

Resolutions at Regina Convention

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south-west sections of the province where such serious drouth have taken place the last two years. This should be done in the interest of greater production and not of relief.

It was recommended to all locals that returned soldiers who are members in good standing of the Association be given life memberships.

Whereas nothing definite has yet been suggested as to caring for the returned soldiers and land settlement.

Therefore be it resolved that this Convention place itself on record as in favor of the Government taking steps to appoint a commission with power to set the valuation of all vacant lands, whether held by individuals or corporations, and where advisable, take them over at such valuation for settlement by returned soldiers.

That equal franchise should be granted to all women in the Dominion.

Whereas a number of our foreign settlers are using sulphuric ether as an intoxicating beverage with very serious results,

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government legislate restricting the sale of sulphuric ether.

That the Dominion government be urged to take immediate steps to inaugurate some system whereby the immense natural resources of the northern part of Saskatchewan in agriculture, minerals, fish, fuel and lumber may be developed both for the good of the province and of the Dominion.

That in view of the pressing necessity for stimulating, encouraging and helping every agency for turning the agricultural resources of the Dominion in the direction of increased production, and that many hindrances to this end at present exist, especially in Western Canada, owing to an insufficient grasp, both of the problems which confront the Western farmers and an inadequate appreciation of the tremendous possibilities which would quickly be developed were these hindrances removed.

This Association is of the opinion that a clearer understanding of much that is now obscure, as well as a greater spirit of mutual confidence would be promoted by a more personal contact between the members of the Dominion Parliament and the people of the western provinces, and, with this end in view, desire to extend a cordial invitation to the members of both houses of parliament at Ottawa to visit this province as a corporate body, at such time as may be later determined during the coming summer, when the agricultural resources of the province may be in the best condition for observation. This resolution was introduced and ably spoken to by Mr. Simpson of Eyebrow local.

Stand on Freight Rates

Following the above address of R. McKenzie on Thursday evening, dealing so lucidly with this question the following resolution was unanimously carried with great applause: Whereas the railway commission in response to representations made to them by the railroad companies of Canada have recommended to the government that an increase of 15 per cent. be made in rates.

Whereas, while the G.T.P. and C.N.R. have admittedly been operated at a loss, the C.P.R. as shown by their published reports, has made large profits, demonstrating that even under war conditions a well equipped and efficiently managed road can be successfully operated at a fair profit.

And whereas any increase would become an additional burden to the cost of living.

Therefore be it resolved that this Association protest vigorously against any such increase, and endorse the action of the Central Board in combating same.

That the government follow the example of Britain and the United States in assuming control of, and operating all Canadian railways in one system, which would enable them to give a greatly superior service, as well as by eliminating duplication and overlapping, and effect such economy as would permit of their operation at present rates.

That the Association give full sup-

port to the Greater Production Loan which is being floated for the purpose of financing the farm loans scheme in Saskatchewan, and in order to provide cheaper money for our farmers.

That the Association believes that the Government should own and operate all coal mines in the Dominion of Canada; that the Association is in favor of the government raising by taxation, sufficient money for all purposes of the Patriotic fund; that the Association favors the appointment of returned soldiers to post office or similar service positions where the remuneration is sufficient and the conditions feasible. Mr. Maharg stated that this is the policy of the Union Government. At present not one in ten of rural post offices give sufficient to pay a returned soldier. The average is about \$100 per year with more below that figure than above.

That the Association favors the amending of the Public School Act to make it compulsory for the teacher or some wholly responsible person to remain at school during noon hour in rural or village schools; that a survey should be taken by the proper authorities of the boys of high school age within the province, with a view to making such arrangements as may be necessary to enable such boys to give all the help they can in seeding and harvesting the 1918 crop—and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

This resolution indicated the stand on implement duty: Whereas the Dominion Government is urging the farmers to produce more grain and meat, and whereas they have also set the price of wheat, therefore be it resolved that this Association place itself on record that they consider it the duty of the government to remove the duty on farm implements and machinery and set the price on same.

