

The Kingdom of Canada

By J. S. EWART, K.C.

ARTICLE III.

Our power of self-government, as I have shown in previous articles, is complete. We are in reality a Kingdom. And King George, by his official title, is the King of Canada. In every sort of way, short of national declaration, we have asserted our independence. Is there any reason why it should not be put into formal shape? Let me give you the only two reasons that are urged against the proposal, and then refer to some of those by which it can be supported.

Not for Separation

It is said that I am seeking separation, and sometimes I am spoken of as a "separatist." But the word does not bother me, for if the speaker understands what he is saying, I know that he is joking; and, if he does not understand—well, what he says does not matter very much. What do I mean? There have been two bonds of union between the United Kingdom and her colonies—her dominions—her empire: (1) the King, and (2) the Colonial office, backed by the British parliament. Let me speak of the second first. I am not a separatist as to that bond, for, by better men than I am, it has, thank heaven, been completely broken. Until recently, Canada was always lopping off lumps of Colonial office authority. The work is finished. If anything remained to be done—if in any smallest item of government the British people claimed to exercise authority over the people of Canada, I should be asserting our right to self-government. But no such claim is made. Our freedom is acknowledged. In this regard, therefore, I am not a separatist—nor is anybody else.

I am not a separatist, either, with reference to the king-union, and, so far as I know, nobody is. With one ephemeral exception (1849), there has been no period in Canadian history at which any body of men has advocated the termination of our allegiance to our King. And, most certainly, I do not. It may be but a slight and silken link, but I value it. Canada is all the better now for association with a country such as the United Kingdom. There is there a culture and a refinement which I would gladly transfer to Canada if I could. I am no separatist with reference to the king-union. I advocate its retention.

Canada and War

The only other reason urged against my proposal relates to war: Were we a sovereign nation, could we defend ourselves against attack? I reply that our position would be very much better than it is now. Nothing could be more absurd and dangerous than the present situation, for nobody knows what is going to happen in case of war. Canada has said, authoritatively, that she will or will not participate in a British war as she may think best—that it would not be tolerable that she should be bound to do so unless she had a share in the control of the policy which produced it. The United Kingdom knows that she can count upon Japan and France under certain circumstances; but she has no arrangement or understanding with Canada. That is ridiculous. And Canada, on the other hand, if she should get into trouble, does not know what the United Kingdom will do. Nothing in her dip-

lomatic history gives us any assurance that she will do anything but cement her friendships with foreign countries—Canada supplying the cement. Now, what would happen if we were a sovereign nation? Mr. Borden supplied the answer when he said that the first thing we should do would be to try and make some specific war agreement with the United Kingdom. If we succeeded, would not that situation be infinitely better than the present? And if we failed, that, too, would be better, for both parties would know where they stood.

Reasons in Favor

These, then, are the only two grounds upon which opposition is made to my proposal. What reasons can be given in its favor?

My first reason is that it would be a declaration of accomplished fact. I urge no change. I plead for no accession of power. I ask merely that we should say nationally that which every one of us says individually. Let me read to you, for example, what Sir Wilfrid Laurier has said:—

"We are a nation. We feel that we are a nation. We have a population of over seven millions. We have practical control of our foreign relations. We have command of our own forces. Our country is the finest under the sun. The great poet, Whit-tier, in the time of the Civil War wrote: 'We bow the heart, but not the knee, to the Queen of England, God bless her.' We say: 'We bow the heart and the knee to the King of England, God bless him.' We are under the suzerainty of the King of

England. We are his loyal subjects. We bow the knee to him; but the King of England has no more rights over us than are allowed him by our own Canadian parliament. If this is not a nation, what, then, constitutes a nation? And if there is a nation under the sun which can say more than this, where is it to be found?"

(a).

Probably you all agree to that. Well, all I want is that we should say it together and officially.

Acceptance by British Statesmen

The second reason which I offer you is that the fact of our nationhood is not only completely but gladly admitted by British statesmen. To us, it is a matter of supremest gratification that we are not now, as were the thirteen American colonies in the seventeen-seventies, asserting by force of arms an independence that by force was denied; but that, on the contrary, our national maturity is more clearly seen and more willingly admitted in the United Kingdom than by very many of our own people. Let me read you some quotations. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has said:—

"How are we to bring these separate interests together; these states which have voluntarily accepted one crown and one flag, and which, in all else are absolutely independent of one another." (26 June, 1905.)

"The time has gone by when we could treat them with indifference, when we could speak of them as tho they were subject to our dictation."

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(a) Globe, 6th January, 1910

Reducing Cost of Living

Reports from Local Secretaries on Co-operative Buying

Continued from last week

GOOD WORK AT VISTA

It may be of interest to the readers of The Guide to know how co-operation in a small way is working out here at Vista, Man., and the effect it has had, and is likely to have, on the farmers in this district, by reason of the saving effected in purchasing co-operatively.

