

living is a false system of raising revenue necessary for the conduct of public affairs. So great is the injustice of this system that on former years both in our annual address and by resolutions in various forms, we have sought to educate and strengthen public opinion both as to its enormity and iniquity. We believe that the time is now opportune for an advance move, and to this end the Canadian Council of Agriculture has given a great deal of thought and attention, to the question, as to what should be the next step taken. So important is this matter that your Board of Directors have planned for an evening of the program of the convention to be given to its study and the results of that study to be drafted into a policy which shall determine our actions. What is the remedy?

- 1.—Taxation of land values, including in the term land all of our national resources.
- 2.—Public ownership and control of our public utilities.
- 3.—Free Trade under the conditions set forth in our Resolution covering the same. This will eliminate class privileges and introduce the fuller spirit of both national and international brotherhood.

Manitoba Directors' Report

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before such grain as was suitable for seed would be shipped out of the country. Then, at the meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture held in July, a committee appointed by the council waited on representatives of the railway companies and they secured a similar concession in the transportation of cattle for feeding purposes. Any farmer shipping cattle to be fed on his farm, from any part of Western Canada to any other part, will receive a rebate off the regular rate of 25 per cent., together with all travelling or other expenses entailed in the purchase of such cattle. Both these concessions are being largely taken advantage of and mean a saving of thousands of dollars to the western farmers.

Change of Secretary

At a meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture held in Winnipeg on July 26, it was decided that the council should open an office in Winnipeg and employ a permanent secretary who should give his whole time to the work of the council. In selecting a man for this position, everyone's mind seemed to turn to Mr. McKenzie as pre-eminently fitted for the research work which will be necessary in the office of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. In releasing Mr. McKenzie from the office of secretary-treasurer of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association we were pleased to know that the executive officers of the farmers' associations in our sister provinces, both East and West, appreciated Mr. McKenzie's good qualities, and while we were sorry to lose his services as our secretary, we realized that he would still be working in our interests, and we rejoiced that he was being promoted to a higher sphere of usefulness. At a meeting of your executive held immediately after the meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, Mr. Henders was appointed acting secretary pro tem, until the next meeting of the board of directors. At the full meeting of the directors, held on October 24, the action of the executive in appointing Mr. Henders acting secretary was unanimously endorsed, and the arrangement continued till this convention or until his successor is appointed and installed, and we believe that the work of Mr. Henders as secretary has been satisfactory to all concerned.

The Farmers' Platform

At a meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture held in the beginning of December last, considerable time was given to the discussion and formulation of a platform setting forth our views on trade and economic questions, which is practically a re-statement of the position we have held on these matters for the last five years. We believe that this platform is reasonable and if put into force would impose no injustice on anyone, and would be the means of securing at least a means of justice, not only for the farmers but for the masses of the people. This matter will be placed before you in due course when

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An accident of geography, and the fortunes of war, have subjected Belgium to the cold-blooded, calculated cruelty and attempted starvation of the German conquerors—while we in Canada, secure from danger, are making money out of the War.

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We have given much—but barely enough to help keep the Belgians alive. More of them every week are calling for help, as their own resources are exhausted, and every one of the millions should have something more than the three slices of bread and the pint of soup which is all the Relief Commission can supply out of present contributions.

If you have been helping, do more if you can till the war is over and Belgium is free. If you have not given yet, will you make up for lost time with a substantial contribution? Better still, will you give, every month, enough to save one or more Belgian families, at the rate of \$2.50 each per month?

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