Teaching of English in Schools

A resolution on the teaching of English only in the public schools of Saskatchewan was expected to, and did, provoke a great deal of very earnest discussion though it must be said it was done in an exceedingly fine spirit. The mover, O. J. Hopkins, of Anerly, insisted that this should not be a racial, religious or political question but a national one. Conditions in the province were lamentable. In far too many places foreign languages were dominant in the schools.

This question affected the unity of Canada more than any other. Mr. Kirkham asked if it were true that there were schools in the province where German is dominant and English not taught. George Hilton, Melville, came forward to substantiate this statement.

He said that Pearl Lake school, seven miles from Melville, was governed by three trustees who between them had 28 children. They had a teacher, a foreigner, who did not satisfy the inspector, Mr. Stevenson. He was teaching the school in German, and he had to be dismissed, as the inspector insisted on it. The adjoining school district of Ewimar, also a German community, took on this teacher and he is teaching there today and has been doing so ever since he was dismissed by Pearl Lake at the demand of the inspector. Ever since the Pearl Lake school has been closed and the trustees refuse to open it until they can get a teacher who is able to teach German. He said he saw the department of education about the matter and Dr. Foght, the man who conducted the survey of school conditions here. Dr. Foght told him he was unable to do anything and that the remedy for such conditions lay with the people of the province. The Pearl Lake school is still closed.

Director T. Sales said he stood for one flag, one country and one language just as strongly as any man. His children are the only children of English-speaking parents attending their school. They teach German in that school from three till four because the school regulations permit that. His children sometimes came home, having had no instruction in English after recess. He wanted the regulations of the department of education changed to read that foreign languages cannot be taught until after 4 o'clock in the public schools, and only on days permitted by the trustees,

instead of at present every day from 3 to 4.

Henry Harris of Humboldt said if the association wanted to increase its membership to 60,000 it would need to get many of them among the non-English speaking. He counselled moderation and tolerance though in favor of insisting on English. There were many Germans who were anxious to teach their children English. There were exceptions, of course, but the average German in the province wanted his children to learn English so that the child would not be in the same position that its parents were in.

A German's Opinion

E. Munech, Bickford, of German birth, said he was German but did not believe in the separate exclusive communities some Germans lived in who wanted to retain all old customs and privileges. He wanted English insisted on in the schools by strict enforcement of law. Private schools should be under government control. Children not taught English had their future robbed. It was interesting to note the applause given this man after speaking and also later while speaking on another subject. Two of the best talks of the convention were given by this man and E. Hesterman of Scandinavian origin.

Finally the resolution of two year's ago reading as follows was reaffirmed: That this convention is of the opinion that every child in Saskatchewan should be given a practical knowledge of the English language, that all elementary schools should be brought under government control and inspection and that an effective system of compulsory education should be enacted. A resolution by Mr. Sales, asking that teaching of foreign languages in public schools be left till after four o'clock, was unanimously endorsed.

Want Better Phone Service

Other resolutions pledging full support in the campaign for greater production; pledging loyal support to the Canadian and Allied governments in their efforts to make the world safe for democracy; that the duty should be removed on all fuel and lubricating oils; of condolence to J. B. Musselman on account of recent bereavement, and to the relatives of the late Thos. Laurence of Hanley whose splendid work was so much appreciated; that the Wallace land in the south-west corner of the province be opened for settlement by returned soldiers under the War Measures Act; that the provincial telephone department be requested to allow neighboring rural telephone systems to connect their centrals, independent of long distance lines, were passed. The last question aroused a lot of discussion. Several delegates fenced in by phone lines were unable to get a phone in their houses. The main contention, however, was that it should not be necessary where centrals of two lines came close together that farmers, perhaps not more than a mile apart, should have to go around 150 or 200 miles to get connection. Such lines were to often out of order thus involving costly delays. Where farmers could not get the phone in their homes with lines running past it was only necessary to wait for money the next year as money for this purpose was only raised by the local phone companies once per year. The law will not allow the building of phones on farmers own initiative. The costs of building had risen tremendously. Hon. Geo. Langley advised all to write the Department of Telephones regarding their troubles.

