

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 24, 1917

UNION GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Premier Borden last week announced the program and the general plans of the new union government. While neither as progressive nor radical as many of us would have liked, it nevertheless promises very considerable improvement. It is a program that every Canadian citizen can support to the utmost. In the prosecution of the war there is only one opinion in Canada. Civil service reform to eliminate patronage has been one of the crying needs of Canada for many years. With a union government in power it will be possible to place the civil service upon a non-political basis. The extension of the franchise to women we presume means something outside of the War Franchise Act, which will be in force until after the next election. As this promise is made on behalf of the union government, the women of Canada may look forward to being enfranchised in the very near future.

There is one feature of the program that will particularly appeal to Western Canada, and that is the increased taxation on war profits and increased taxation on incomes. This covers two of the planks in the farmers' platform and if handled in the proper spirit will materially improve Canada's financial position. Another decidedly progressive feature of the program is the promise for encouragement of co-operative organization among those engaged in agriculture. This has been demanded of the Dominion government under both political parties, but up to the present time has been steadily declined. We imagine we can see in this new feature the work of Mr. Crerar, the new Minister of Agriculture. The other plans as announced in the program are full of promise. The most encouraging feature of all is that this program has the endorsement of the entire government. It is not, therefore, of the nature of a political promise on which to catch votes, as is customary with the ordinary parties just before an election. We believe that with the calibre of the men now composing the union government there is every prospect of this program being fulfilled. We believe it can truly be said that this is the most progressive program put out by any government actually in power in the last twenty-five years. It is also pleasing to notice that the premier has promised that there will be a representative of labor taken into the cabinet very shortly. The new permanent committee to have charge of the conduct of the war, and the other committee for the conduct of the domestic policy, are something new in administrative affairs in Canada. The new venture will be watched with very considerable interest. In the meantime, the new government has made a splendid start and is deserving of the hearty co-operation of the general public.

INCREASING FOOD SUPPLY

At the meeting of the Manitoba Food Control committee last week the following resolution was unanimously adopted and forwarded to the Food Controller:

"Whereas all the leading authorities of Great Britain, France and Canada and the United States have demonstrated that there is a tremendous shortage of food throughout the world, this shortage being so serious as actually to menace the success of the Allied forces in the present European war;

"And whereas the Food Controller for Canada, and other eminent Canadian authorities have urged the farmers of Western Canada as a patriotic duty to produce the very largest possible crop of wheat in 1918 to insure adequate food for the Allied armies and civilian population of the Allied countries;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Manitoba Food Control Committee urgently request the

Food Controller to impress upon the Dominion government the importance of removing the customs duty immediately from all agricultural implements and machinery, and also automobiles that retail at less than \$1,000. The committee firmly believes that such action would reduce the price of agricultural implements and machinery and cheap automobiles, and consequently bring more of them into use for the increased production of wheat in 1918. The committee also believes that the increase in the use of agricultural implements, machinery and automobiles on the farms of Manitoba, due to the removal of the customs duty on these articles, would cause a greater production of wheat than could be conserved by any method of conservation which could be designed or enforced by the Food Controller."

This resolution speaks clearly for itself and is in accord with the views of the Food Control committees of Saskatchewan and Alberta. We are assured by authorities which leaves no room whatever for doubt that the food shortage is serious. In the prairie provinces there is more food produced per head of population than in any other country under the sun. This is due to the large areas and the extensive use of machinery. The great shortage of labor on the farms of the West will absolutely cut down the production of food unless there is a wider use of machinery. The lower the price of the machinery the more will be used. By taking off the tariff and putting machinery on the free list it will encourage the use of more machinery. It is a simple, clear cut, common sense proposition. The food controller and the government must face it. If the government of Canada really, honestly, sincerely and determinedly sets out to increase the food supply, the one best method that will supersede in effectiveness all other plans and schemes will be giving the farmers of the West agricultural machinery at the lowest possible price.

