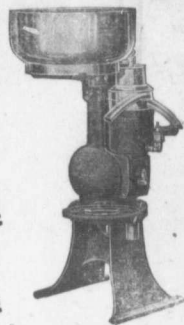


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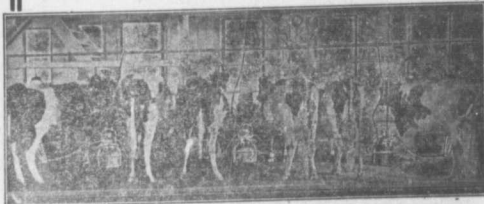
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No. 2

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# Public Issues as Viewed by Ontario Farmers

A Commission Desired to Investigate Conditions Governing Rural Enlistment—Abolition of the Liquor Traffic Advocated—Free Trade with England Supported—Other Issues Dealt with.

THE approximately 300 farmers representing local farmers' clubs and granges in all parts of Ontario, with a membership of about 6,000, who met in Toronto last week at the annual convention of the United Farmers of Ontario, took advantage of the occasion to make their views known on a number of public issues of the day. At one of the opening sessions delegates who had any matters they desired to see discussed were invited to submit them in the form of resolutions to the resolutions committee. At the closing session the resolutions committee presented its report. Owing to lack of time it was not found possible to discuss all the resolutions thoroughly. Several resolutions, therefore, were not adopted, not because the convention was opposed to the views set forth in them, but because the members did not have time to give them the consideration that their importance required they should receive.

Special interest was taken in the resolution on recruiting in the rural districts and in the one dealing with prohibition. The latter was carried unanimously by a standing vote and with applause, and was the only resolution so honored. The former in its first draft was very sweeping in its condemnation of indiscriminate recruiting in rural districts. The convention toned it down and finally adopted it in the form here given.

There was a feeling among a number of those in the room that more room should be given at the next convention for the consideration of matters of this character in order that the farmers of the province may have a full opportunity to discuss and make their views known in regard to them. The following resolutions were adopted:

### Rural Recruiting.

1. "We desire to emphasize in the most forcible way possible the serious consequences which will result from any large enlistment of men from the farms for overseas service. Agriculture is already sadly undermined, and any further decrease in the number of those engaged in it cannot but reduce farm production very materially. As an increase of farm production is most necessary, not only for the assistance of the Empire, but for the maintenance of our own national credit, the imperative need for a large enlistment from the rural sections should be demonstrated beyond any question before such enlistment is encouraged. The campaign is resulting in either taking men from the farms who are more needed there than in the trenches, or as branding as disloyal or cowardly many young men who are neither, but are kept on the farms through a sense of duty more urgent than that of enlisting. We would urge, to remedy these conditions, that local commissions of responsible citizens, on which agriculture is to be represented, be appointed to investigate the cases of farm youths enlisting, and to determine whether they are more needed on the farms or under arms; and that provision be made by which men not enlisting, and left at home under these conditions, shall receive some badge by which reproach shall be removed from them." (Carried).

### Prohibition Advocated.

2. That, whereas, our country being at war, it has been declared upon the authority of the Hon. Lloyd George, British Minister of Munitions, that an even greater enemy to the welfare of the nation than the armies that have taken the field against us, is the licensed liquor traffic, that is sapping the strength of the manhood and womanhood of our country as well as our financial resources;

And, whereas, two of the Allies of Great Britain in this hour of their country's peril, have arisen to the occasion, and in their patriotism practically abolished the liquor traffic in their respective countries.

Be it resolved that we, the United Farmers of Ontario, would urge our National Government to enact at the present session of parliament, such legislation as will prevent, at the earliest possible date, the sale, importation and manufacture of spirituous liquors in Canada during the period of the war, and that the traffic be not re-established for at least three years thereafter, and then only upon the vote of the people.

As a possibly earlier reform we would express our hearty approval also of the proposal that the Ontario Government shall at its next session prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors in the province for the same term and upon the same conditions. (Carried).

### Death of Mr. Hyatt.

3. That, whereas, we have sustained great loss in the death of our old friend, John W. Hyatt, therefore, be it resolved that we instruct our Secretary to send a letter of condolence to his family, and that we express our esteem of our late brother by a standing vote. (Carried).

### Direct Legislation

4. We heartily commend the principle of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum, and recommend that all farmers' organizations make a serious study of this fundamental reform. (Carried).

5. Whereas, the financial strain upon Great Britain in connection with the carrying on of the war and the financing of her Allies and our own military expenditures has been tremendous; and, whereas, the need for an increase in Great Britain's exports is most urgent in order that she may maintain her credit and financial safety, and, whereas, she has been spending millions of dollars in Canada for munitions and supplies; and, whereas, it is desirable that the bonds which unite Canada with the Motherland shall be strengthened in all possible ways;

Therefore, be it resolved, that our Federal Government should immediately remove all obstacles in the way of trade with Great Britain by reducing all duties against British imports. (Carried).

### Agricultural Cooperation.

6. Resolved, that a committee to be known as "The Committee on Agricultural Cooperation," consisting of five members, be appointed by the president, which committee shall be charged with the duty (without compensation) of investigating the organization of Agricultural Cooperative Associations, with particular view to elucidating the methods and principles underlying the organization of Agricultural Cooperative Credit Associations.

(Continued on page 17.)



Trade In

VOL. 1

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