No Increase of Membership Fee

A proposed change in the constitution raising the membership fee to \$1.50, though seriously discussed, did not find sufficient support to carry. There were a number who wanted the fee put at \$2.00. John Holmes, Asquith, in a clever speech analyzed the possible effect of an increase. He contended that more members would be received at \$1.00 and that was what counted most. A strong point was made of the importance of securing family memberships.

A proposal to change the basis of representation at the annual convention from one delegate to ten members to one to twenty members was lost. It was contended it would not decrease the attendance at all as more visitors would make up the difference.

A proposal to give the executive power to organize for the control of legislation was strongly debated and lost on the contention that this virtually meant the creation of a third party.

A large number of resolutions were referred to the executive for consideration and action. Some of these dealt with: better service for livestock shippers; co-operative support of cold storage plants; legislation requiring lumber dealers to sell lumber according to stated specifications; fixing of prices for vegetables; railway passes; revision of provincial electoral system; federal government department of social research; amendment of Fruit Markets and Inspection and Sales Act; unreasonable seizures through crop failures; profiteering in food; profits of corporations; municipal elections; free mail delivery; withdrawing land from lease; classification of wood; fence laws; wolf bounties; water supply; protection of elk; mechanics' liens; proportional representation; bank act; municipal high schools; parcel posts; bureau of education; mutual insurance, etc., etc.

A vote of thanks to the city of Regina, mayor, council and board of trade, to the press and all who contributed to the success of the convention was unanimously applauded.

THE LABOR SITUATION

"To mobilize and utilize on a voluntary basis the farm labor resources of Canada" will be one of the duties of the newly organized food control board. Under the new organization, the board becomes a branch of the department of agriculture, under Hon. T. A. Crerar. It will be under the chairmanship of H. B. Thompson, the present controller. J. D. McGregor, Hon. C. A. Dunning and Percy B. Tustin of Winnipeg will be prominent in connection with the work. Mr. Dunning will devote himself to the problem of production. Mr. McGregor, is director of agricultural labor.

A statement issued by the Government regarding labor states that it is unable to accept the view that men called out under the Military Service Act but physically unfit should be conscripted for farm labor. In addition to the objections so strongly urged by organized labor against industrial conscription, compulsory service of individual citizens or individual farmers in Canada, is, it is stated, impracticable. With regard to the possible utilization of alien labor, a problem involved, is so complex and difficult, especially from an international standpoint that it has not as yet been possible to reach a definite decision. The representatives of labor directly challenged the necessity of importation of coolie labor, and stated that there is sufficient labor in Canada if properly organized to man all our essential industries. The government recognizes that this labor situation should be relieved to some extent by diverting labor from less essential to the more essential industries, and a classification of the industries according to their value to the country under the war conditions, is in progress. A strong effort will be made to distribute labor in such a way that the needs of the farmer in this particular will be met.

CLASS TWO MAY BE CALLED

There are indications that Class Two may be called up under the Military Service Act in the near future. Of the six classes specified in the Act only one has been called, that of single men and widowers (without children) less than 34 years of age. It is considered certain that there are men in other classes who might be drafted into the army without causing undue hardship on any dependent and without decreasing the production of essentials. The primary consideration is that of necessary reinforcements. Where a man can be spared for the army, it is emphasized, it is essential that there should be as little delay as possible in putting him into training. The governor-in-council may, if necessary, divide any class into sub-classes, in which case the sub-classes are to be called out in order of age, beginning with the youngest. In view of this, the six classes specified in the Act, may not be called out consecutively.