

The St. John Standard

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THE FARMERS' PLATFORM.

In view of the growing strength of the Farmers' movement, their programme in the field of national politics is of interest. The United Farmers of Ontario, the Grain Growers of the West, and the United Farmers of New Brunswick are standing on a common platform, of which the principal planks are:

(1) An immediate and substantial all-round reduction of the customs tariff.

(2) The reduction of the customs duty on goods imported from Great Britain to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff, with such further gradual uniform reductions in the remaining tariff on British imports as will ensure complete free trade between Great Britain and Canada in five years.

(3) The acceptance of the reciprocity agreement of 1911 and the placing of all foodstuffs not included in the agreement on the free list.

(The Manitoba Grain Growers and the United Farmers of Ontario also demand that any further reduction of the tariff of the United States towards Canada be met by a similar reduction of the Canadian tariff towards the United States.)

(4) The placing of all agricultural implements, farm machinery, vehicles, fertilizers, coal, lumber, cement, illuminating oil, and of all raw materials and machinery used in their manufacture on the free list.

(5) The immediate extension to Great Britain of all tariff concessions granted to other countries.

This platform was drawn up by a committee, of which Hon. T. A. Cramer was a member. It has the appearance of being the handwork of politicians rather than of the straight forward farmers. It is as indefinite as the Liberal platform, and it promises the farmers a lot of things they already have—a favorite device of the politicians. The promise of an all-round reduction of the customs tariff may serve as an election cry, but it may be doubted whether a Farmers' government called upon to bear the responsibility of running the country's affairs would make any sweeping reductions. If the Farmers' government looked into the matter they would find that the Canadian farmer sells about eighty-five per cent. of his products in the home market—a market which has been created by the development of our manufacturing industries. And they would realize, too, that with the American manufacturer now utilizing cheap black labor on a vast scale, as well as cheap foreign-born labor, they might soon, if given free access to our markets, cripple our manufacturing industries, and destroy the Canadian farmer's home market.

The wisdom of the framers of the platform in promising "the acceptance of the reciprocity agreement of 1911" and the placing of all foodstuffs not included in the agreement on the free list" is open to serious question. Conditions have changed greatly since 1911, when the Canadian people emphatically rejected reciprocity, and the change has abolished any arguments there may have been for reciprocity. Owing to the war the United States has become an immense exporter of foodstuffs, compared with what she was in 1911. Under reciprocity now the western grain growers might sell a considerable quantity of the better grades of hard wheat to America, but the general farmer would have good reason to fear the competition of America's big surplus of foodstuffs in his home market.

As regards the fourth plank, Mr. Cramer and his committee must have known—if they knew enough to frame a platform—that practically all the raw materials used in the manufacture of farming implements (when not produced in Canada) enter the country free of duty, or subject to a drawback of ninety-nine per cent. As for the fifth plank, it is in the present situation at least mere patriotic buncme, for there are no tariff concessions which are not accorded to the Mother Country.

It may be inferred that the purpose of Mr. Cramer's committee was to suggest that a reduction of the tariff would bring down prices and the cost of living. But nobody is in a better position to judge the validity of that idea than the farmers themselves. Most of the basic foodstuffs are now on the free list, but that has not kept the cost of living from soaring. Wheat and wheat flour have been placed on the free list, but the price of bread only continued to advance. Since grade cattle were placed on the free list, the price of beef has shown no downward tendency. Since potatoes, potato products and dehydrated potatoes were placed on the free list, have prices fallen?

And has free trade in lumber benefited the farmer? Since 1907 lumber has been on the free list, or at any rate the following descriptions of lumber: Blocks in the rough; sawed boards, planks, deals, and other lumber when not manufactured other than dressed on one side only; handles, throwing mud at others."

heading staves and shingle bolts in the rough; spokes and fellows of hickory or oak, rough sawn or bent to shape but not planed or smoothed; fence posts, firewood, and hop-poles, fairs, logs, and round, manufactured lumber, palings or pickets, sawn or split only; shingles and wagon blocks in the rough.

THE SCUTTLED NAVY.

Germany applauded the sinking of German fleet interned at Scapa Flow, and now Germany will be called upon to pay the piper. The decision of the Supreme Council of the Allies to hold Germany responsible is not surprising. A Government is responsible for the deeds or misdeeds of its servants, and whether or not the Berlin Government ordered the scuttling of the ships is immaterial.

That it should be reported that the British Government has accepted responsibility to her Allies for the failure to prevent this act of sabotage is, however, rather surprising. While the Supreme Council had entrusted the guardianship of the surrendered ships to the British Navy, conditions had been fixed that prevented effective measures against scuttling.

