

A Business Session

Delegates Dispose of Many Important Questions with Despatch—Advanced Stand Taken on Economic and Social Problems—Another Big Year Ahead

After three days of strenuous session the annual convention of the United Farmers of Alberta was brought to a close Friday night. It is doubtful if any similar convention ever transacted so much business or dealt with such a variety of questions in so short a time. Over sixty resolutions were on the order paper and nearly a dozen reports were received, all dealing with matters of vital interest to the farmers and of importance to the agricultural industry. The attendance was large, nearly five hundred duly appointed delegates being present besides many other members of the Association as well as a number of visitors from outside the province. The Majestic Theatre, which was placed at the disposal of the convention by the Lethbridge board of trade, was quite adequate, however. The board of trade, in fact, had done everything possible for the convenience of the delegates and saw that everyone who could not be accommodated in the hotels got comfortable quarters in private houses. All delegates were also given free passes on the municipal street cars, and were made honorary members of the Chinook Club. The question which excited the greatest interest was undoubtedly the reception of the report of the directors, who, at the convention a year ago, were intrusted with the work of inaugurating a co-operative elevator scheme. It was known that two members of the directorate had differed with their eleven colleagues as to the plan which was adopted, which was put thru the legislature and is now in operation. Strong criticism was expected from these directors, Henry Sorenson and George Bevington, and it was anticipated that they would be able to carry a considerable portion of the convention with them.

When the facts had been laid before the convention by both sides, however, the convention was practically unanimous in approving the course of the majority and the scheme in force was approved by an overwhelming vote. By the constitution, the election of officers could not be held until after the reports of last year's work had been disposed of, and the passage of the elevator committee's report was followed almost immediately by the re-election of President Tregillus, who is also president of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator company.

D. W. Warner was placed in nomination with Mr. Tregillus and, when the result was announced, was the first to congratulate his opponent. Mr. Warner was given a vote of appreciation of his generous attitude and was elected first vice-president.

A notable resolution was that declaring for absolute free trade, which was passed with only one dissident, and an advanced stand was taken on Direct Legislation, the present act being condemned and radical changes advocated.

The convention also re-affirmed its faith in woman suffrage and amended the constitution to admit women to full membership, with the same privileges as men.

Another forward step was a resolution in favor of making treating at bars illegal.

A scheme for a thorough organization of the whole province, with a permanent chief organizer and district Associations, consisting of the local unions in each provincial constituency, was adopted. The board of directors, on which a number of new faces will be seen, has a busy year's work ahead. It was instructed to take up the question of cheaper money, hail insurance, the securing of several new lines of railway, the pork packing question, Reciprocal Demurrage, the establishment of a co-operative wholesale, and a number of other matters. With such an enormous amount of business to deal with, the delegates declined to discuss a number of the resolutions, of which notice had been given, some being passed without discussion and there being tabled without any explanation being asked or given. The convention, however, found time to hear a number of excellent speeches, perhaps the most notable utterance being an address on Direct Legislation and the taxation of land values, by John Z. White, of Chicago, who spoke on Thursday evening. T. A. Crerar brought greetings from Manitoba and F. W. Green from Saskatchewan. Three mem-

bers of the Provincial Government, Hon. Duncan Marshall, Hon. Chas. Stewart and Hon. Wilfrid Gariepy, also addressed the convention at different times.

SHORT COURSES

The University of Saskatchewan has planned for a series of short courses in agriculture and domestic science during the month of February and March, at the following points and on the dates mentioned: Maple Creek, February 3 to 6; Carlyle, February 10 to 14; Milestone, February 17 to 20; Alsask, February 24 to 27; Oxbow, March 2 and 3; Colonsay, March 5 and 6; Macklin, March 9 and 10. There will be a staff of seven or eight agricultural speakers and three lecturers and demonstrators in domestic science.

Our Ottawa Letter

Government Declares Definitely in Favor of Protected Manufacturer. Borden Favors Co-operation.

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—“As to the tariff, I have this to say to the hon. member for Halifax (A. K. McLean). From time to time there are, of course, changing conditions which have to be met, but to consider, as he suggests, a revision of the tariff downward in a year such as this—a year of slackening trade—and after such a period of financial stringency as that thru which we have passed, would be to dislocate the industries of this country. So far as I know there is no public opinion in favor of a revision of the tariff at this particular time.”

The foregoing, dear readers of The Grain Growers' Guide, the producers of

“With regard to the high cost of living,” said Mr. White, “As I have said, the best remedy is to increase production, and we intend to do what we can, by the promotion of agriculture, to accomplish that most desirable end. The new fiscal policy of my right hon. friend (free food) is simply a re-incarnation of reciprocity, which was pronounced against by the people of this country in 1911.”

In other words, Mr. White proposes to ignore the suggestions of the farmers calculated to bring about increased production by the reduction of the cost of implements and the provision of wider markets. He would throw them aside as unworthy of consideration and go about the problem in his own way without admitting the necessity of finding more and better markets for what the farmers produce. One thing there is to be thankful for. The minister has made the position clear. The farmers know that the fight is still all ahead of them. The gauntlet has been thrown down and there is no attempt on the part of the government to becloud the issue.

