

business, handled by the organized farmers through their own agencies, has grown to enormous proportions greatly to the benefit of the livestock producers.

Woman Franchise

15. The extension of the franchise to women was first secured in the prairie provinces. Although for some years women had been demanding the franchise it was not until the organized farmers espoused their cause and threw themselves whole heartedly into the fight that the franchise was extended. It is greatly to the credit of the organized farmers that they lined up on behalf of this democratic reform.

16. As with the franchise for women, so with the abolition of the liquor traffic, the prairie provinces stand first in Canada. Very early in the fight the organized farmers in each of the three provinces joined the temperance forces in their fight for prohibition. It is generally admitted that it was the additional influence of the organized farmers that finally induced the legislatures in these three provinces to prohibit the sale of liquor. Rapidly it spread throughout Canada and made prohibition complete.

17. Direct legislation through the initiative and referendum has for many years been a plank in the platform of the organized farmers. Progress on this reform has been slow. It is, however, in more or less crude form on the statute books of the three prairie provinces. It was through the direct legislation statute that Alberta voted on the liquor traffic. In Saskatchewan the bill was killed by an unfair referendum. In Manitoba the question has gone to the courts to decide its constitutionality. The progress of this question has been due entirely to the work of the organized farmers.

Titles and Patronage
18. In the development of public opinion against the political patronage evil and the indiscriminate bestowal of titles, the organized farmers have been the most active agent. For years they have condemned both these evils. It has been due in no small measure to their influence that the title business has been greatly curtailed, and is likely to be absolutely abolished in the near future. The organized farmers may also claim considerable credit for the civil service bill passed at the last session of parliament which is the beginning of the end of the patronage evil.

19. The organized farmers have steadily set their faces against the evils of real estate speculation and have repeatedly favored the taxation of land values as a means of raising federal revenues. They have also encouraged a surtax on idle lands held by speculators. The result of this attitude by the organized farmers has been the one per cent. wild lands tax in Alberta and Saskatchewan and a similar tax of one-half per cent. in Manitoba.

The Tariff Problem

20. The opposition of the organized farmers to the protective customs tariff has always been pronounced. On this question, however, they have made progress less progress than on any other plank in their platform. Before the war some slight reductions were secured, and a large number of increases were prevented. But immediately the war broke out, the protectionists seized the opportunity to raise the tariff on the plea of producing revenue. However, the organized farmers are a stronger body than ever and it is a practical certainty that any other changes in the tariff will be reductions instead of increases.

21. A great deal of credit goes to the organized farmers for the income tax adopted by the Dominion Parliament a year ago. For some time the farmers have advocated the income tax, believing that those who had the money should be forced to pay to the treasury in proportion to their ability. For the same reason the excess profits tax on corporations has had the hearty support of the organized farmers. There is no doubt that both these taxes will remain as permanent features in the Canadian fiscal system and will show the road by which the tariff can be reduced.

Better Banking

22. The organized farmers of Western Canada have been practically the only organization with courage to criticize the banking system of Canada. They have done it however, and have secured from the organized bankers a recognition of their right to criticize. Undoubtedly, improvements will be worked out in the banking system as the organized farmers and the bankers get closer together. Already very considerable improvements have been made in the prairie provinces and the bankers have expressed themselves as willing to cooperate with the organized farmers in further improvements.

23. The nationalization of railways has for some time been a prominent plank in the platform of the organized farmers and it has been making rapid progress in Canada in the last year or two. The Canadian Northern has already been acquired by the government and it is announced that the Grand Trunk and Grand Trunk Pacific will shortly be taken over also. Premier Borden also announced that it was possible in the future that the C.P.R. would be acquired.

24. Possible in this brief space to say of the reforms which the organized farmers have supported and which have in a large measure, been secured. The proposal of the Manitoba Government three years ago to place a tax on mail order houses was defeated through the activities and outspoken opposition of the Grain Growers, who realized it was merely an additional tax upon themselves. The parcels post system in Canada has been strongly supported by the organized farmers, who are anxious to see it developed still further. It is due in a large measure to the influence of the organized farmers that the patriotic funds are now being raised by provincial taxation instead of by voluntary contributions. The organized farmers have also stood strongly for the conservation of our natural resources, and in opposition to turning them over to speculators and friends of the government. The farm implement contract legislation in Saskatchewan and Alberta is an outgrowth of the organized farmers' influence and has prevented many of the injustices that formerly prevailed in this country.

The above represents a large measure of the achievements of the Grain Growers in beneficial legislation, but numerous additions would be required to show what has been accomplished in the individual provinces. The list is already sufficient to show that the organized farmers have not only been very effective in improving conditions generally, not only for themselves but for all citizens of Canada. In addition to all that has been said, it should not be overlooked that the organized Grain Growers have also been active in other plans for the raising of patriotic funds for war purposes, and have themselves contributed liberally to all these funds.

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