

Grain Growers Declare for Peace

Resolution Condemning both Naval Policies and Demanding Referendum Adopted by Large Majority

One of the most important pronouncements of the Manitoba Grain Growers' convention last week was contained in a resolution condemning the naval proposals of both political parties, and declaring that Parliament would not be justified in taking action on the naval question without first holding a referendum.

A resolution in favor of a referendum was on the order paper, and this was moved by F. Simpson, Shoal Lake, and seconded by Josiah Bennett, of Austin. Mr. Bennett said he was an Englishman and though an old man was ready to go and fight for England if necessary, but he was not willing for Mr. Borden or Mr. Asquith, or anyone else to dip down into his pocket and take \$5 without his permission (applause). He was opposed to both naval policies.

G. F. Chipman, editor of The Grain Growers' Guide, said this was an excellent resolution as far as it went, but he was afraid it would not accomplish anything. It would merely be pigeon-holed when it reached Ottawa. He believed that 95 per cent of the delegates believed as Mr. Bennett did that an expenditure for naval purposes was not necessary and if that was so that opinion should be expressed. He proposed an amendment as follows:

Whereas among the Christian nations of the earth there is an ever increasing desire upon the part of the common people that war and preparation for war which entails such a fearful harvest of human lives and places such a crushing financial burden upon the taxpayers, should be brought to an end, and that this vast energy now devoted

to purposes of destruction and death be utilized in the cultivation of the arts of peace, and that, instead of promoting distrust and hatred between nations, a spirit of confidence and brotherhood should be encouraged,

And whereas both the Conservative and Liberal parties in Parliament have each proposed that \$35,000,000 or more of the public revenues should be devoted to the construction of naval armament without a mandate from the people;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That this convention of delegates representing 10,000 farmers of Manitoba places itself on record as firmly opposed to any expenditure whatever of public monies for the construction of naval armament, but decidedly in favor of Canada encouraging to the utmost the movement towards international peace and disarmament and the settlement of international difficulties by arbitration;

And further, this convention is strongly of the opinion that Parliament is not justified in making any further move on the naval question until the same has been submitted to an actual referendum of the people.

This was seconded by T. W. Knowles, of Emerson, and several others, and on being put to a vote was carried with only five dissentient votes out of the five hundred delegates present.

Copies of the resolution were ordered to be sent to all the members and ex-members of the Dominion cabinet, and to the members of Parliament representing the three Prairie Provinces.

MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS' OFFICERS

The following officers were appointed for the year 1913 at the Annual Convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association, held at Brandon last week:

President:

R. C. HENDERS, Culross

Vice-President:

J. S. WOOD, Oakville

Directors:

District No. 1—PETER WRIGHT, Myrtle
District No. 2—R. M. WILSON, Marringhurst
District No. 3—W. H. ENGLISH, Harding
District No. 4—F. SIMPSON, Shoal Lake
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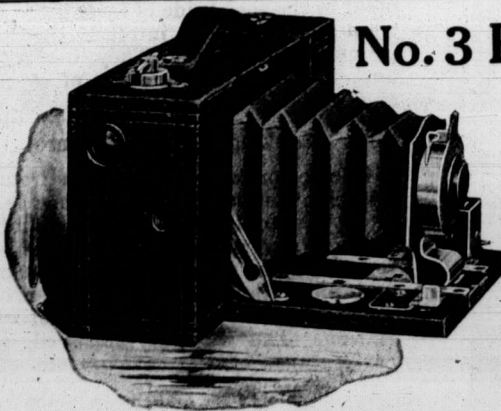
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