THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE DOMINION GRANGE ON PUBLIC ISSUES

(Continued from page 2)

are still confident that Reciprocity in trade with the United States would be to the great and lasting benefit of both countries, and we are, moreover, equally confident that its realization, though it may be delayed by selfish interests, cannot be permanently blocked. We are glad to reaffirm our allegiance to that cause, and we desire to express the hope when next the question is placed before the Canadian people it may be put in the form of a referendum, so that the public mind may not be distracted and confused by appeals to party spirit and the intrusion of wholly different questions. It is only fair to the Canadian voter that he be given a chance of giving a definite answer to a specific question."—Carried.

THE BRITISH PREFERENCE

"We again recommend such a gradual increase in the British Preference as will, in the course of a few years, lead to complete free trade with the Mother Country. This is one of the best ways in which we can render assistance to Britain, and at the same time reduce the cost of clothing, iron ware, and other manufactured articles to the Canadian people. We must confess to a feeling of amazement when we see those who are loudest in their protestations of patriotic devotion to the Empire unwilling to extend to the British people the same market advantages that they give us. The conclusion is so obvious and so damaging that we refrain from expressing it in words."—Carried.

PARCEL POST

"The rapid spread of rural free delivery in Canada lends special importance to the establishment of some system of parcel post such as has been used in Germany for over a quarter of a century, or such as has been recently established in the United States. In the elimination of the middleman, in bringing producer and consumer closer together, and in cheapening the cost of transportation, a system of parcel post would be of first importance. Regular shipments of farm produce could be sent from individual growers in the country to individual consumers in the cities at a minimum cost, and various kinds of commodities of urban manufacture could be returned to the farms. A special advantage would be the collecting and delivering of all parcels. The establishment of parcel post moreover would furnish the people with a way of escape from the exhortionate charges of express companies. The extensive use made of this system in those countries where it is in vogue leads us to expect that it would be of great advantage to the Canadian people.

"We would respectfully urge the Post Office Department to investigate the workings of the system in other countries, with a view to its adoption here."—Carried.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

"Reviewing briefly the education reports of previous years we would again call attention to the following:

(1) "The advisability of improving and extending continuation class work in rural schools, of encouraging the teaching of elementary agriculture by means of school gardens and nature study, and of extending the consolidation of rural schools so as to permit of more advanced work. To this end we recommend that the grants to public schools be increased.

(2) "A reduction in that rigidity and uniformity of school work which is imposed upon us by bureaucratic control. Teachers ought to be given more liberty, and examinations should not be emphasised so much.

(3) "The propriety of teaching the duties and responsibilities of citizenship both by information concerning the mechanism of our social and political life and by concrete object lessons given through democratic school organization.

(4) "The dangers that are inseparable from the growth of military drill in our schools, tending to the increase of international antipathies and the development of a narrow sense of national self-sufficiency, miscalled self-respect. We desire especially to protest against the use of the Boy Scout movement and the Cadet Corps as a means whereby to carry on the propagation of militarism.

(5) "We desire to commend the educational work of the District Representatives of the Department of Agriculture, and to express the hope that the good work which they are doing and can do, may be very widely extended. Subordinate Granges should cooperate with the District Representatives in holding meetings and in demonstration work.

(6) "We desire again to emphasize the need for more outdoor work in connection with our rural schools.

(7) "We recommend all grangers to assist in the formation and maintenance of trustee and ratepayer associations under the auspices of the Trustee Department of the Ontario Educational Association, so as to forward educational progress in the rural schools."—Carried.

CONTROL OF AUTOS

"The fast running, heavy automobile is doing more damage to our roads than any other one cause. The tax upon autos should be graded according to their horse power, and should be sufficiently large to repair the damage which they cause. Where autos are purchased whose speed power is away beyond the limit allowed by law the tax should be proportioned to the excess of speed."—Carried.

LOCAL OPTION IN TAXATION

"We note with pleasure the growth of public opinion in favor of local option in taxation, and we again protest against injustice of denying to municipalities the right to exempt improvements from taxation if they so wish.

"In this connection we would direct attention to the statement recently made on the authority of the Bank of Commerce, that the increase of taxable real estate (a large part of which is land values) in the city of Montreal during the last year has been $120,000,000. Under present conditions most of this goes into the pockets of a few land owners, whereas it should in justice return to those who have created it, viz., the community. The increased taxation of land values would have the effect of expropriating a greater share of this 'unearned increment' for the public treasury, and would assist in making possible the change from indirect to direct taxation."—Carried.

"That the practice commonly known as 'stock watering' be made a criminal offence. We believe that this practice is tantamount to a robbery of the public, and that legal means should be taken to prevent it."—Carried.

"We desire to commend the principle involved in the bill introduced recently in the Dominion Parliament by Mr. J. H. Burnham, M.P., advocating the abolition in Canada of the practice of the bestowing of titles, believing that it tends to create man-made distinctions between man and man."—Carried.

The Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions will hold their 13th annual convention in the Canadian Foresters' Hall, Toronto, Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 5 and 6.

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