

THE FARMERS IN SESSION

Convention Also Favors Removal of
Tariff on Farm Implements and
Favors Reciprocity With United
States—T.W. Caldwell,
M.P., Again President

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 2—The
United Farmers of New Brunswick
commenced their annual convention
here this morning with some 200 dele-
gates in attendance.

C. Gordon Sharpe, as organizer di-
rector for Carleton county for the far-
mer's party, reported that adversity
was one of the tests by which an or-
ganization was judged. Although a
large number of the old members of
the association had not renewed their
membership as yet, in view of yester-
day's meeting he said he believed the
membership would be increased.

A suggestion made by Alex. Brewer
of Keswick to the effect that a more
efficient scheme of organizing work
could be undertaken, was taken up.

In view of the financial deficit it was
thought a scheme which would also
relieve the financial situation some-
what would be advisable.

Mr. Brewer said that at no previous
time had there been greater interest
exhibited in the organization, but re-
gretted that the women of the pro-
vince had not taken a greater part in
the movement. In ten years time he
believed the organization would be as
strong as that in the west.

Mrs. Mulherin, of Grand Falls, as a
farmer's wife, placed the blame on the
men. Their husbands were afraid
that they would transgress the rules
of polite society as laid down by the
city women. "The little woman" to
whom the larger part of the social un-
rest was attributed by the speaker.
"The farmer's wife is educating her
children in a Christian manner and do-
ing her duty in the home," declared
the speaker.

Other speakers deplored the lack of
education in public matters which
placed a natural restraint upon the
members of the organization when it
became necessary to give public ex-
pression to their opinions. The bar-
riers which existed between the coun-
try and city districts should be broken
down and were being broken down,
declared one speaker.

Unless the sentiment of the associa-
tion and the social nature of the or-
ganization were kept up the whole
scheme would fail, declared C. F. Al-
ward of Havelock.

The nominations for officers and con-
sideration of the financial statement
and the deficit which it shows occu-
pied a long time. The provincial sec-
retary is to take up the matter of the
deficit with the branch secretaries and

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failing a solution in that quarter with
the organizing directors. The deficit
amounts to \$438.14. Total disburse-
ments during the year were \$3,831.07.
Of the amount \$208.92 was paid to
William Irvine, for merely provincial
organizer, now member of the House
of Commons for a western constituen-
cy, as salary and expenses.

The financial problem and the fact
that membership in the association is
not being renewed even at so moder-
ate a charge as \$1 annually was re-
ferred to repeatedly during the ses-
sion. The secretary, C. Gordon
Sharpe, informed the meeting that his
salary of \$1,500 per year was in ar-
rears and that during the year he
had received but \$500 of it. Unless
he were paid he could not continue
to devote his entire time to the duties.

Fred Sadler, of Maplevue, and Wal-
ter Hargrove, of Ripples, Sunbury
county, were called upon for reports
as organizing directors. Mr. Sadler
was frankly pessimistic. Mr. Hargrove
said that the time never was better
for organization. He criticized the
provincial government for its expendi-
tures and for the enactment of the
public health act.

C. Gordon Sharpe, of Woodstock,
secretary-treasurer, presented the fi-
nancial report. Stronger organization
was needed. Agriculture was the in-
dustry upon which all others depend.
Agriculture was successfully passing
through the period of depression and
was becoming stronger.

The recent general election had had
a bad effect on the organization. A
stronger spirit of class-consciousness
was needed. Too many farmers had
returned to their former political par-
ties. The majority, however, felt that
all should stick together. More money
must be provided. Membership fees
provided but \$2,454.50 and the system
was unsatisfactory.

During the convention a resolution
to be forwarded to the provincial gov-
ernment would be passed, urging that
a rural credit system be established.
In the past too many such resolutions
had been sent to the government merely
to be shelved.

On the motion of Mr. Sharpe, a res-
olution condemning any move toward
the introduction of a measure for the
dealing with liquor traffic on a revenue
basis was passed unanimously.

Rev. W. D. Wilson, of Fredericton,
field secretary of the New Brunswick
Temperance Alliance, and Donald Fra-
ser, of Plaster Rock, president of the
same body, addressed the convention.

Rev. Mr. Wilson drew attention to
the fact that in the province of Que-
bec only 300 municipalities out of
3,000 had adopted the revenue produc-
ing liquor act.

Mr. Fraser said that the devil was
trying to ask the people if they would
sell run for revenue.

C. V. Vernon, of St. Stephen, said
that under Chief Inspector Hawthorne
conditions in regard to enforcement of
the prohibition act were growing
worse all the time. The proposed leg-
islation would destroy all which had
been accomplished.