Borden for Protection

This clear-cut declaration of policy, in so far as the present is concerned at least, was not confined to the remarks of the minister of finance. Premier Borden, who spoke the day before Mr. White, was equally emphatic in the expression of the opinion that the farmers should be protected from their own desire for free trade in natural products. He espoused the view of that rara avis, the high protectionist farmer, and ignored the demand of all the great organizations of the grain growers throughout the country. Listen to what he said:

“My right hon. friend's remedy (for existing conditions) is to abolish the protection now afforded the farmer in the home market and at the same time to subject him to a tariff protecting other industries. That seems to be a remarkable proposition. If my right hon. friend makes the proposal to the urban population of Canada, I venture to say it will be no more effective among them than it is among the farmers of Canada. If we are to protect our industries, that of agriculture is at least entitled to the same consideration as any other. I say, however, to the laboring and urban population of Canada that if the farmers' home market is not protected, then the laboring population of the cities cannot expect that the industries which afford them employment can be protected. We believe that under present conditions in this country Canadian industries ought to enjoy reasonable protection, in order that our natural resources and raw materials can be worked up into the finished product by our own population instead of being exported to foreign countries to be turned out.”

This is undoubtedly the old, old swan song of the high protectionists with every “T” crossed and every “I” dotted just as clearly and distinctly as in the early days of the National policy.

Like Mr. White, the prime minister will have nothing to do with the remedies suggested by the farmers' delegations. He has his own proposals to make, some of them doubtless very good, so far as they go.

“What is the remedy?” queried Mr. Borden, and then he proceeded to answer the query:

“I say the remedy is properly to be considered in this country and this House, and the government is giving it consideration. I say, in the first place, give every reasonable assistance and encouragement to maintain and increase the number of people on the land. Assist the farmer with good roads, as we proposed in the Highways Bill, against which the Opposition voted, and which was defeated by their friends in the Senate. Aid him with instruction in improved methods of production, as is proposed by the Agriculture Instruction Act. Thus increase the ratio of production to the labor and the capital em-

Coming Events

Dominion Live Stock Breeders' Conventions, Toronto	Feb. 2 to 6
Home Nursing Short Course, Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg, commencing	Feb. 3
Combination Shorthorn Sale, Toronto	Feb. 4
Alberta Agricultural Fairs Association, Annual Convention, Calgary	Feb. 5 to 6
Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Convention, Moose Jaw	Feb. 11 to 13
Winnipeg Poultry Show	Feb. 11 to 17
Farmers' Short Course, Agricultural College, Winnipeg	Feb. 16 to 20
Official Opening of New Manitoba Agricultural College Buildings, Winnipeg	Feb. 17
Provincial Seed Grain Exhibition, Agricultural College, Winnipeg	Feb. 18 to 20
Manitoba Agricultural Societies' Annual Convention, Winnipeg	Feb. 18 to 20
Manitoba Winter Fair and Fat Stock Show, Brandon	Mar. 2 to 6
Association Sale Pure Bred Cattle, Brandon	Mar. 4
Saskatchewan Provincial Winter Fair, Regina	Mar. 10 to 13
Calgary Horse Show	April 14 to 18

INDEPENDENTS AT MOUNTAIN

An enthusiastic meeting of Independent electors of Mountain electoral division was held in the Marringhurst schoolhouse on January 17. After brief introductory remarks, the chairman, J. Cruikshank, called upon A. D. Craig, who delivered a spirited speech, showing the folly of rabid partism and the great necessity of an Independent stand, and strongly recommended the nomination of a true-blue Independent.

R. M. Wilson addressed the meeting. He realized the seriousness of the political situation thruout Canada, and forcibly dwelt upon the financial situation rife among the farmers today. He asked the meeting how long they were going to stand for it. He outlined the machine work of our political parties, from selection to “rubber stamp” work in the legislature, showing that a party member lost ninety-nine per cent of the man.

Other speakers were Messrs. Connibear, Simpson and Caughlin, all being in favor of an Independent candidate.

Moved by R. M. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Simpson, that meetings be held at Dunrea, Ninette, Belmont, Baldur, Greenway and Mariapolis, and that dates be left in hands of committee. Carried.

Moved by R. Galloway, seconded by Mr. Simpson, that a convention for nominating candidate be held at Glenora, January 31, at 2 p.m. Carried.

the nation's wealth, is not from the speech of the president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. It is the deliberate declaration of Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance, in summarizing his arguments at the conclusion of a speech in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. It is the gold comfort extended to the representatives of the organized farmers of four provinces who waited upon the government in December and asked for free trade in wheat, the abolition of the duties on food products and agricultural implements, and other concessions in the interests of the producing and consuming classes of the country. It is the straight-out and honest declaration of a minister who has decided that in these times of stress he proposes to stand by the people with the money bags and let the plain people go hang. It is a straight declaration on the part of the minister of his belief that the farmers of Canada do not know what is good for them, but that he does. It was the coldest kind of comfort for those, Conservatives, Liberals, or Independents, who had fully expected that the government would at least consent to the removal of the duty on wheat, thereby opening to the producers of the Dominion the market to the south.

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