

The Farm Page



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ALBERTA FARMERS ORGANIZING FOR POLITICAL ACTION

Farmers Have Considered Four Things Before Embarking Upon Sea of Politics

When the mariner decides to set sail on the ocean; when the traveler is about to commence a journey, they should carefully take their bearings.

We Alberta farmers are about to launch our barque on the tempestuous sea of politics, and it is our duty to consider first, is it proper? Second, is it necessary? Third, will it be successful? Fourth, will such success be beneficial, not to ourselves as individuals, nor to the farmers in Alberta in general, but to this progressive Province, to the Dominion, and the British Empire of which this Dominion of Canada is destined to become the dominating factor?

First, it is proper, because all adult citizens of any country, male and female, should take an active interest in the Government of that country. Second, it is necessary because industry is the foundation of all prosperity, and agriculture is by far the most important industry; but farmers have never had sufficient representation in any of the Provincial Legislatures, nor in the Federal Parliament of Canada, and the rights and interests of farmers have not been safeguarded.

Many of the most disreputable of our politicians fail to get seats in the cities, which is to the credit of the cities, but they are too often sent out by the party machines to get seats in the rural constituencies, which to the rural constituencies is disreputable, and to the country disastrous.

In 1878 I helped to launch the N.P. for the purpose of fostering and feeding the infant industries—I make no apology.

Several years later I was joined to my better half. In due time the little fractions increased and multiplied, and we practiced subtraction and division in order to solve the problem of existence—I make no apology. I wish to say, however, that we did not spoon feed any of the little fractions for twenty years, and they have all grown to be whole numbers.

We have spoon fed the infant industries for forty years, and if they cannot now go alone it is because they are too fat.

What was once a protective tariff has been inflated and padded till it has become a prohibitive tariff. Now farmers and others are asking for a substantial reduction in the import duties. The supporters of high tariff claim that we need the revenue. Granted; but any intelligent persons knows that a prohibitive tariff yields no revenue. Ten per cent duty will yield much more revenue than twenty-five per cent, and thirty per cent in most cases will yield none; but the revenue champions are much more anxious about their own personal revenue than that of the Government.

We have too many professional men in parliament. The lawyers have spread out a many network of laws which none but a lawyer would attempt to disentangle, and they often fail, but impose their extortionate charges just the same.

To the third question I would say that our prospects for success are good. We are well organized, and are blessed with good leadership. Our President is a man of extraordinary intelligence, he is endowed with a generous, unselfish spirit and unswerving integrity; and is well supported by very capable lieutenants.

In answer to the fourth question which is the most important, allow me to remark, selfishness is the cause of almost all the sorrow, sin and shame that afflict suffering humanity, and all of the graft and corruption that make party politics disgusting, and abominable to respectable people.

The U.F.A. have always shown a very generous spirit, and have been considerate of the rights and welfare of others. They supported the temperance movement, the equal franchise movement, the request for a dowry law, and equal rights in the guardianship and custody of children.

The Alberta farmers have already taken political action, action that will be considered by all intelligent, fair-minded people, in a happier future age to have been proper, necessary, successful and beneficial.

The U.F.A. was the power behind the throne that induced—rather impelled the Alberta Government to grant that measure of ordinary justice, equal franchise. The influence of that action has been felt from ocean to ocean, and even across the Atlantic.

The hope I expressed with much confidence nearly three years ago has already been realized.

That dear old dotting Mother of Nations, having followed the example of her more progressive daughters has turned that masculine despotism into a true democracy, with government of the people for the people by the people; yes, the people male and female as God created them.

JOHN GALLOWAY,
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

MANITOBA WILL BUY CATTLE FROM ALBERTA STOCKMEN

The Manitoba Department of Agriculture, it is stated, has decided to purchase between 25,000 and 30,000 head of cattle for the farmers of that province, from the stockmen of Alberta who are being forced to sell on account of the shortage of feed. It is estimated there are 150,000 head of cattle in Alberta without food. Arrangements for carrying out the transaction which will entail an expenditure on the part of the Government of more than one million dollars are being made.

