

is editorial and special article writing on The Grain Growers' Guide. Several of the articles dealing with the farmers' movement in the special Anniversary Number were, it was explained, written by him. The committee recommended his appointment as secretary. The appointment was made forthwith and Mr. Lambert was introduced to the Council, with most of the members of which he has, of course, been long and intimately acquainted.

Seed Grain Situation

The serious situation which may confront the farmers in some districts of the West in securing seed grain for the 1919 crop was also taken up. Reports indicated that in some sections the conditions of 1914 might be repeated. The representatives from Ontario called attention to the fall wheat situation

there. The total fall wheat yield would provide less than 25 per cent. of the amount required for this fall's seeding. A committee consisting of the president and secretary and Col. Fraser, of Ontario, was appointed to take steps to secure accurate information as to the seed grain situation in the prairie provinces. They were instructed to advise the government and the Board of Grain Supervisors of the conditions as they found them. They were further instructed to advise the government of the necessity of securing fall wheat for this year's seeding.

Mr. H. W. Wood referred to the conditions that arose last spring regarding the delivery of wheat to the elevators. A request had been sent out that the farmers deliver any wheat they had left with the result that some who

had made it a practice to hold over surplus wheat for seed purposes, had got the impression that the Board of Grain Supervisors had ordered them to deliver it. Mr. Wood and Mr. Bathwell got together and talked the matter over. They decided that it should not be made an order of the grain supervisors. The fact that the wrong impression had got abroad, however, had made the seed situation worse than it otherwise would have been.

Freight Rate Increase

Roderick McKenzie reported that the railways had made application to the Board of Railway Commissioners for a freight increase of 25 per cent. effective August 1. Reports to the effect that the railways were already preparing their new tariffs were in circulation. It was true that Mr. McAdoo had raised the freight rates in the United States 25 per cent., explained Mr. McKenzie, but the rates to begin with were lower than they were here. In the United States they did not get the first increase of 15 per cent. on the Eastern lines. Besides, in the United States the government would get the profits, whereas in Canada they would go largely to the C.P.R. On motion by John Kennedy, a committee of five was appointed to take up the freight increase with full power to act.

Meetings With Other Bodies

A letter from Vere Brown, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, regarding short term credits was read to the Council. It raised various objections to the Short Term Credit Act which had been put in operation in Manitoba and requested a conference with the Council. Among other claims was one which stated that the members should assume unlimited liability for loans secured through the credit associations, and that the government should not assume any liability. A committee consisting of two members from each of the three provinces was appointed to go into the matter.

A conference with the Council was also requested by the Credit Men's Association. In fact, the association had gone so far as to appoint July 3 as the date for the conference and to write Mr. McKenzie that the date had been fixed. Mr. McKenzie at that time was in the East and the coming meeting of the Council had made it impossible to meet the credit men on that date. The secretary was instructed to inform the credit men and the bankers that the Council would be able to arrange a meeting some time during the last week of October or the first week of November. Mr. Gurney was asked if that time would be convenient for the Ontario men. "Ontario has got to that position where she is willing to make a sacrifice at any time to help the cause of the farmer," replied Mr. Gurney.

The Question of Taxation

As is usual at meetings of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, the question of taxation came up for discussion. It was felt, however, that this was becoming a matter of such moment that it would require a special meeting to deal with it at all adequately. Some interesting points were brought out in the short time the matter was open to discussion. One was that the Victory bonds were rapidly finding their way into the hands of financial institutions. Since the dividends were free from the income tax and a high rate of interest was realized they were looked upon as gilt-edged by the interests and special efforts were being put forth by some corporations to gather them in. Some mortgage companies were, for instance, finding that farmers were liquidating their indebtedness faster than new loans could be placed and had men out in the country buying up Victory bonds. The opinion was freely expressed that the dividends of future loans should not be exempt from income tax.

Mr. McKenzie was of the opinion that federal and provincial authorities should get together and determine which fields of taxation they should each exploit. There was already overlapping in the income tax. The statement that it should be put up to the Dominion government to pay more of the expenses of the war while it was in progress was vigorously applauded. Hon. Geo. Langley explained at some

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length the general principles governing provincial taxation. He stated that the provinces were co-ordinated in the matter of subsidies from the Dominion treasury and that the changes in the subsidies must be uniform as regards the different provinces. He outlined the operation of the wild land tax in Saskatchewan. The surtax on wild lands in the provinces had yielded an average \$8, about \$700,000 a year for four years. This had formerly been expended by the municipalities. The new land tax, passed last session, would yield \$800,000 according to the estimate of Hon. Chas. Dunning. As far as the income tax was concerned he did not think that incomes of less than \$1,500 should be subject. It would prove to be a difficult matter to apply the income tax to farmers. Very few of them kept accounts and it was next to impossible for them to calculate what they had made from any year's operations.

The organized farmers have always been ready to put forward land value taxation as an alternative for the tariff," said Mr. Langley. "It would not take one half as much out of the farmer's income to meet his share of the expenses of government. Under the tariff farmers are unconscious of the tax they are paying. The invisible tax was the biggest act of iniquity ever committed in the whole world of finance."

The coal shortage was also discussed by the council, and it was felt that the whole matter should be made the subject of an investigation by a royal commission. Shortages when coal was purchased in carloads direct from the mines were complained of, especially in Alberta. As much as a ton underweight to the car was reported and it was decided to gather specific instances and take the matter up with the Board of Railway Commissioners.

The proceedings of the meeting closed with an interesting account by Roderick McKenzie, of his trip through Eastern Canada, during which he attended the big farmers' meeting in Toronto, the manufacturers' convention at Montreal, and did organization work in New Brunswick and Quebec. A report of his address will be published in an early issue of The Guide.

Price Unchanged

President Wilson has declared his intention of vetoing the agricultural appropriation bill recently passed by Congress, which fixed the price of wheat for 1918 at \$2.40 per bushel. President Wilson wants the price to remain at the present figure, \$2.21.



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