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The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, January 15th, 1913

FARMERS DECLARE FOR PEACE

Of all the splendid work that the organized farmers have done for the cause of genuine democracy nothing entitles them to such a prominent place in the history of civilization as the bold and patriotic declaration in favor of peace, disarmament and arbitration made by the Grain Growers' convention at Brandon last week. Manitoba has been deluged with newspapers and all kinds of literature painting the glories of either the Conservative or the Liberal scheme for taking millions upon millions of dollars from the public treasury for the creation of naval armament which is not at all necessary and which will only be a further incentive to naval expenditure by other nations. There is not a single member of the House of Commons who has had the courage to enter even a feeble protest against the naval policy of his own particular party. In the light of these circumstances it is a great tribute to the intelligence and the steadiness of character on the part of the Manitoba Grain Growers that they have not joined in the hue and cry for naval expenditure, though many of those who favor it are undoubtedly sincere. There will possibly be some attempt on the part of the politicians to prove that the farmers are unpatriotic and selfish. But not when it is known that within half an hour of the condemnation of the two naval policies the same delegates passed a unanimous resolution declaring in no uncertain terms against the proposals of the politicians to place a tax upon the bread of the British working man in order to give the Canadian farmer a higher price for his wheat. We regard this latter resolution as unanswerable proof of the true patriotism and unselfishness of the grain growers. Here is the resolution which was passed with but five dissentient votes from 500 delegates:

"Whereas, among the Christian nations of the earth there is an ever increasing desire upon the part of the common people that war and preparation for war which entails such a fearful harvest of human lives and places such a crushing financial burden upon the taxpayers, should be brought to an end, and that this vast energy now devoted to purposes of destruction and death be utilized in the cultivation of the arts of peace, and that instead of promoting distrust and hatred between nations, a spirit of confidence and brotherhood should be encouraged.

"And whereas, both the Conservative and Liberal parties in Parliament have each proposed that \$35,000,000 or more of the public revenues should be devoted to the construction of naval armament without a mandate from the people;

"Therefore, be it resolved:

"That this convention of delegates representing 10,000 farmers of Manitoba places itself on record as firmly opposed to any expenditure whatever of public monies for the construction of naval armament, but decidedly in favor of Canada encouraging to the utmost the movement towards international peace and disarmament and the settlement of international difficulties by arbitration;

"And further, this convention is strongly of the opinion that Parliament is not justified in making any further move on the naval question until the same has been submitted to an actual referendum of the people."

This resolution has already been sent by telegraph and cable to every corner of the earth and has given added courage and hope to those who are working for the cause of peace. It has placed the Grain Growers along side the great peace parties of the United States, Great Britain and Germany. These peace organizations are working to have all international disputes settled by honorable men in an international court of arbitration. There is no more reason why civilized nations should settle their disputes by slaughtering thousands of the finest citizens of their lands, and throwing tens of

thousands of widows and orphans upon the world without a breadwinner, than there is that private quarrels should be settled by the duel. Disputes between private citizens are settled by the courts without bloodshed, and disputes between nations should be settled in the same way. Arbitration is growing in favor with tremendous strides and will become an assured fact just as soon as the peace-loving peoples of the earth compel their governments to cease the miserable game of diplomacy and apply the principles of the Sermon on the Mount.

The aim of the advocates of peace is to see an agreement that every international dispute will be settled at The Hague or some other similar institution. When Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia and the United States agree to this there will be no more war. All nations may then safely disarm and contribute to one international naval police force, which need not be nearly so large as Britain's navy at the present time, and the individual burden will be light. In this Canadian farmers will gladly share. Pressure of public opinion, which is the greatest force in the world, would at once compel every other nation to disarm and join the World Alliance for Peace. This most desirable achievement is not ten years away from us, if those who believe in Peace have the moral courage to stand by their convictions. The teachings of the Prince of Peace are at last beginning to win support.

