister had nothing to say upon this subject. If we want to increase the prosperity of this country we cannot do it by putting a paragraph in the address referring to our boundless resources. You have to develop these resources and you will only develop them if you show yourselves acute enough business men to contend with your competitors in the Argentina and elsewhere for the markets of the world. I put it to the government that the Argentine government have already shown that they know the value of the offer of the United States and have availed themselves of it."

Dr. Clarke went on to refer to the adoption by the Manitoba Legislature of a resolution in favor of free wheat; to the advocacy by the Alberta Conservative delegation of free wheat on their arrival at Ottawa and to the statement made by the Minister of Public Works during the Macdonald election and continued: "I cannot understand the government hesitating a moment in this matter; that is to say, if they are actuated purely by a desire to do what is best for Canada. Many arguments that were used in regard to the reciprocity pact of two years ago do not apply to this matter at all. This question is not now part of a general agreement; it cannot be argued that it interferes with our fiscal independence. We simply have to take the tariff off wheat, which would be no sacrifice whatever, and we get entry into the United States market for our wheat. I want to remind the

ministers that they know as well as I know that Western grain growers do not fear competition from the United States or anywhere else. In fact, one of the peculiarities of this Government, as distinguished from the Opposition, is that they have no faith in their own country. They tell us we must not trade with the United States or we should be annexed; they told us last year we could not build ships in this country, and now they are afraid, apparently, that our wheat in the West can be successfully competed against from abroad. I want to tell my hon. friend the Minister of Finance, who no doubt is seriously considering this question, that we in the West have confidence in our country, that we have confidence in our wheat, and that we believe no wheat anywhere can compete with it because we produce the best in the world."

## Dr. Schaffner Silent

The only private member supporting the government from west of the Great Lakes to speak so far has been Dr. Schaffner, of Souris. He devoted all his time to a review of what has been accomplished by the present government for the West. He claimed that more had been done by the Borden administration for the Prairie Provinces during two years than had been accomplished by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in fifteen years. The only reference to the question of free wheat which occurred during Dr. Schaffner's speech was the result of a question put by E. N. Macdonald, member for Pictou. Dr. Schaffner was remarking that the electors of Macdonald had condemned the free food proposals of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when Mr. Macdonald interrupted to say: "What about free wheat in Macdonald?"

The member for Pictou is known to be something of a protectionist himself, and Dr. Schaffner was able to parry the thrust quite cleverly with the retort: "What about protection in Pictou?" That was all the member for Souris had to say on the subject.