SPECIAL HAY AND STOCK TARIFF FOR FARMERS' BENEFIT

Dominion and Provincial Governments and Railways Combine to Help Needy Farmer

For the benefit of the farmers in the districts affected by crop failure, the Dominion and Provincial Governments and the railways have effected a special tariff rate on hay and stock shipments.

Advice has been received from Ottawa that the Dominion Government will duplicate the concessions already agreed to by the Provincial Government and the railways, and as soon as the freight schedules can be printed and distributed the new rates will be operative.

The scheme thus agreed upon gives the privilege of free freight on cattle, hay and haying outfits to bona fide farmers within the districts affected by the crop failure. The Dominion and Provincial Governments will each pay half of the cost of moving cattle north for grazing. On return shipments will share similarly on the McArthur lines, but on other lines they will pay one-fourth each, the railways themselves bearing the remaining fifty per cent in the way of a freight rebate.

On haying outfits going north and on hay coming out the two governments and the railway will each pay one-third of the freight, except on the McArthur lines, in respect to which no concession is being made. In the latter case the governments will bear each one-half of the cost, giving the farmers the same advantage of free freight.

It is expected that the movement of haying outfits and cattle will begin at once, a number of southern farmers having already secured locations in the north.

A GOOD FARMER MUST ALSO BE A GOOD MANAGER

Farming, even today and yet by great masses of farmers is thought of chiefly as growing crops and animals. Only slowly have we come to realize that the good farmer is actually not only a skillful handler of soil, plant and animal, but that he is also a good manager. Genuine business skill, executive ability, the power to organize all the factors of the farm into a unity, probably are far more important than any other one element. Failure here is much more frequent than poor practice. Most unsuccessful farmers cannot manage. Such questions as size of farm, amount of capital needed, laying out of the farm itself, kind and convenience of buildings, saving motions in labor operations, filling in idle hours, keeping of accounts, economical buying and skillful selling, wise reinvestments of profits—these are matters too much neglected by many farmers. An adequate system of investigation and popular education is called for.—The Farmer and The New Day.

**NOTHING DEFINITE
ON WHEAT PRICE**

Apparently the government is not in a position to make an announcement regarding the price on this year's wheat crop, as Hon. McLean, acting minister of trade and commerce stated in the House that as the crop was not to be traded in on the leading exchanges of the world, that regulations would be made operative to restrict purely speculative transactions. He said the situation regarding the requirements of Britain and the allied European countries were uncertain, but that everything was being done to ensure to the Canadian farmers a fair share of the world's markets.—Market Examiner.

**PROSPERITY OF
ANY COUNTRY LIES
CLOSE TO SOIL**

The prosperity of any country lies very close to the soil. A straight mining country or a timber country shortens its life with every slash of the axe or every shovel full of ore removed, but all agricultural enterprises, especially the growing of hay and the feeding of livestock, reproduce themselves from year to year, increasing the productivity and prosperity of the country, and producing annually new wealth, which flowing through the arteries of trade, is the life blood of business.—Grain Growers'

CHANGING SEED NOT ESSENTIAL TO GOOD CROP

Belief That Any Strain Would Run Out Is Said To Be Erroneous

The belief was once common that any strain of potatoes maintained in one locality would inevitably run out, and that the only means of improvement was what was known as "changing seed." Many still have this idea, and there is really something in the question of change of location working to the advantage of the strain. It has been found that potatoes harvested in northern localities and taken to more southern districts; that they do a little better even in the second year, but that by the third year they show little if any improvement over the native strain. This fact is so well recognized that the growing of potatoes in northerly districts and shipping them for seed to countries to the south has been recommended as a paying proposition. This, however, has practically no bearing on the old idea of improvement by changing of seed.