The politicians tell us that Canada must have a navy in order to protect our trade. But Norway has a greater carrying trade in proportion to her population than even Great Britain, and Dutch, Swiss and Belgian merchants carry on trade in every corner of the globe. Yet none of these nations have any navy and no army that amounts to anything. Their trade is safe and their credit stands higher in the world's money markets than that of Germany and Great Britain with their huge armaments. The nations that want Canadian produce would suffer more than Canada if our trade is interfered with. This is why these smaller nations need no protection for their commerce. Canada's trade will be as safe without a navy as it will with ten Dreadnaughts on each coast, and the people more happy and prosperous.

Premier Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier should be given to understand that the western farmers are citizens and taxpayers of Canada, and that they will no longer blindly follow a handful of politicians no matter where they may lead. The western farmers know as much about the needs of Canada in regard to a navy as any member of the House of Commons and it savors too much of Russia to have any naval scheme foisted upon the people by 221 members of the House of Commons, who have received no authority from the people to spend one cent for such purposes. If the people of Canada want to spend money for a navy let them do so, but those who are opposed to such an expenditure should at least have an opportunity to say "No." We will venture that at least one-third of the people of Canada are opposed to both naval schemes yet they have not a representative in Parliament and they have no voice in the expenditure of this money. And this is Canada in the age of civilization!

READY TO MEET MANUFACTURERS

The Grain Growers in convention at Brandon last week expressed themselves as quite willing to meet the Canadian Manufacturers' association and discuss the British Preference or any other phase of the tariff. The Manufacturers have, in the past, done

their negotiating with the politicians and have been universally successful. If the Manufacturers have any desire to meet the grain growers in a public conference now is their opportunity to do so. Winnipeg would be a central point for such a conference and the Manufacturers are well represented in this city. Let the Manufacturers issue their invitation and the Grain Growers will be ready.

TRUE PATRIOTISM

The following interesting resolution received the unanimous endorsement of the Brandon Convention last week:

"That this convention firmly opposes any preferential tariff scheme that will give the western grain growers a higher price for their grain at the expense of the British workman."

The grain growers are not asking for special favors and have no desire to plunder the working men of Great Britain or of any other country. All the grain growers ask is free entry into the world's markets, not only for selling their produce but also for the purchasing of their necessities. The politicians who are talking loyalty and hope that they will be able to win the support of the Canadian farmer in any scheme to rob the British workman should take notice right now that they have not understood the Canadian farmer properly.

RAILWAY CASE SHATTERED

If any further evidence was needed as to the unjust discrimination practiced by the railway companies against the Western Provinces, that evidence was presented before the Railway Commission last week. W. H. Whitla, K.C., of Winnipeg, representing the Dominion, presented a mass of carefully prepared comparisons from figures submitted by the railway companies themselves showing the glaring injustice of the present freight rates, particularly to the people of the Prairie Provinces. Mr. Whitla's statistics relating to the Canadian Pacific railway were especially striking. On the Atlantic division the total operating revenue for the year 1911 was \$3,049,291.15 and the revenue per train mile was \$1,414. In the Eastern division the total operating revenue was \$12,384,880.32 and the revenue per train mile was \$1,953. On the Manitoba division, on the other hand, the total operating revenue was \$24,182,760.47 and the revenue per train mile was \$3,151. In Saskatchewan the operating revenue was \$9,190,327.98, while the revenue per train mile was \$2,499. From these figures it will be seen that the revenue derived from Manitoba and Saskatchewan per train mile was nearly double that derived from the Eastern division. As a further comparison of revenue on eastern and western lines, Mr. Whitla showed that while the freight revenue on the Eastern division for 1911 was \$6,862,366.59 and the freight revenue per mile of line was \$4,985, on the Manitoba division the freight revenue was \$17,797,925.70 and the revenue per train mile was \$7,786. In Saskatchewan and Alberta the disparity was equally marked. Not only is the revenue from its western lines much greater on any basis of comparison than from its eastern lines, but the operating expenses in the West are much lower than in the East. For instance, in the Eastern division the operating expense per mile of line was \$6,798, and in the Ontario division \$7,142, while in the Manitoba division the operating cost was only \$5,516 and in the Saskatchewan division only \$4,054. The net earnings per mile in the Eastern division were shown to be \$2,200, and in the Ontario division \$2,683, as compared with \$5,064 in