

# Stand of Farmers' Candidates

## Attitude of National Platform Candidates on Winning the War---The Fusion Movement

The Grain Growers' Association since the earliest period of the war has steadfastly recognized the urgency of the call for the fullest support both in men and material resources which Canada can render to the great cause. Canada must regard herself not merely as a supporter of the Empire and the Allies, but as a principal, defending that which is essentially her own interest. In support of their position, grain growers have been ready at every stage both in men and dollars to do their part, and today are at least as fully represented in the fighting line as any other class of our population.

The association has from the beginning, advocated a "win-the-war" policy. They believe there is necessity for complete organization of the nation's forces for the winning of the war, including not only the conscription of men for fighting, but also, and simultaneously, the control of industry and the mobilization of wealth—thus laying every interest, every industry and every class under tribute for the accomplishing of the national purpose.

For such organization, our conviction is that the primary requisite is a government which so completely represents the nation, that both party interest and class interest are utterly eliminated, a government national in the sense of being non-partisan, free from the control of special privilege and with an executive chosen for practical ability and for personal probity.

### Mere Coalition Not Sufficient

Looking at the present situation, we are compelled to conclude that no mere coalition of the two political parties could meet the case. The privileged interests would almost certainly dominate such a coalition as they have dominated each of the parties in the past. The nation has been long looking for a government that is really free of sinister control and unquestionably would rally as one man to the support of such a government.

It is fully recognized that Sir Robert Borden honestly desires to lead the nation in a "win-the-war" policy, and that he has been for months attempting some grouping of parties which would enable him to effect this purpose. What he has not yet attempted is to form a government free of the partisan and class dictators who have been dominant too long—a government wholly and undeniably national in its personnel and purpose.

It is necessary to specifically direct the attention of our people to the fact that the so-called national government which is being proposed is not even ostensibly free of partyism. More than that,

The following is a signed statement of nominees who are standing on the Farmers' Platform for the coming Federal election. It should clarify the political atmosphere for those who may be confused as a result of the many attempts to begot the issue and to split the independent farmers' movement in Western Canada.

the proposal includes no repudiation of the system by which the predatory interests are continuing to rob the people.

It is also recognized that the Borden government has moved in the direction of conscription of men and is intent on carrying out that purpose. There is, however, a universal demand for the efficient conscription of the material and financial power of the nation, so that the energy and resources of the man at home, as well as

It is significant in this connection to note that the government and the public press generally confine their interpretations of a "win-the-war" policy to conscription of men for fighting. Frequently all reference to material, industrial and fiscal matters is bitterly denounced as "vacillating," "treasonable" or "quit-the-war." Similarly in the movements for "fusion" candidates the one consideration insisted upon is conscription of men. In the light of the government's attitude toward the special interests as exhibited, in its action in regard to the tariff and the taxation of profits and in its failure to check profiteering, such a propaganda is easily explainable. So-called "fusion" candidates who would stand by the government on conscription of men and would be discreetly non-committal as to the commandeering of wealth, would be entirely acceptable to the classes who are planning with matchless cunning to retain their grip upon Canada's sources of wealth during and after the war.

Why has the government persistently denied the nation its will in the matter of a national government and in the matter of general mobilization of all its resources for the winning of the war? There is but one answer—the privileged corporations are still dominant.

### Are "Win-the-War" Candidates

The candidates now in the field selected to stand on the National Platform formulated by the Canadian Council of Agriculture are "win-the-war" candidates. They stand for simultaneous conscription of men and wealth. They insist that all excess business profits with a special tax on income, be used by the nation for paying the expenses of the war and for adequately caring for our soldiers and their dependants. They stand for national control of every industry affected by war conditions. Given a National government, as described above, they feel that the nation's honor may be fully vindicated.

They hold that the principles set forth in their platform are valid and would ensure the best possible results if fully applied during war time, as well as in times of peace. They would, however, be prepared to forego the immediate discussion of tariff amendments (as being, in the opinion of some, a contentious matter,) if given full assurance that an adequate measure of excess profits and income taxation would be put in operation at the earliest moment, and that thus a genuine mobilization of wealth would accompany conscription of men. To these principles



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Win-the-war Candidate in Brandon, Manitoba

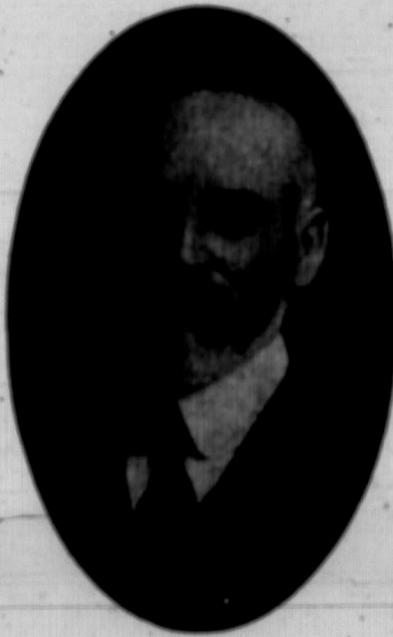


J. A. MAHARS  
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Win-the-war Candidate in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

the strength and courage of the men at the front may be devoted to the cause. Sir Robert has chosen almost completely to ignore this universal demand. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that, in the absence of any open opposition to conscription of wealth, the government's refusal to act must be attributed to the secret influence of interested individuals, corporations or classes.



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Win-the-war Candidate in Brandon, Man.



J. S. WOOD  
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tage in Prairie, Man.



THOR BEVERIDGE  
Win-the-war Candidate in Souris, Man.