UNION-GOVERNMENT AND FARMERS

In some quarters there is an endeavor being made to create an opinion that those candidates who are nominated on the farmers' platform will not be supporters of the union government. This opinion cannot be held sincerely wherever the farmers' platform is clearly understood, and the character of the men who have prepared it and endorsed it. The farmers' platform is a national program designed to be of the utmost benefit to every section of Canada. A union government at the present time is highly desirable and has been welcomed by every person except hidebound politicians and those who are looking at their own pocket-book. The new program of the union government is decidedly progressive, and is aimed in the direction of the farmers' platform, though following it at a considerable distance. The first duty of Canada today is to take in a manly fashion its full part in the prosecution of the war. Towards this end the organized farmers are one with every patriotic Canadian, and for this reason we are certain they will be as one man behind the union government for that purpose. To show their good faith their candidates have already agreed not to demand immediately the fulfillment of the farmers' platform, if and when they are elected to parliament. The union government is framed on the basis of a political truce, and the organized farmers, we believe, with one accord are willing to hold firmly to that truce until the conclusion of the war.

But nevertheless it is highly desirable that candidates should be elected on the farmers' platform ready to support their representatives in the cabinet, and ready when the war is over to protect the interests of the farmers in after-the-war legislation. The strongest union government would be one built on such strong national principles as the farmers' platform, and it may be that by the time the war

is over it will be possible to educate the majority of the members of the government to the principles outlined in that platform. At any rate we need men in parliament who are capable of doing that educational work, and there will be plenty of scope for their best ability.

BUY THESE WAR BONDS

A detailed announcement of Canada's next war loan is expected shortly. That loan will likely be for \$250,000,000 and at a rate that will guarantee buyers a good return on their money. The sum wanted is a large one and it will necessitate the whole-hearted co-operation of all the Canadian people. This money is absolutely necessary for carrying on the war as it must be carried on. It is quite possible some of it will be used to help finance the next wheat crop. The loan must be raised and it must be raised by everybody who has a cent to spare to put into it. The most thorough organization ever constructed in Canada for such a purpose has now been perfected so this will be made a personal matter with every man, whether he lives in the city or country. Western Canada is being divided up into districts (in Manitoba there are ten) with an experienced bond salesman in charge. He will organize local committees and a thorough canvass of every resident will be made. When this bond salesman calls, you can be certain he is selling you an absolutely safe investment. It is even better than dollar bills, because bonds pay good interest while bills pay none. It is your duty to give this man every encouragement and the best way to do so is to become a liberal subscriber. Full details on this loan that will act as a guide to investors will appear later.

But it is equally necessary to maintain at a maximum our production for next year, and to do that we ought to cultivate every acre as thoroughly as possible. In Saskatchewan, the Greater Production Loan is for this explicit purpose. The sum of \$2,500,000 is wanted to make loans to farmers who need more capital. A good start has been made in raising this, but a good finish is also needed. The money will be needed to loan to applicants through the Farm Loans Board. These bonds are absolutely safe, bear interest at five per cent., can be bought in amounts as low as \$20.00, can be cashed at full value in three months if necessary, which guarantees them against any appreciable fluctuation and the money is for productive purposes. It is definitely up to Saskatchewan investors to buy these bonds and help out the province, Canada and the Allies at the present time.

C.N.R. ARBITRATION

The valuation at which the \$60,000,000 of C.N.R. common stock outstanding will be taken over by the government is to be settled by an arbitration board. The government's appointee on the board is Sir William Meredith, who will also act as chairman. As their representative, the MacKenzie and Mann interests have selected Judge Phippen, solicitor for the company. To these two men is entrusted the selection of the third member of the board, and in case they fail to agree he will be selected by Chief Justice Cassels, formerly of a legal firm that acted as solicitors for the C.N.R. It is a foregone conclusion that the interests of this firm of railway promoters will be well looked after in the presentation of their case before the board. All the experience accumulated during years of successful lobbying will be utilized to the utmost in endeavoring to secure the most favorable decision possible. The interests