

turned soldiers and mothers' pensions. Lieut. Johnson, representing the Returned Soldiers Organization, spoke of their life overseas and the necessity of re-establishing them in civil life again on a basis of justice and a square deal rather than charity. Geo. Hoadley, M.L.A., leader of the opposition in the Alberta legislature delivered an address upon the new problems facing the country.

Fourteen Deaths in Car Fire

A tourist sleeping car on a C.P.R. train going east caught fire near Bonheur, 130 miles west from Fort William on the morning of December 17. Fourteen lives were lost in the fire, origin of which is not known for certain, though there seems reason to believe that it was caused by the overturning of a spirit lamp, or other device for heating food for a child. The verdict of the coroner's jury is as follows: "We, the coroner's jury empanelled to enquire into the death of certain persons whose bodies are now lying dead at Ignace, hereby find that the said deceased persons were passengers in a tourist car No. 6028 on No. 4 C.P.R. train, which arrived at Bonheur district of Kenora about 6.53 a.m., December 17, and that the said car caught fire about the time last mentioned and the fire spread so rapidly that the said persons were unable to get out in time and were burned to death. The fire in our opinion started in or about berth No. 1. But we are unable to find what caused the fire. In our opinion, if the porter had exercised better judgment and had not run to another car for assistance, but had used the fire extinguishers, which were at hand for the purpose, the results might not have been so serious. The train crew did everything possible and no blame can be attached to them. In our opinion it would be advisable from time to time to put porters through a fire drill and have them fully instructed in the use of fire fighting apparatus."

Official List of Dead

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has handed out the following revised list of those who lost their lives in the fire at Bonheur, as far as they have been identified: Miss E. Schaidt, ticketed Lockwood, Sask., to Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Monkman and baby, Consort, Alberta; Mr. B. Clancy, Calgary; Mrs. Richards, ticketed Regina to Nanaimo, Ontario; Mrs. Hilda Dilworth and child, St. James, ticketed to Elora; Mrs. C. L. Buchanan, ticketed Winnipeg to St. John; Mrs. C. N. Hunter, Regina; Pte. Larmour, ticketed Winnipeg to Iroquois. There are still three ladies of adults unidentified.

Statement by C.P.R.

In a statement given out from the office of D. C. Coleman, vice president of the C.P.R., it is pointed out that the whole train was heated by steam from the engine, and that there was no fire on the train except in the engine. The statement says:—

"It is our belief that the fire started in the berth occupied by these unfortunate passengers through the overturning of a spirit lamp or some other device used to heat food for the baby. The use of such lamps in a railway car is forbidden by law, and notices to that effect are displayed in our coaches. There is no necessity for their use, as means are provided in tourist cars and dining cars for heating food for children. Nevertheless, certain passengers persist in trying to evade the regulations, and we have had more than one fire started in cars through the overturning of these lamps, fortunately without the disastrous results which followed this fire."

"The corroborative evidence in this case is fairly strong. We have signed statements from two persons who were at the Winnipeg station when No. 4 pulled out the previous night to the effect that a man and woman who boarded that train were seen previously trying to heat food for a child with a spirit lamp. Unfortunately neither of these witnesses reported the matter to our station constables. In addition to that, the porter informed the coroner's jury that a dining car waiter in passing through the car during the night remarked that he observed a smell of spirit in the front end, where the fire afterwards broke out."

She Proved His Ignorance

"It seems to me, my dear," remarked the young husband, at the Christmas dinner, "that there is something wrong with this cake."

"That shows what you know about it," laughed the bride triumphantly; "because it says in the cook-book that it is perfectly delicious."

