

The Land and the People

Minot, Man., July 12.—At the social study class in connection with the Presbyterian church, last Thursday evening, Wm. Sifton gave an instructive and inspiring address on the subject, "The Land and the People." The manner in which the speaker handled the theme gave evidence of deep study. Mr. Sifton's speech might be divided under three topics, namely, how the land which, by creation, belonged to the people, passed into the hands of a few individuals; and next, how the possession of the land by individuals put a few men in a position where they could not only monopolize the means of production for private profit, but also dictate the terms by which people should be allowed to live; and finally he worked out a close reasoned theory of reform, showing how such a theory could become practicable.

Pointing out the importance of the land to the life of the people, he said, "Land might exist without the people, but the people could not exist without the land. If, then, the land be of such infinite importance, it was folly to allow the birthright of all the people to be at the disposal of greedy individuals to whom wealth was of more importance than human life."

In telling how the people lost control of the land, he showed how, in older countries, the land was portioned out to favored individuals, who, in return, promised to assist in time of war a king who held his position through a superstitious belief in his divine right. In dealing with Canada in particular, he showed how carelessly the government from time to time had handed out the birthright of the Canadian people to railway magnates and land companies. Consequently the people, who, according to the evident intention of the Creator of the universe, should have free access to the land as the means of sustaining life, must make terms with the land kings of modern times for the right to live. He pointed out that "the privileged few take advantage of the necessities

of the people and ask unreasonable prices. The government allow the so-called owners of land and captains of industry to set their own prices for land and the use of capital in general, thus the land-owning class has become rich to the extent that they find a difficulty in knowing what to do with their dividends, so they decided to buy up every invention and monopolize every industry with the profits which first of all came from the ownership of land and thereby have become the owners of the industries, the people and the government."

In submitting for the consideration of the audience a "remedy," the speaker laid down, as a working basis, the restoration of the land to the people. He argued that the land should be taxed for its use, to the extent of the cost of government, and allow the product of the laborer to go free. Thus every industry would be allowed the full benefit of its production, and every laborer the value of his labor, and in this way the speculation in real estate, which, in the eyes of justice, is nothing short of forgery, would be done away. In conclusion the speaker made a strong plea for the people to study the situation; to govern themselves; to own their own banks, railways, land, etc., and thus every public utility would be obtainable by all the people at cost.

Mr. Sifton's cogent speech was delivered with spirit and was well received.

OVER 20,000,000 ACRES UNDER CROP

Ottawa, July 14.—Reports received from correspondents at the end of June enable the census and statistics office to issue finally revised estimates of the areas sown to spring crops this year and also estimates of the areas devoted to the later sown cereals and hoed crops. With regard to wheat the reports are entirely confirmatory of those issued a month ago, and the area under wheat in Canada is therefore finally placed at 9,816,300 acres, or 57,000 acres more than in 1912. The area in spring wheat is 8,990,500 acres, or 13,100 acres more than in 1912, and the area to be harvested

of fall wheat remains at 825,800 acres. Oats are estimated to occupy 9,646,400 acres, an increase of 429,500 acres; barley 1,430,800 acres, an increase of 15,600 acres; rye 127,200 acres, a decrease of 8,910 acres, and hay and clover 7,621,600 acres, a decrease of 12,000 acres.

The acreage under the later sown cereals and hoed crops are estimated to be as follows: buckwheat 363,600; flax seed 1,288,600; corn for husking 290,000; beans 58,850; potatoes 467,800; turnips, etc., 215,900; sugar beets 19,250, and corn for fodder 277,990. These are increases in the case of potatoes, turnips, etc., sugar beets and corn for fodder, but decreases in the case of the other crops.

For the three Northwest Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the total wheat area is finally estimated at 9,013,800 acres, as compared with 8,961,800 acres last year; that of oats at 5,035,800 acres, compared with 4,913,900 acres and that of barley at 857,700 acres, compared with 709,900 acres; these differences representing increases of 52,000 acres for wheat, 391,900 acres for oats and 47,800 acres for barley, or 491,700 acres for the three crops.

Crop Percentage

During June the crops throughout Canada maintained generally the average of about a month ago. On June 30 the condition expressed in percentage of the usual standard of 100, taken as representing the promise of a full crop, was as follows: fall wheat 81 46; spring wheat 87 80; oats 87 71; barley 88 39; rye 85 95; peas 87 43; mixed grains 87 12; hay and clover 71 52; alfalfa 77 23, and pasture 82 31. By provinces the condition is between 80 and 90 for the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. In Saskatchewan and Alberta the outlook at the end of June appeared to be especially promising, as the condition was above 90 in all cases excepting fall wheat, the condition of which in Alberta was 76 27.

Livestock

Estimates of the numbers of farm live stock in Canada at June 30 are given as follows: horses 2,535,000; milch cows 3,064,900; other cattle 3,380,400; sheep 2,418,400; swine 3,254,400. These represent increases over the estimates published last year for all descriptions, except "other cattle." The estimates are based upon the final figures of the census of 1911 for all the provinces except Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and show that the totals are still subject to final revision upon completion of the census results. The conditions of all classes of live stock was reported as especially favorable on June 30, being 100 or above for horses, milch cows, sheep and swine and 97 for cattle other than milch cows.