Discussion on the financial state-
ment followed. It was pointed out
that the organizing directors, although
entitled to \$5 per day, had been paid
nothing and other officials were in
arrears. The act on referred to be-
fore them was taken.

The session this evening was de-
voted chiefly to hearing addresses on
the subject "Woman's Place in Farm-
ers' Organization."

After a brief musical programme,
some attention was devoted to a ses-
sion of the press which was charged
with issuing incorrect statements con-
cerning the financial condition of the
farmers' stores and lack of unanimity
in the ranks of the association.

C. G. Sharpe spoke to this subject in
a forceful manner.

J. Frank Reilly, speaking to the eve-
ning's subject, said that women had
been too much disregarded in the far-
mer's movement. Lack of social or-
ganization in the country had resulted
in boys and girls leaving the farms.

Organization was for the develop-
ment of social, educational and com-
mercial side of farm life. The mother
should not be left at home. If she
would take a lively interest in the or-
ganization, the proper social life would
develop. The cities had no amuse-
ments but the movies, and they were
no fit place in which to educate the
young of the country.

Mrs. J. Mulherin, of Grand Falls, in
the afternoon by taking issue with Pres-
ident Donald Fraser, of the New
Brunswick Temperance Alliance, be-
cause of remarks which he had made
about crime conditions in Quebec pro-
vince, followed. Mrs. Mulherin took
issue at once with Mr. Reilly in his
reference to the Farmer's wife and
the poor woman.

The wife of a laboring man was not
dragged into a labor union. Why should
the farmer's wife be dragged in? Her
place was in the home aiding her hus-
band and organizing there. She did
not believe that women should have
the franchise. They were needed to
clean up politics, without doubt, but
the cleaning process should start in
the homes. Old-fashioned mothers
were needed, but the world was not
ready to accept them. The Farmer's
wife was the most contested woman

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class of literature, far different from
the filthy stories to be found in the
city home.

Mrs. Charles J. Roberts, discussing
the question of the franchise, said that
it was not given in the right place.
Woman could vote in federal and pro-
vincial elections, but not in school
meetings. She had nothing to say
concerning the education of her child-
ren. The right could not long be de-
nied her.

G. G. Archibald, editor of the United
Farmers' Guide, spoke of the Cana-
dian council of agriculture. He ex-
plained that the council represented
the organized farmers in all parts of
Canada. Its duty was to get the gen-
eral consensus of opinion and to voice
that opinion in its programme an-
nounced from time to time.

Reviewing conditions in the various pro-
vinces, he said Alberta was firmly or-
ganized. In Manitoba the U. F. though
not dissatisfied with Premier Norris,
was going to enter the provincial field.
The Grain-Growers of Saskatchewan
were about to follow the footsteps of
Manitoba. In Ontario, a U. F. govern-
ment had been successful. In Quebec
the U. F. had ended the year with a
credit balance.

Suspicion of the U. F. on the part of
many farmers was due to lack of
knowledge of the objects of the orga-
nization.

The same was true of other clus-
ters. The press had never dealt fairly
with the farmer movement. Possibly
the time would come when the farm-
ers would find newspapers as ready
to support them as they now are ready
to support the two old parties.

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 23—Thomas
W. Caldwell, M. P., for Carleton-Vic-
toria, was re-elected president of the
United Farmers of New Brunswick at
this morning's session of the conven-
tion. There was no contest, the estab-
lished candidates who had been nomi-
nated, all withdrawing and thus making
Mr. Caldwell's reelection unanimous.

J. F. Reilly, of Melrose, who has
been chairman of the convention, was
re-elected 1st vice-president and Mrs.
Charles J. Roberts, of Red Rapids, was
elected 2nd vice-president, the former
incumbent, John Inch, of Keswick, ex-
pressing satisfaction that the women
delegates were given such recognition.

The only change made in the prin-
cipal officers was in the auditor J. G.
Kirkpatrick, formerly of Grand Falls
and now a resident of Fredericton, has
held the position in connection with
his duties as auditor of the co-opera-
tive company. C. F. Alward of Havel-
lock, Kings County, was elected this
morning over several candidates in-
cluding Mr. Kirkpatrick, it being said
that it was not certain that he would
be with the organization this year.

The only other principal official po-
sition is that of secretary treasurer,
which is filled by appointment by the
board of directors. C. Gordon Sharpe
of Woodstock, who has been secretary
treasurer for several years, will be
re-appointed if he will accept.

The following organizing directors
were elected: Sunbury, W. S. Har-
grove; Restigouche, Father De La
Garde; J. C. Cook; Westmorland, J.
F. Reilly; E. P. Leblanc; York, Alex.
Brewer; Albert, G. M. Russell; Car-
leton, C. Gordon Sharpe; Victoria,
Mrs. Charles Roberts; Kings, G. P.
Johnson; Queens, Stanley Winston.