Our co-operative purchases have been one and a half cars of flour, bran and oatmeal, three cars of coal, and 100 gallons of coal oil. The saving on flour, feed and oatmeal from October 14, 1913, till February 28, 1914, was \$143.70, and on three cars of coal \$31.25. Of coal oil from January 20, 1914, till February 28, 1914, we sold 69 gallons, at a saving of 10 cents a gallon, or \$6.90. This makes the total amount saved to farmers in four months \$181.85. When articles wanted are advertised we always patronize Guide advertisers, and at all meetings The Guide is referred to for advertisements re supplies wanted.

Since starting co-operative buying last fall our membership has increased by 200 per cent., and at every meeting new names are added to our Association. We have a large colony of Galicians north of us, who have already started to come in with us, eleven names being on our roll. We have also found it necessary to hold monthly meetings, which are being well attended and business strictly adhered to.

In addition to the foregoing it may not be out of place to say that owing mainly to the efforts of the Association (and, therefore, acting co-operatively), we have had an agent appointed here for the grain season, but he has now been removed, to satisfy the newly-developed epidemic for economy that has struck the C.N.R. Notwithstanding this, we are notified that it is on the estimates for 1914 that we are to get the

stockyards for which we have made persistent demands.

Next Saturday, March 7, we meet for the purpose of ordering a car of lumber and groceries. This branch has been merely alive for the past four years, when, with a bare four months of co-operative buying, the membership has increased over 200 per cent., which goes to prove that co-operation is the ground from which The Grain Growers' Association must draw their vitality.

ARCHIE A. FORDE,

Sec., Vista G.G.A.

REPORT FROM FARTOWN

Altho we have not yet engaged extensively in co-operative buying, the experience of the Goodlands branch so far has been very encouraging. Our branch was formed in 1911 and during that year and 1912 we succeeded in making satisfactory arrangements with the local mer. for the supply of formalin and binder twine. An increased membership roll in 1913 was due to our success in reducing prices, and we were able, in conjunction with a neighboring local, to order a car of twine. Of the 24,000 lbs. the car contained, our branch took 19,000 lbs.—price 10½¢. per lb., f.o.b. Lashburn. The total cost to us was \$2,000—sight draft attached to bill of lading. By an arrangement with the bank we were enabled to sell 13,000 lbs. of this twine to members of our Association at 10½¢. on three months notes. Local agent's price was 13½¢. for similar twine, 550 ft., and credit was unobtainable. We saved at the least \$570. In the fall we purchased a car of coal at \$6.90 delivered, and saved \$1.00 per ton thereby.

Last summer we began organizing a Farmers' Supply Co., to have a capital of \$10,000 in \$10 shares, one-half cash,

balance three months. Before arrangements were completed the Saskatchewan Co-operative Act was in force and so our plans have been altered. The support given to the original scheme will be transferred, doubtless, to the one now under consideration. Most of us in this district are quite convinced of the benefits to be derived from trading co-operatively, and intend to develop the principle as far as possible.

One effect of our organized efforts is that local prices on lumber, wire, etc., have been greatly reduced, and the elimination of all unnecessary middlemen will reduce them still more. We trust that progress in this way will continue until all exchanges are conducted equitably, a state of affairs that is very far from existing at present.

The Guide is well read around here and is of great assistance to us—it is lightening our darkness and helping us to escape from the slough of debt in which we have been so long floundering.

H. H. DICCONSON,

Sec. Treas. Goodlands G.G.A. Fartown P.O., Sask.

SAVE ON FLOUR AND FEED

Regarding co-operation, I enclose statement showing amount saved by the Bagot branch on buying flour and bran to be \$221.10.

These purchases are now made by the secretary in his own name, and are for cash on delivery, and a charge of one cent per bag is made to cover expenses. Only members of the association are supposed to participate, but this rule is not strictly enforced. We also find that co-operation tends to help our association.

On two of the purchases our local storekeeper took the balance of the car

lots, and this he sold at a reduction from the ordinary retail price.

A. SMALLPIECE,

Secretary-Treasurer.

The statement attached shows total purchases amounting to \$1,474.35. On one shipment of 200 sacks of flour, a saving was made of 30 cents a sack, or \$60. On 132 sacks of flour 45 cents a sack, or \$59.40, was saved. Another shipment of flour comprised 250 sacks, at a saving over local prices of 40 cents a sack, or \$100, while on 17 sacks of bran 10 cents a bag, or \$1.70, was saved.

PIEGAN VALLEY MAKES MONEY

Piegan Valley local of the U.F.A. has done considerable co-operative buying during the past year. We first bought two carloads of cedar posts, which cost us 9½ cents each f.o.b. Seven Persons, our closest railroad station. The same kind of posts were sold at the same time by our local dealers at 14 cents, so we saved \$162 by co-operation. We also, in conjunction with a neighboring local, ordered 102 spools of barb wire in 80 rod spools. The wire cost us \$2.48 per spool at Seven Persons, while local dealers were charging \$3.30. Thus we saved \$83.64. Both these purchases were made from advertisers in The Guide, and whenever the committee instruct me to get prices on anything I always consult The Guide first.

One result of our co-operative buying is that we now have 51 paid up members, compared with 24 at this time last year, and I think it is a pretty good local considering we live 24 to 30 miles from town.

We had the privilege of unloading the posts before paying for them, to satisfy ourselves as to their quality, but

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