Great Britain has undertaken that France shall not suffer from the sinking of the warships which should have been her share of the spoils. France was to have four or five dreadnoughts to replace the units on which she abandoned work when war broke out in order to manufacture guns and munitions for the Allies. If the ships in Scapa Flow cannot be salvaged at Germany's expense, France will be compensated by older dreadnoughts still to be handed over by Germany. Most of the Allies are doubtless better pleased that they will be able to command the value of the ships.

CANADA'S NAVAL POLICY.

Lord Jellicoe, who has arrived in Canada, will give the Government the benefit of his advice as to a permanent naval policy for the Dominion. It is understood that the main features of the proposed naval policy are pretty well worked out. Its basis was settled in London last year when Sir Robert Borden and other Ministers had many conferences with the heads of the Admiralty. But there are still details to be considered, and these will be settled by the Government, after conferences with Lord Jellicoe. The working out of a complete scheme may take some time yet, but it is expected that the Government will be able to present its policy in detail at the next session of Parliament.

At present the Government is giving a great deal of attention to the development of its mercantile marine, mainly with the object of expanding the export trade of the country, and assisting the reduction of the big war debt. Already it has a considerable fleet of merchant ships in being, and the new boats are now carrying Canadian products to South America and other distant markets where previously Canadian products were unknown. Its shipbuilding programme now in progress will give Canada a fleet of fifty odd new freighters ranging up to 11,000 tons, and there seems a possibility that this programme will be enlarged to provide for the building of still more ships in this country. With the ships which the Government will take over from the Grand Trunk, the Government Merchant Marine will be one of the most important assets of its kind abroad. Operated in conjunction with a vast railway system they should assure a very considerable development of the foreign trade of Canada, and the progress of our agricultural and manufacturing industries.

INVESTIGATION NEEDED.

The Fredericton Gleaner says: "The Provincial Government has decided not to proceed further in its action against the Hon. J. K. Fleming through which it sought to have certain moneys returned. This is the natural result of a long drawn out affair which had its start in the efforts of the present Government to play politics. Now that the purpose cannot be further served, action is abandoned. There have recently been some rumors as to actions against the present St. John & Quebec Railway Company, or members thereof, in which the public will be quite interested if a settlement is not soon made at the expense of the province. These actions, it is said, will, if settlement is not effected, let in a ray of light upon methods recently employed by the purist friends and hangers-on of the Provincial Government; and it may be that the ray will be let in upon the methods whether the actions proceed or not. The Foster Government has devoted its energies almost wholly to efforts to discover and make known the weaknesses of its predecessors; and now the time is arriving when the public are likely to hear much of interest of the weaknesses and the irregularities of the men who gave up so much time to dressed on one side only; handles, throwing mud at others."

BUY VICTORY BONDS.

Canada offers a better inducement to investors than does any bank. Victory Bonds pay 5½ per cent. interest. The average bank only pays 3 per cent.

Nearly twice as much interest is obtained from the same sum invested in Victory Bonds as in the savings bank.

If you have \$100 and you put it in the savings bank at 3 per cent. in 15 years you will have \$45 interest.

But if you had put it into Victory Bonds, your interest would have amounted to \$82.50.

It ought to be an easy choice. Which do you prefer—\$45 or \$82.50?

Buy Victory Bonds.

WHAT THEY SAY

I. W. W. Diet.

(The Review.)

"You cannot pacify hungry men with high-sounding platitudes, or feed un-nourished children with academic philosophy," says Acting President Lewis of the United Mine Workers. But he fails to explain how the nourishment of the children is to be improved by their fathers working six hours a day instead of eight, or five days a week instead of six. Of platitudes it can at least be said that they don't directly cut down the food supply.

"Then There Was None."

(New York Commercial.)

Sixty magazines have gone away from New York for their printing because of the labor trouble here. Some of them will not return. Other business has left New York also for similar reasons. When the strikes are over the men will find their jobs gone and will have to look elsewhere. A man was once admonished for looking for a gas leak with the aid of a match. His reply was that he had been doing it for a long time and "hadn't been killed yet!" Five minutes later there was an explosion. Labor has been trying to see how far it could go without an explosion.

Selfish and Cynical.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

The President would have been a stunner had he not been upon his sick bed, declared the strike "wrong morally and legally." It is, functionally, a strike to cause a fuel famine and establish the supremacy of a mere faction of the population upon the establishment of which democracy would be destroyed as surely and as wholly as if that class wore Prussian helmets or American silk hats instead of the miner's cap. It is a strike called in the hope of proving the power of an autocratic minority, which would be, if successful, as selfish and as cynical as the military autocracy of the late German Empire.