The modern practice for farmers would seem to be, first, to get good seed; and second, to improve upon the strain by selection. By this latter we mean the selection of the best of the crop as seed for the next year. The potato being a cutting and not a true seed, and sensitive to local conditions, we must not be surprised to see good crops obtained from rather poor seed, or to see poor crops obtained from good seed. This, however, does not affect the value of the principle, that, given a fair chance, the potato cutting will reproduce its kind.

The selection of potatoes for seed may be performed in two ways. The simplest method would be to select the most desirable tubers—those of a good market type, medium in size, rather flat-oval, together with the other desirable points we have mentioned. This kind of selection would go a good way towards improving the stock seed. However, we must recognize that the plant, and not the tuber, is the individual, and that the individual potato which we select may possibly come from a plant we would not care to propagate. If the farmer will only take the trouble his best line of potato improvement will be "plant selection." Select the best plants in the field, mark them so, that they may not be mistaken when the crop has arrived at maturity, dig these plants separately, retaining the best tubers from each plant. By these means it is possible to obtain the best tubers from the best plants in the field. We would recommend that the farmer plant what might be known as a breeding plot—a small area planted with the very best seed obtainable. In this area he will look for his best plants for selection purposes. This lessens the work somewhat, curtailing the field area from which the selection is made. In this breeding plot, the careful seed producer will take time to rest out unnecessary vines. It is true that we need vines and plenty of leaf surface to produce the potato, but some plants produce more vines than we need, and these plants often produce an unusual amount of small potatoes.

MANY WESTERN RIDERS TO ATTEND CALGARY STAMPEDE

It is expected that a great number of ropers and riders from the western provinces and the western states will attend the Calgary Stampede to be held August 25 to 30. Manager Guy Wendick has received many letters from all over the west telling him of many participants that are coming. The \$25,000 which is hung up in purses at this event is making them all sit up and notice the Stampede. At the fair grounds, where the event will be held it has been arranged to have the entire track encircled with bleacher seats.

The following list of some of the purses, shows the scale on which the Stampede is being carried out: Relay race, \$3,000; other world's championship events are the cowboys' bucking horse riding contest with saddle, in which the total prize money is \$4,000; the cowboys' bareback bucking horse riding contest with surcingle for prize money totalling \$1,400; the cowboys' steer roping contest, prize money \$4,800; the cowboys' bull-dogging contest, prize money \$1,200; the cowgirls' relay race, prize money \$1,700. The prize money for the one mile Roman standing race is \$2,550, and for the three mile Roman standing race \$1,025; for the cowboys' wild horse race, it totals \$1,500. The pony express race will be a three-quarters of a mile daily event, and the prize money totals \$460.

A.F. OF L. REPORT SHOWS INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

In 1918 there were about 2,072,000 members of the American Federation of Labor. In 1917 this number increased to 2,500,000, and at the present time it is well over the 3,000,000 mark.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEES

1. \$5 in case of a motorcycle, and for any other motor vehicle according to the length of wheel base in inches as follows:

For motor vehicles not exceeding 100 inches	\$15.00
Exceeding 100 inches but not exceeding 105 inches	17.50
Exceeding 105 inches but not exceeding 110 inches	20.00
Exceeding 110 inches but not exceeding 115 inches	22.50
Exceeding 115 inches but not exceeding 120 inches	25.00
Exceeding 120 inches but not exceeding 125 inches	27.50
Exceeding 125 inches but not exceeding 130 inches	30.00
Exceeding 130 inches but not exceeding 135 inches	32.50
For every motor vehicle exceeding 135 inches	35.00

2. The foregoing fees shall include the cost of one set of number plates.

3. The fee, payable after October 1 in any year, shall be one-half of the fee above prescribed.

4. Fire engines and fire patrol apparatus, police patrol and municipal owned ambulances shall be exempt from payment of the above fees, but such motor vehicles shall be registered and number plates issued on payment of fee of one dollar for each pair of number plates on filing of the statement required under section 3 of "The Motor Vehicle Act."

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.
Edmonton, April 24th, 1919.

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