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G. J. DENNARATH,

Deputy Minister of the Naval Service.

Ottawa, January 8, 1918.
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law as in everything else. I freely admit the advantages that accrue to the big corporation, to the land hog, to the financial magnate, in having uniformity. He can centralize his land holdings, he will be assured that no change can be made in the law without his approval. He will own the commissioners and through the commissioners the legis-

lature insofar as land titles laws are concerned.

The people should keep a much tighter hold on legislation, instead of letting go of any of it. If the people can't legislate in regard to the titles to their own land, then they had better hire some one to do the legislating for them who will at least be their own hired man.

Gleanings from my First Session

Mr. Maharg's Address at Shaunavon and Gull Lake

SELDUM have better attended and more enthusiastic meetings of Grain Growers been held anywhere in Saskatchewan than those which greeted President J. A. Maharg, M.P., and Central Secretary J. B. Musselman, recently, at Shaunavon and Gull Lake, the former on the evening of the 7th inst., and the latter on the 8th.

Conference at Shaunavon

At Shaunavon a conference of Association leaders, representing a number of locals outside of Shaunavon district and the board of directors of Shaunavon Association, was held in the Methodist church during the afternoon. There was an interesting and helpful discussion during this conference, dealing principally with the co-operative distributing activities of the association. It was evident at the afternoon meeting that the church would not have capacity to accommodate those who would gather for the evening to attend what had been advertised as a public meeting. Arrangements were therefore entered into by which the theatre, a comfortable and commodious building, was secured, and in order to defray the considerable expense thus incurred those coming to the meeting were invited to buy tickets of admission. The result was that sufficient funds were raised in this manner to fully reimburse Shaunavon local for its expenses in connection with the gathering. The theatre was filled to the doors and both speakers afterwards expressed the opinion that a more interested and more responsive audience could scarcely have been got together. The success of this day's meetings was largely attributable to the enthusiastic devotion of the officers in Shaunavon local amongst whom Secretary E. Luetkar deserves special mention.

Building for Democracy

The Saturday evening meeting at Gull Lake was almost as well attended and as enthusiastic a gathering as the one at Shaunavon. Manager J. H. Sand of the Gull Lake Co-operative Association and an enthusiastic champion of all that the G.G.A. stands for, seemed to be the leading spirit in bringing together so excellent a gathering at this place.

At both gatherings the subjects of the principle speakers were: Mr. Maharg, "Gleanings From My First Session in Parliament;" Mr. Musselman, "Are We Building for Democracy as We Are Fighting for It?"

Very special interest was manifested in President Maharg's address, and at both gatherings there were present a considerable number of his constituents who are not members of the Association but who were anxious to hear what their representative in parliament had to say regarding the recent session. Seldom, if ever, have the electors in any constituency in this country heard so free, so frank and so unpartisan a resume of the doings of parliament. With all his accustomed fairness and moderation, and yet in most convincing terms, all the more convincing because being simple statements of fact, did Mr. Maharg reveal both the strength and the weakness of our national system of government of the party in power and of the government which it sustains without any attempt to justify their errors, their inefficiency, or their undemocracy and almost without reference to the opposing party.

Mr. Maharg stated that too often most important legislation is drafted by the members of the government entirely without consultation with the members of parliament; the govern-

ment assuming the attitude that bills so prepared must come through parliament as they are, and since their defeat or radical amendment would be considered a vote of want of confidence in the government the members who do not wish to see the government defeated are frequently obliged to vote for legislation which does not fully meet their approval.

Hereditary Titles

Mr. Maharg related the simple facts of Premier Borden's autocratic action in connection with the "hereditary titles" discussion in parliament. "I am convinced," said Mr. Maharg, "that whatever effects the struggle in which we are engaged has had in bringing the citizens of this nation to a common level of citizenship there has been no such levelling effect so far as the capitalists of this country are concerned, but that the common people still continue to bear the brunt of the burden. Various groups are being formed, and they are groups of prominent and powerful capitalists, largely under fine sounding names, but all apparently with one ultimate purpose of strengthening the hold of the capitalist and manufacturer upon the purse strings of the nation for the preservation of their own dominating position."

Mr. Maharg deplored the system of government by order-in-council, and particularly regretted that an embargo should have been placed against imports very soon after the rise of parliament without any provision being made to control the exploitation of the monopoly thus created for Canadian producers, and he stated frankly "parliament would not have sanctioned such an action." He expressed the opinion that the cabinet too largely controls the business of the nation insofar as its fiscal policy is concerned.

Increasing Need for Men

Dealing with the recent drafting for active service of physically fit young men from 20 to 23, Mr. Maharg graphically revealed the urgent need for augmenting our forces, and while he deplored the great burden that this action will place upon the shoulders of many of the farmers, he gave no assurance of any moderating of the present application of the Act except that he hoped some adequate provision would be made to fill the places of these men and that leave of absence might be given in special cases where those drafted were the only sons of widows or of aged and infirm parents.

During his address he dealt with prohibition of the sale of liquor, income tax, war-profits tax, the Yukon election, labor for the coming harvest, hereditary titles, various orders of the Canada Food Board, and the national debt; and most convincingly exposed the fallacy of the claim that a high import tariff can help liquidate the nation's obligations, by showing the utter unreasonableness of maintaining that the nation can enrich itself by the simple process of fining or penalizing itself from time to time, as it finds the need for importing a commodity from another nation so great as to be irresistible.

His remarks were closed with a strong appeal to the common people in both rural and urban to take more seriously their responsibility of citizenship.

The responsibilities of citizenship, then, embrace all those acts, or possible acts, or those habits or attitudes which express the sum total of one's possible contributions to the formation of public opinion, and to the maintenance of proper standards of civic conduct.—J. D. Hunt.