

The election of officers was then proceeded with, and Rev. A. Moffat was elected president; Mr. Blanks, vice-president; Robert Houston secretary-treasurer; William Miller and William Reid were appointed directors, and I. D. Cuddy and F. Nugent, auditors.

It was also decided that with the view of securing a better representa-

tion of school boards and a larger attendance of those interested in our schools, that the next meeting be held in Sanford sometime in June, when weather conditions will likely be more favorable.

The meeting then adjourned.

ROBERT HOUSTON.

Secretary-Treasurer.

### A MESSAGE FROM DR. JAS. W. ROBERTSON, CHAIRMAN OF CANADIAN BRANCH OF THE AGRICULTURAL RELIEF OF THE ALLIES FUND

Ottawa, January 29th, 1918.

To the Manitoba School Trustees in Annual Meeting assembled.

I regret that duties in connection with patriotic work and war-service of various kinds prevent me from attending the annual convention. Under the circumstances I am glad to avail myself of the opportunity to send a message. In it I wish to remind you of two matters and to invite your kindly consideration.

The first is in reference to the food situation; the other is the special appeal to the farmers of Manitoba to join other farmers in providing first-aid for the peasant farmers of the Allies who have lost everything through the awful processes of war.

#### Gravity of the Food Situation.

The scarcity of suitable foods is causing the war situation to become increasingly grave on the side of the Allies. France and Italy are short of wheat and flour and fats. There is not enough food on our side to let us be free from anxiety; and if we all eat and waste this year and next year, just as we used to eat and waste, then there will be still greater privation among our allies—privation which may mean starvation for women and children and the weakening of our position in the war. That is the gravity of the Food situation.

Why did we not know about that sooner? Well, the men at the heart of

things have known of it, but the people would not hear or heed because the abundance of all about us was so great. I sometimes think, with my body in Ottawa and my mind behind the lines at the front—If they hear not Moses and the Prophets (men of intelligence, vision and responsibility) neither would they be persuaded although one of the soldiers rose from the dead and said, "You folks at home are putting in peril all that I died for."

Since the war began the farmers of Manitoba have risen to the great occasion nobly. Some of the best of them have sealed their devotion by the supreme sacrifice of service unto death in Belgium and France. Those at home have spared sons and brothers for the army until the farms are stripped almost bare of necessary labor. I honor the men and women who have toiled bravely, early and late, to the last ounce of their strength. It has been for a great cause. Now, as ever, he that endureth to the end shall be saved. So we must not now slacken our efforts. The logical sequence to the work that has been done for greater production is to follow it by a further effort for still greater production. We should use all the experience we have thus far gained in planning and carrying forward a campaign for larger acreages and higher yields in 1918 and the years that are to follow. We can better meet the needs of the Allies by the production of food than by any other service.