Resolutions which had been passed
by the United Farmers of Ontario,
first deploring attempts to divide the
people of Canada along racial and
religious lines for political purposes,
and pledging every effort to unite all
classes in Canadian citizenship, and
congratulating T. C. Gray on his po-
litical success, and pledging him sup-
port in avoiding all entangling alli-
ances with either of the old parties,
and following in parliament the course
mapped out during his appeal to the
people, were endorsed unanimously.

A resolution from Cumberland Bay
district against any change in the pres-
ent sold act was laid on the table.

A resolution calling upon the depart-

ment of agriculture to direct their ef-
forts toward improving market facil-
ities and expressing approval of the
department's action in co-operation
through the creameries and poultry
branches was passed.

Resolutions occupied the attention
of the convention this afternoon. Dis-
cussion upon them was varied and
lengthy.

The convention on motion decided
to pay up the deficit of \$438.14 by
means of a contribution of \$25 from
each branch by five of new members.

The convention passed a resolution
against unjust freight rates on rail-
ways on farm products, against ex-
travagance on the part of the C. N. R.
management and against the issuing
of passes except those issued by law.

The convention also passed a res-
olution that the time had arrived when
the tariff on farm implements and ma-
chinery should be removed and that
negotiations should be opened with the
United States with a view to establish-
ing reciprocal trade arrangements
with that country.

This resolution was referred back
to the resolution for rewording but
was again presented and passed with
form little altered.

In discussion on this resolution J. G.
Corey expressed the opinion that the
Canadian farmer was under a tre-
mendous handicap.

J. P. Reilly remarked that unemploy-
ment was the product of protection.
It had been in effect forty years and
this was the result.

C. F. Alward dealt particularly with
the reciprocity agreement of 1911 and
the reasons why it should have been
adopted instead of being defeated.

C. G. Sharp said that the farmer did
not want all but enough. Better trade
relations with the United States were
absolutely necessary. Unless they
were brought about the maritime pro-
vinces would be annexed to the United
States.

The convention went on record as
opposed to the public health act of
New Brunswick.

S. J. Burlock, M. P. P., informed the
convention that he intended to press
strongly upon the attention of the pro-
vincial government the feeling against
this act.

The convention also passed a res-
olution to the effect that an efficient
system of compulsory education should
take the place of the local option sys-
tem now in vogue, that a more equi-
table method of school assessment on
private lands be devised and that a
partial system of consolidation of rural
school systems be adopted.

Judson Corey said that the cost of
education in some rural districts was
almost prohibitive. Every dollar's
worth of property must pay its share.
There were valuable properties in cer-
tain counties which never had contrib-
uted a cent to schools.

A Chase Fawcett, M. P. P., in the
course of his remarks, said he strongly
favored the resolution.

C. F. Alward emphasized the need
of consolidation of poorer districts.
Mrs. Charles J. Roberts strongly
supported compulsory education. If it
could not be made effective for a
whole year let it be for four or five
months.

An amendment to the effect that the
assessment be worked out on a pro-
portional basis was withdrawn after dis-
cussion, the opinion being that to at-
tempt too much would endanger every-
thing.

N. W. Brown expressed the opinion
that every dollar's worth of land
should educate the children. He did
not think, however, that property in
the cities and towns should be includ-
ed in the scheme.

The convention closed tonight with
the customary extension of good will
to the citizens of Fredericton.

The passing of resolutions was com-
pleted. The convention passed the us-
ual resolution calling for the establish-
ment of dominion stockyards in the
maritime provinces.

It also passed a resolution request-
ing the federal government to place
on the statute books a law requiring
manufacturers of fertilizer to guaran-
tee the proportionate quantities of the
ingredients in the fertilizers, that man-
ufacturers be required to register, and
that a qualified chemist be employed
by the province to make tests of fer-
tilizers.

A resolution condemning statute la-
bor on the highways was passed after
discussion. Some were opposed to any
change in the highway act and others
were afraid of increased taxation. Still
others were against labor as in-
efficient.

By resolution the convention went
on record as favoring the establish-

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ment of a commission in each county
to hear applications for permission for
the burning of slash by new settlers.
Vice-President J. P. Reilly, in a clos-
ing address, expressed the kindly feel-
ing to ward the inhabitants of towns
and cities. He expressed the desire
that the rural and urban population
should understand each other better.
C. G. Sharpe and C. F. Alward also
spoke in a similar vein. N. W. Brown
replied on behalf of city citizens.

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