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What the Farmers Said

"You have," said Mr. Speakman, "put down one issue, the tariff, as controversial and, therefore, not to be discussed. This is the one issue that is most worth discussing, and if we are sincere in our expressed desire to cooperate, it should be possible for us to discuss this in an unselfish way that would result to the benefit of all. Business men still have too much the feeling that we farmers need some one to help us improve our methods. We have some backward farmers, but we are disposed to think that their brother farmers are best able to help

lar. I. L. Maharg, of Moose Jaw, claimed that farmers had more to gain through improving methods of marketing their products than they had along the lines of increased production. When the Manufacturers' Association met with the farmers, the same ground was covered. The tariff should not be discussed. The manufacturers, however, claim the right to obtain their raw material free of duty. Why should not the farmers be given the right to purchase agricultural implements, which form a part of their raw material, also free of duty. On such subjects we should be discussed, but I did not see how a council such as was proposed could be of much value.

A Hard Question

Mr. J. J. Morrison, of Ontario, pointed out that the memorandum laid special emphasis on the importance of increased production. What was the effect of that? He said that farmers were not complaining about it. The complaint was coming from abroad in their direction. "We farmers," said Mr. Morrison, "are not calling for help. The fact that we do not seem to need help as much as we used to, is a good thing. It shows that we are doing our classes in the community. We market our products in the markets of the world and are willing to open our markets to the products of other countries. The only thing that we are confident of our ability to hold our own with the producers of other countries. When, however, we propose that our markets should be opened in other countries, we are asked to show that we can stand up to them so that they cannot hold their own with their foreign competitors. We submit to you, therefore, the question if it is not the manufacturers and service industries that need assistance, and not the farmers. The memorandum emphasizes the importance of live stock, and seems to want you to believe that if the farmers of the west keep more live stock they will be able to stand up to the competition. It seems to want you to keep live stock on the farms of Ontario, but nevertheless over 100,000 of our farmers have left the farms of Ontario within the past ten years. It is not, therefore, the solution of the difficulties."

Effect of the Speeches
These attacks on the part of those made by other representatives of the farmers, including Mr. C. W. Gurney, of Paris, Ont., and R. McKenzie, of London, Ont., present that nothing could be accomplished if the business interests were willing to extend the powers of the proposed bill. Mr. Gurney Brown was asked to speak for the business interests. He said that for himself he would be glad to see other matters mentioned in those mentioned in the memorandum, but that it was to that to include them would lead to disintegration. He admitted that he had been led to wonder if in the industries, had not reached the point where it was assisting the established industries to reap undue profits. He seemed to think that the bill might be these subjects to be included for discussion, but did not care to consider that they should not be considered.

Organization Formed

The final result was that a resolution was passed approving of closer cooperation between the farmers and the business interests. A committee was appointed to give the matter further consideration and authorized to present a report at a meeting to be held on Friday of the same week. On Friday the committee presented the report, which was adopted. The report recommended friendly consultation between the agricultural and business interests on questions of joint interest to agriculture and commerce. For this purpose it suggested the appointment of a committee of representatives, one-half of which was to be composed of the members of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. This

The work of this committee will be to gather and diffuse, and to discuss, and eventually formulate resolutions recommending certain lines of action, and to submit them to the assembly. The committee is now working on a commercial industry. "It was decided to call the new body 'The Joint Committee of Commerce and Agriculture.' A committee of five from each of the two interests will prepare working plans and submit them to the meetings. The farmers' representatives are: James Speakman, Alberta; J. A. Maharg and F. B. Musselman, of Saskatchewan; R. C. Henders and R. E. Henders, of Manitoba. The business men have the same number of representatives. While the farming interests are somewhat skeptical as to what real reforms can be accomplished through this committee, they are willing to accept the proposal cheerfully and to give all the cooperation within their power.

14 to 50 H.P.

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