

services had been produced in abundance while potential production was so enormous that it has taken a global war of destruction to find a market of sufficient capacity to absorb it.

The inescapable deduction is that this devastating poverty was forced on the people by those who controlled the issue and withdrawal of financial credit; in other words, the Banks.

No other arguments are required to show that we need an opposite policy to that pursued by them in the period under review to bring about opposite results. And it is absolutely opposite results to those obtained in the past which the majority of the Canadian people desire.

Under no circumstances should the Bank charters be renewed for another period of ten years to provide the banks with an opportunity to continue with a policy which has had such devastating results on the lives and business of the Canadian people in the past.

Charters should be granted on a year to year basis only until the requirements of the reconstruction period have been fully revealed and then the matter can be dealt with in a way that the necessities of the situation demand. The year to year charters will be in the nature of a probation period during which the banks must show that they are able and willing to so conduct the financial credit of the country that it will serve the people as an efficient medium of exchange and fit itself into the requirements of the development and expansion of Canadian industries and reflect the real wealth and credit of the country and provide the people with the benefits of the abundant goods which they are so well able to produce.

All of which is respectfully submitted by the Alberta Farmers' Union.

ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION POLICY

Whereas the heavy debt burdens, ruinous prices and lack of credit facilities, which have brought the agricultural industry of Canada to the brink of disaster thereby threatening the entire National economy in peace and in war, are essentially monetary results of monetary policy, and

Whereas the power of the chartered banks to issue and withdraw monetary credit, which constitutes ninety per cent of the nation's money supply, gives these institutions the real control of monetary policy, and

Whereas the future welfare of Canada and in particular the country's agriculture, depends upon the proper administration of the monetary system in accordance with the requirements of agriculture, industry, trade, commerce and the public welfare, in which the chartered banks have failed miserably in the past,

Therefore be it resolved by the Executive and Board of Directors of the Alberta Farmers' Union that the Banking and Commerce Committee now in session be urged to recommend to Parliament:—

1. That bank charters be renewed for a period of one year only, and thereafter be granted on a year-to-year basis until the monetary requirements in connection with post-war reconstruction have been definitely decided to the satisfaction of the people.

2. That the Bank of Canada Act be amended to permit that national institution to provide the nation with ordinary banking services, and branches of the Bank of Canada be established at key points throughout the Dominion to operate in competition with the chartered banks for the purpose of exercising effective control over the policy and conduct of those private corporations in the interest of the people.