Men for the Task

The Paramount Question of the Farmers' Movement—
By W. R. Wood, Secretary Manitoba Grain Growers' Association

PERHAPS no achievement of the western farmers' movement has been more generally recognized than its training of men for public service, and especially for the representation of rural interests. It has been admitted and frequently mentioned in recent years by bankers, manufacturers and other representatives of urban interests that agriculture is provided with men who have made careful study of economic and fiscal problems and who are fully qualified to meet the ablest representatives of other interests in conference or upon the public platform. Such a result is eminently worth while, and is a source of gratification to everyone who is interested in the cause. It would be entirely gratuitous to enter upon any proof or illustration of the fact that such results have been attained. In all three prairie provinces the names of farmers who have equipped themselves through services of the farmers' movement for expert public service are honored household words. In commerce and industry, in legislation and in administration, their ability has been amply proved, and they are known as among the strongest men in our Canadian public life. No one who knows the history of the west would minimize the good work done in this regard, nor accord any whit less than their full meed of recognition to the men who have been fitted so effectively for the service of the community.

Have We Met The Need?

But if the grain growers' movement would do justice to itself and to the nation whose general well-being is its fundamental objective, the question must be asked: Has the movement today the men needed for the demands of the immediate future? Outside the dozen or so who have become conspicuous, outside those who are actually in the harness on staff or directorate, how many men have we available today? As the present workers lay down the burden in the natural course, have we at hand ready to assume the responsibility, fitted to undertake service, a reserve on which to depend. Suppose that on the conclusion of peace the government of the Dominion should call on these men whose ability has been proved, to serve on a board of national reconstruction, have we other men so equipped that we might confidently expect the movement to be carried on? It might be answered, the call will not come in that way. Yet it is certain that in one form or other the period of reconstruction is going to make unparalleled demand upon the judgment and talent and conscience of the nation, and if agriculture should be found to be short of trained men, the movement must be judged to have by just so much fallen short of its high vocation.

Somebody will be needed when the new educational program is formulated to hold the chair of rural sociology and economics in each of a dozen Canadian centres of learning. Have we yet begun to train the men? Somebody will be needed in the coming years to represent rural life in dealing with the transportation interests, one who will be able to hold his own against hard-headed railway experts, whose whole life has taught them to believe that the nation exists to pay tribute to their corporations. Have we such a man? Somebody will be needed to stand for the rights of the rural community against the land shark, one equipped to resolutely repel ancient sophistries backed by insatiable greed. Could we recommend an appointment tomorrow? Somebody will be required to speak for the farmers when a senate reform commission is appointed, when a Dominion power policy comes to be formulated,

when the banking system adjustment is undertaken, when the tariff is brought genuinely under the microscope, when reforestation is taken up seriously as a national obligation, when government undertakes, on behalf of public well-being to investigate commercial co-operation. But it is vain to attempt enumeration. The tasks of the coming time are legion. The rural life of the nation ought to be vitally and practically related to every one of them, ought to be represented in every one of them by first-class judgment and knowledge and will-power and character—Have we the men?



W. R. WOOD

The Every-day Demand

Nor can we afford to let the question end there. In our own immediate activities and in the affairs of the province, the municipality and the school district, there is an insistent call for qualified men. Have we, for example, the men who should represent agriculture in the next Dominion house of commons; men from off the land who have had some experience in rubbing up against other men and other classes, who have had some training in holding their own against subtle and adverse propaganda, men who know the issues and who are today earnest students of the national and the world situation? We hear on every hand that our present representatives there are largely powerless, because they are few, and because they are backed by at most only a fraction of the rural population. Suppose that our enrollment should suddenly be advanced to 100 per cent.—have we the men ready to effectively represent us at Ottawa? Have we the men needed in the next provincial legislature? It goes without saying that there will be a number of replacements. Is the rural life of the province going to be represented by rural men, men who have the rural ideal and who will not be dazzled nor intimidated by anything that the city and moneyed interests can present? Shall we have agriculture represented by men who can take their place in debate and in council, in judgment, in breadth of vision and executive ability with the men from the towns and cities? They do it in Denmark. Have we the men to do it in Manitoba? Have we the men for next year's municipal councils? There are many municipalities where there should be radical change. Have we men with public spirit enough to see that they ought to be serving the community and moving our municipal activities forward, toward real effectiveness and real economy? Men who get above the petty notion that "It is a thankless job," and who see first of all the possibility of serving their fellow men and of establishing better conditions in the community? We have some first-class public servants in municipal work. If our movement were doing all that might be done every rural municipal council would be the most capable group of men that could be found within the bounds. Can we get those men?

