

THE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

Grounds on Which It Seeks the Co-operation of All Farmers.

Its Purpose is to Secure United Effort With a View of Shaping Legislation More in the Interests of the Farm Than Has Been the Case in the Past.

The necessity of some sort of organization as a means of enabling farmers to bring their united influence to bear in support of their common interests is apparent.

The financial, commercial, legal, medical, carrying, and all other interests have their organizations. Every class is organized with the exception of that connected with agriculture.

What is the result of all this? As W. L. Gordon, a Pilkington Township farmer, said at Fergus, 25 or 30 men, members of the Board of Trade of the city of Toronto, can exercise more influence in shaping legislation than all the farmers of the country put together. This condition is bad, not only for the farmers, but for all other legitimate interests as well. It is injurious to all when such great power is vested in so few hands and so little power in many hands.

Does the Farmers' Association provide the sort of organization required to restore the balance and protect the interests of the farmers? The question can be best answered by stating what the Association is.

The Farmers' Association is a political and still not a party organization. That is, it will discuss public questions, but it will discuss these from a strictly non-partizan standpoint. It will deal with questions of legislation as business questions, and from a farmer's point of view, precisely as manufacturers deal with the tariff or as railway corporations look at the transportation problem, viz.: as these questions affect the interests of the manufacturers or the carriers.

THE CORNER STONE OF THE STRUCTURE.

While the Association will deal with political questions, it is not intended to establish a political party. Its object is not to elect members to Parliament or the Legislature, but rather to bring pressure to bear on Parliament or the Legislature, with a view of shaping the course of legislation in the interests of farmers. This was clearly set forth in the resolution adopted by the convention which brought the new organization into existence. That resolution said:

That, while deeming it inadvisable to establish a political party, we believe it is for the welfare of the country that there should be an organization ready to bring its influence to bear to secure and promote the interests of the farmer in matters of legislation and otherwise.