

meeting that there are grants of money and other assistance available for the establishment of school gardens that are not being taken advantage of, to which Mr. McEwing replied that the difficulty with conducting rural school gardens is the midsummer vacation. This elicited from Joseph Goodwin a personal recollection of a school teacher who came into their neighborhood years ago. There had previously been much vandalism about the schoolhouse and grounds, but this teacher established a garden, and so changed the attitude of the pupils that not a boy would harm anything. The teacher and his work exercised a wonderful influence for good in the section.

Sylvester Fluhrer, of Lambton County, referred to the excellent examples of school gardening at the Rittenhouse school, near Jordan Harbor, and in the neighboring school at Vineland. To such an extent had this work aroused pupils' interest that they would spend noon hour, recess and Saturday afternoons at it. The question was raised whether such work interfered with the book work. One of the members recalled that the principal of the Berlin public school used to let small children out at three to thin sugar beets, and he noticed that the pupils who did this made the best progress in school work.

The Legislative Committee's report read, in part, as follows:

"Your Committee very much regrets that our Government has undertaken the creation of a Canadian navy, notwithstanding the evident opposition of the public to such a policy, and we deem it even yet advisable to have the verdict of the people in a plebiscite before continuing a scheme that is calculated to bind an unwilling people to a system they abhor.

#### NO PROTECTION IN LIEU OF BOUNTIES.

"We view with pleasure the expiration this year of the legislation under which the iron and steel industry has been subsidized, and assume that there will be no continuance of such a system after January 1st, 1911, and that no tariff protection will be given to these industries in lieu of the withdrawal of these bounties.



N. E. Burton, Port Stanley, Ont.  
Master of the Dominion Grange.

"We would also direct attention to the attempt now being made to secure an export duty on cream, and thus prevent some of our farmers

from securing the benefit of the adjoining market for this produce. We feel the Grange should protest against any such action being taken."

#### SOCIAL AND MORAL REFORM.

Quite a large order was proposed by the Resolution Committee, a number of them having been prepared, we understand, at the instance of Rev. Dr. J. G. Shearer, Secretary of the Presbyterian Committee on Social and Moral Reform. One of these, regretting the action of Parliament in legalizing professional gambling on the race-tracks of Canada, was carried as drafted. Another, proposing a revision of the criminal code against houses of prostitution, was modified. Dr. Shearer's resolution recommended that provision be made for search of suspected premises with or without warrant, but the words "or without" were struck out.

A resolution commending the Ontario Government for suppressing light pictures was carried, also, resolutions favoring Provincial ownership of trunk telephones, and a greater representation of rural trustees on the Advisory Council of the Ontario Educational Association. Regarding the matter of telephones, an Albertan present stated that the Government telephone service in Alberta is very satisfactory. The greatest difficulty met with is in getting new lines put in. The Government out there, he said, has a way of putting in lines where its representatives get their support. There is also a difficulty sometimes in getting long distance connection made.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Master, N. E. Burton, Port Stanley; Overseer, E. C. Drury, Crown Hill; Sec.-Treas., J. J. Morrison, Arthur; Lecturer, J. G. Lethbridge, Alliance; Chaplain, Wm. Waldon, Essex; Steward, R. A. Sutherland, Stroud; Assistant Steward, H. McMillan, Beaverton; Gatekeeper, Jas. Fallis, Newbridge; Ceres, Miss McKay, Beaverton; Flora, Miss Wardell, Middlemarch; Pomona, Miss Phelps, Whitby; and Lady Assistant Steward, Miss Robinson, St. Thomas. Executive Committee—E. C. Drury, R. E. Gunn, J. McEwing, M. P. P.; W. L. Smith, and J. G. Lethbridge.

## THE PEOPLE IN THEIR PARLIAMENT

The farmers of Canada mean business—mean it as they never did before. Seven or eight hundred delegates, from a string of seven Provinces, with Nova Scotia in the East, and Alberta in the far West, and a few individuals, it is said, from British Columbia, met in Ottawa last week, and on Friday morning marched four abreast, like a double regiment, to the House of Commons to interview Parliament and demand a sweeping reduction in the Canadian Customs Tariff. Reciprocity with the United States in Agricultural products, and increased preference to Great Britain, with complete abolition, in ten years' time, of all tariffs against the Mother Country, were the cardinal planks of the Tariff platform.

Other measures were pressed, as well, by the preponderating Western delegation, cheerfully backed by their fellow delegates from the East, but the one supreme issue in which all were actively concerned, and which overshadowed every other question, was the tariff. No party politics figured in the case. Men of all shades of political opinion were of one mind on this matter. With but a single dissenting voice, representing a fruit section, every man who spoke in the Thursday mass-meeting preceding the Parliamentary interview declared heartily and strongly for the platform submitted. Perhaps never before in Canada has such wonderful unanimity of opinion been exhibited in a tariff discussion, and when it is considered that every man present spoke for scores, hundreds or thousands of voters at home, it will be understood that the sentiment for tariff reform, which has been gathering momentum in Canada, especially since Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Western tour, has become a force to be reckoned with. Henceforth the voice of the farmer will be heard in the land, and heeded in legislative halls. A sleeping giant has awakened and noted his strength. The epoch-marking event in Ottawa last week was the first thing of its kind in Canada, but it will not be the last.