In the tasks of the immediate future we must recognize that we face a situation of stupendous and unparalleled seriousness. It is practically the remaking of modern democracy. If in taking up the gigantic task of national reconstruction we are not to be represented by the right men, men who have seen our vision and who hold our principles, we shall be represented by others, by men who are indifferent to our cause, or who are antagonistic. We may be sure the manufacturers, the corporationists, the tariffists, will be on the job. There is no doubt as to the lawyers being there, and the land speculators and the party heeled. The railways and the banks and the money interests will find men to speak for them. Need we be surprised, then, if the trend of reconstruction is found to be in certain

directions favorable to those whose men are out and alert and active and energetic? If the farmers' movement is not to lose in the reconstruction all that it has thought itself to have gained, it will need to provide itself today with men for the work.

The Call of Our Own Movement

And in the association itself. Granting all that has been done, have we the men—all the men—that the work calls for today? How many of our districts for example, could at a day's notice nominate a dozen men capable of going over, say to North Dakota, and effectively presenting the essentials of the Canadian farm movement to a state convention? Men who are alive to our position, acquainted with our aspirations, enthusiastic for our future, and able to make a creditable presentation of our case. Do you say North Dakota is not calling for such? No, but Manitoba is. Every local in the province should have three meetings this winter, addressed by men of first-class ability and first-hand acquaintance with the work. There are 100 associations that may be counted defunct if one or more such meetings are not held. There are 100 that for lack of such meetings in the past two years have practically suspended operations. There are 50 points today waiting for stimulation and encouragement and organization. The work in Manitoba is calling for 100 alert and capable men today. Work is waiting for them this very hour. Can we furnish the men?

This is the question that presses: Have we the men for the work? What answer can we give? Speaking from the experience of a year and a half of fairly close acquaintance with the movement in Manitoba, the answer I give to the question is, "Sure thing; of course we have the men." The most encouraging and inspiring experience I have had since beginning to work with the grain growers of the west, has been the personal contact I have had with the young men of the movement. All over the province I have met them, from the Swan Valley to the American boundary, and from Saskatchewan to 30 miles east of the Red River; young men with the ideals of democracy and progress and service in their hearts; young men who are reading and thinking and training; young men, modest in demeanor, unobtrusive, and yet with the confident grip of those who have seen the vision of the new time and are determined to help realize it. As one counts over the men of this type one has met in a year and a half—and it requires no special effort to name 60 or 70 of them—though I do not yet know personally anything like half the local associations—one is enabled to answer gladly, confidently, enthusiastically, "You bet we've got the men. The very finest young manhood in the province today, with intellect that will bear comparison with the best that town or city can furnish, with vision and purpose and character that will be among the determining factors in moulding the democracy of the future are today enlisted in the farmers' movement in this west of ours. The next 30 years of Canadian history, when they are completed, will bear witness that when peace called our people to the gigantic tasks of building up the great Dominion, we were not lacking in men."

Must Provide Future Leaders

But we have not been doing these men justice in these later years. We want them for the tasks of the present and the future, but we have not been calling them into that active public service in which alone their powers can be fully developed and disciplined. We have not been systematically searching out and setting to work the individuals who have power for leadership and for outstanding service. We have not been making the demand of these men through response to which the true crown of their abilities must be attained. The time has come when a matter of so vital moment cannot be left to the care of whatever conditions may arise. The movement, as a movement, must set itself systematically and of purpose to the task of providing our future leaders with every possible facility for acquiring the full training necessary for the work. This means a larger use today and tomorrow of the manhood and the talent we have. We must come to these young men with the

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