Irreconcilable Traits.

(Yorkshire Post.)

Two traits in German character which it is difficult to reconcile are the tendency to be brutal and the love of music and the drama. They seem antagonistic. The one is barbaric, the other refined and intellectual; yet they are, and the higher the education, the more deliberately cruel and vicious did the German people display themselves during the war. Now that the war is over, and notwithstanding that all their barbarities have contributed to their own undoing, the Germans are filling their theaters, nightly and finding there some emancipation from the misery of defeat and the distraction of internal politics.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE OLD-FASHIONED MOTHER.

(By Mrs. C. Montagu Ward.)

I have lived my young life
She has here all before her,
That is why I stay at home,
Sit here in my big chair and read or write.

Yes, I was invited to the gala opera
When I was asked to a concert or the play.
I gave my ticket to one of your friends,
And this makes me happy all the day.

Because I love my darling daughter,
I want her to enjoy life while she's young,
Enjoy life in every way that's proper,
Spill her? Make her selfish? Not a bit!

She begs me to join the party! God bless her,
How much jollier to have a gallant escort,
With courtly manners and clever repartee,
Than little mother, who needs as much attention.

With her nervous jumps as the motor speeds along,
And my eyeglasses will fall off when they ought to stay on.
Ah, no I have lived my young life to its full,
And now I am living life to its full.

For my darling daughter comes to me
And tells me all about her joy in life,
Tells me far more than I could ever see.
She will say, "Oh mother, I wish you

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Little Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE.

The Park Ave. News.—Weather: Properly. Benny's Notes. Sid Hunt went in the manufacturing business last week, starting to make dog kennels out of soap boxes.

Down his cellar, having one almost made now, but saying he ain't going to finish it till he gets a order for it.

Sidney. Miss Mary Watkins was taking her horseback riding lesson on a pony last Wednesday when all of a sudden the pony stood still and wouldn't go either direction, and after setting there in vain for about 20 minutes Miss Watkins calmly got off in a dignified manner and went home.

Pome by Skinny Martin.
Everything in its Place.
O see the bewitching cullers.
In the rainbow in the sky!
But would you want to be culled like that?
Of course not. Neither would I.

Intriguing Fucks About Intriguing People. Lew Davis says a fair exchange is no robbery and he would give a stummick ache for a hunk of mints pie any day.

Musical Notes. Puds Simkins dropped a screw driver in the piano apparently by accident, and now he can't practice any more till the man comes to get it out again.

Lost and Found.—Found, a part of a package of unused, sticking plaster half pink and half black. Owner can have it by paying reward to Sam Cross.

Procrastination

It seems a very formidable word, but in this case we hope that the mere mention of it will be a safeguard against the disappointments which follow in its train.

In the matter of your Christmas Gifts—

We want you to write to Birks today and get your copy of the Year Book, and send us your order in November.

We can then guarantee satisfaction and an unbroken line of suggestions for gifts.

We would like to be able to fill your order exactly as it reaches us, and this we will do if you will send us your requirements at the earliest possible date.

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MONTREAL

had been there."

"No, ma'am," said Robert. "He didn't. He said it would hurt him more than it would me."

"Nonsense!" replied the teacher. "Your father is entirely too sympathetic."

"Oh, I don't know," said Robert. "paw's got rheumatism in both arms."

A BIT OF FUN

That Didn't Suit Her Either.
The Bride—Oh, Dick, you shouldn't kiss me before all these girls.
Dick—I can hear her merry laugh, and see her in her velvet gown.
How lovely she is. . . .
Good night dear Maud.
I like being old fashioned. You would too.
If such happiness came to you.

Interest Killed On.
Painter—Are there any interesting spots about here?
Rustic—The Cross Road Inn used to be; but now they sell only soft stuff.

No Strain For Her.
She—I appreciate the compliment, but I'm afraid I could never make you happy.
He—Oh, yes, you could. You don't know how easily pleased I am.

The Real Objective.
"Does success mean getting what you want?" asked the young man.
"No," replied the old man. "Success isn't so much getting what you want as getting what other people want."

Reason.
"The teacher sternly,

For Prettier, Cheaper
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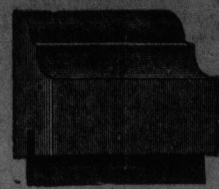
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