The new force is not a destructive one. Its temper, though keen, is not bitter; it engenders no class discord or narrow self-seeking; it seeks rather to resist privilege; it stands for fair play, justice to farmers, relief to consumers, goodwill and co-operation towards manufacturers, and sincere regard for the general good.

The Canadian Council of Agriculture, whose existence made possible the delegation last week on such a vast and well-concerted plan, was organized in Saskatchewan last February, and is composed of representatives of four affiliating bodies, viz.: The Alberta Farmers' Association, the Grain-growers' Associations of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and the Dominion Grange in Ontario. Thus, there is, as E. C. Drury, Secretary of the Council of Agriculture, and retiring Master

of the Grange, remarked in Toronto at the Grange Convention, a single farmers' organization in Canada autonomous as far as the various Provinces are concerned, but able to move in unison in matters of national moment.

But the farmers' delegation last week was more representative even than those above-named organizations. Delegates were present from the Nova Scotia Fruit-growers' Association, from Cheese Boards in Ontario, and from various other bodies, local and Provincial. Besides these came many individuals from East and West, some paying their own way, and some helping defray other delegates' expenses. Bear in mind that these men sought no special privileges, but merely relief for themselves and others from the burden of a protective tariff, designed properly enough in the first place to encourage infant industries, but now requiring severe pruning to regulate evils of combination, extortion and economic waste. To be sure, the delegation was more radical than the general agricultural opinion of the country. Grant, also, that some statements made require qualification. Still, the fact remains that these men are thinkers, and unquestionably represent the trend of thought among most classes of farmers in Canada today.

#### THE PRELIMINARY MEETING.

Assembled in Ottawa on Thursday morning, the first business of the delegates was to unite on a common platform. It proved unexpectedly easy. At nine o'clock, the memorials drafted by the executive of the three Western Associations were submitted to a committee of the Eastern bodies at a joint meeting, and adopted with a few mutually agreeable changes. Subsequently, the resolutions were submitted to a general meeting of the delegates, held in the Grand Opera House Thursday forenoon and afternoon, and presided over by D. W. McEwing, President of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. Some purely Western propositions were disposed of first, after which the meeting got down to the great tariff question. The platform adopted by the executive was ably presented by the Secretary, E. C. Drury.

#### THE INTERVIEW.

The interview was impressive and historic. Having met at the opera house on Friday morning, at 9.15, and marched four abreast in a long column to the House of Commons, the delegates were ushered into the seats of the mighty (which is to say, the members of Parliament), the overflow thronging the gallery. A very few M. P.'s, among them R. L. Borden, Leader of the Opposition, were in time to secure seats on the floor of the House. Many others sought a viewpoint in the gallery. About 10 a. m. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his Cabinet appeared, some of the Ministers

taking chairs at the table in the center of the floor, others perching on the dais at the foot of the Speaker's chair, where the pages are accustomed to sit. The people were in their Parliament, and their servants took second place.

The various resolutions endorsed on Thursday at the mass meeting were presented in turn by Mr. McEwing, President of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and each backed up by from one to half a dozen carefully prepared typewritten memorials, read with the eloquence of real earnestness by men who acquitted themselves better as orators than many of the M. P.'s could do. For four steady hours, one speaker after another laid before the auditors fact upon fact and argument after argument, presented with a closeness of reasoning not always heard in that chamber. Excepting on the tariff question, nearly all the speaking was done by Westerners, though Geo. E. Goldie, an Ontario miller, and E. B. Wood, of the Dominion Millers' Association, as well as Hedley E. Shaw, representing the Toronto Board of Trade, backed them up vigorously and effectively in their demand for Government ownership and operation of the terminal elevators.

Tremendous interest was manifested by the Western delegates in the resolution calling for Government ownership of the Hudson's Bay Railway. The Westerners appear to expect great things of this route as an outlet for Western grain. For our part, we fear it is a case of misguided enthusiasm. Time will tell.

#### TERMINAL ELEVATORS.

The terminal elevator resolution reads: "Whereas we are convinced that terminal elevators as now operated are detrimental to the interests of both the producer and consumer, as proved by recent investigation and testimony of important interested bodies, we therefore request that the Dominion Government acquire and operate as a public utility, under an independent commission, the terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur, and immediately establish similar terminal facilities and conditions at the Pacific coast, and proceed in the same at Hudson's Bay when necessary. Also such transfer and other elevators necessary to safeguard the quality of export grain."

#### CHILLING AND EXPORT BUSINESS.

"Whereas, it is of great importance to the whole of Canada that prompt Government action be taken toward establishing a complete chilled-meat system on a permanent basis, with the interests of the producers adequately protected, and

"Whereas the livestock industry of Canada has been neglected, and if this neglect is continued, it will soon result in impoverished farms, and the live-stock industry of the country will