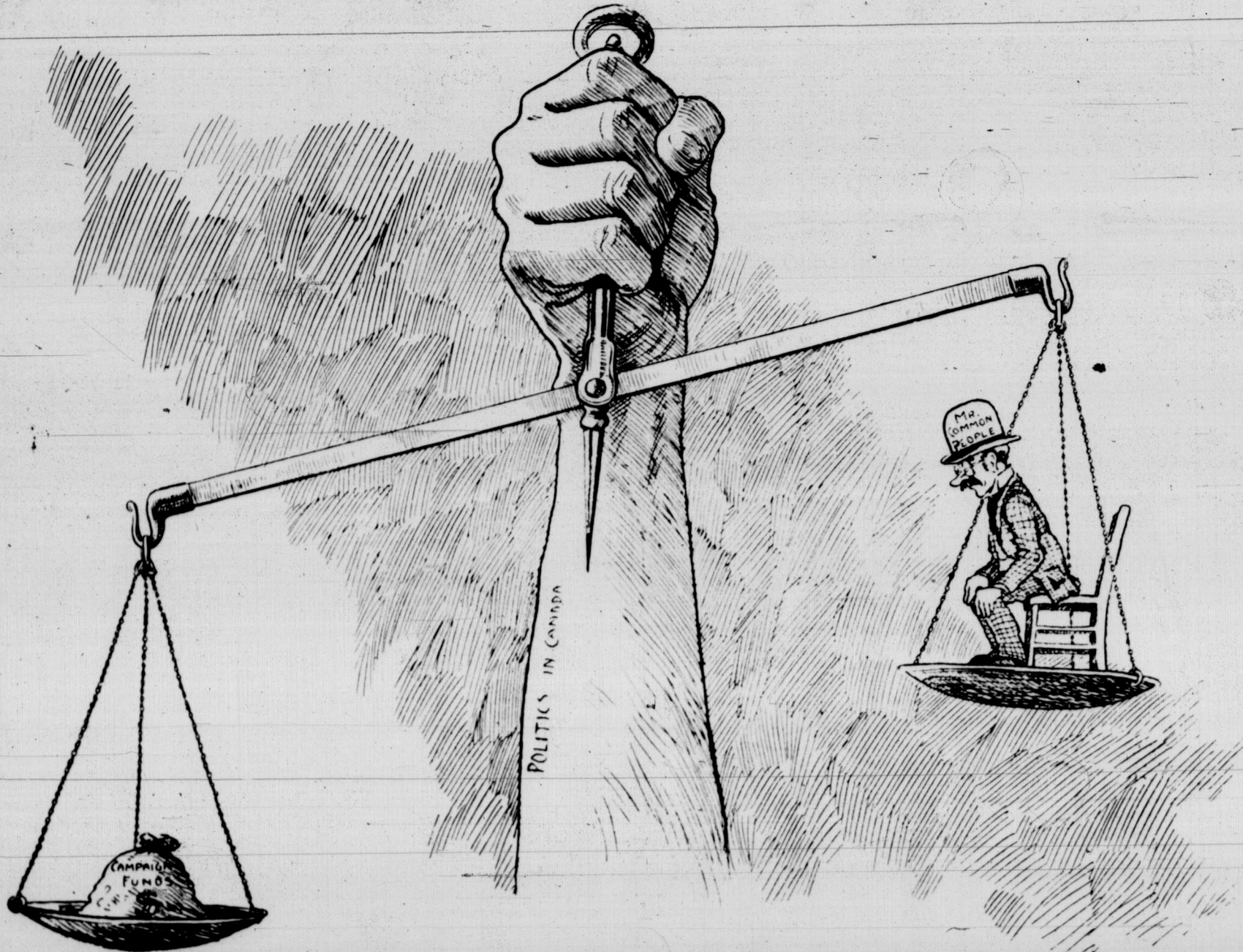
SASKATCHEWAN CO-OPERATIVE'S SUCCESS

Winnipeg, July 16.—Probably 15,000,000 bushels of grain will be handled by the elevators of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Co-operative Elevator company this fall, according to figures given by Hon. W. R. Motherwell, minister of agriculture for the province of Saskatchewan. By this fall the company will have nearly three times as much storage capacity as any other line of elevators in the province.

In its first year, Mr. Motherwell said, the company operated 46 elevators, handling about 3,000,000 bushels of grain. On this business there was a profit of \$50,000 to the shareholders. Last year 140 elevators were operated, handling approximately 12,000,000 bushels. Although the annual statement has not yet been issued for 1912, it is expected that the profit on that year's business will be in proportion to the profit on the first.

This year at least 40 more elevators will be built by the company.

He that levels at a high mark, though he come short, yet shoots higher than he that aims at but a wall.—Sir John Eliot.



THE BALANCE OF POWER

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