

The Courier Canada's Challenge to the Grain Growers

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Address delivered by Dr. Salem G. Elrod before last Grain Growers' Convention.

"There is no gathering anywhere in Canada, that I would rather address than the Saskatchewan Grain Growers, as in your hands rest many of the vital problems of the future."

"I feel that the farmers' platform is practical, consistent and just and I feel sure at this time that you will accept and pass it. It means much, but words are not everything and when you have passed it I hope that you will pick the proper men to go down to Ottawa and enforce it."

"You have a great platform and you must make sure that it goes through. You want men to go down to Ottawa who will not be a political affiliation. Men who will not be blind to the realities of their party. Send men who are not afraid to fight for there is such undoubtedly impending in Ottawa in the near future."

"There are many ways of training men in Ottawa, ways of training them to act in with the ideas of the political bosses, but you want men who will go down to Ottawa who will not forget the voice of the west and men who are willing to stay poor and upon whom pressure cannot be brought to bear."

"It is not also enough that you merely send good men to Ottawa but that you firmly support them as a body. You want an organization of men who are prepared to take a Democratic platform."

"I spoke before a meeting of this association some six years ago in Saskatchewan and urged you at that time to form a third party, the idea at that time did not germinate to an appreciable extent. An eastern paper did take it up and commended upon it in an overbearing sort of way asking the question as to why a man should suggest such a thing as a third party. Did we not have two perfectly good parties at that time and were they suffering from senile decay? I won't say at the present time that it was senile decay, but certain it is that something did set in."

"I want to pay tribute while speaking before this association to the grand old party leader of Canada, who has just passed away, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He served the empire right royally and there is no one who can gainsay that he was the greatest of statesmen and was a loyal Canadian. There is no one who has made a greater contribution to the welfare of the country than he."

"With his passing goes one of the greatest landmarks of Canadian history and a great chapter of Canadian history has been closed."

"I do not speak, however, in a spirit of ingratitude when I say that we are now opening on new eras of events. The old ideals have crumbled and Canada is out on the great deep with the other nations of the world. No one knows what the issues will be but we will no longer think as egotistical, running to the privy council with our troubles. Canada in the future will solve her own problems and she will not grow to maturity until she has learned to do so."

"There is no people individually more industrious and far sighted than the Canadians but collectively we at the present time lack and are straying without leaders. Every one is anxious to do what is right but are waiting for some one to lead."

"The union government did one good thing, possibly only one, it has served to somewhat break up the old parties. The union government was born of a great need but it has now lost all power to stir the moral enthusiasm of Canadians."

"There is no hope for Canada in my opinion unless we have a new party, not a party born in Ottawa but a party raised from the common people. That is where it must come from and as there are more farmers than any other such it must primarily come from you, who represent the greatest farmer's organization of all."

"Farmers are going to be let loose in Canada during the next four years that no one can forestall and the governments realize it. These are the days when governments are afraid. They show it in their suppression of literature that they know is dangerous to their interference in the 1919 crop."

"We want freedom, not suppression of ideas, that was what was attempted by the government of Russia and we do not wish to follow in her footsteps."

"Why should the government fear if they are for the people. We want a government who will listen to the people, who are the people. It has been said that at times Canada was governed by as few as half a dozen politicians and you have looked to Ottawa in your thousands but unsuccessfully."

"I believe that secret diplomacy such as we have been up against in the past should cease. Why can't our government men come out in the open, do their thinking publicly and not behind closed doors, be honest and open. We want men with the public interest at heart."

"We want a new party for Canada and badly. A unifying government in something that cannot arise from either of the old parties."

"I must say that the churches have tended to separate the people. Why should this be. There should be a Christianity that is also unifying and next to the church in uniting us should be our government. Neither there should be a separating of race, we should not care to what country a man owes his birth provided he is a good Canadian."

"The war is over but there is a war impending in Canada. It is a fight for a square deal, a fight against the old party prejudice and I appeal to you as Canadians to take your part in the great struggle for humanity and justice."

"No government can survive which has not the love and confidence of the common people. The supreme need of Canada today is a government springing up from the common people with no more secret treaties, no policies planned in dark chambers, where reporters are not admitted. Secret diplomacy, the mother of wars, must cease and secret empires must go too."

"There is a low sort of movement in which a new party can do something for Canada which neither of the old parties can do. This is a real indication of Canada. There is no country in the world in such desperate need of such a government, no other country so crossed with lines of cleavage, with so little proof of permanency, unless such a party arises."

"God has been good to Canada, as He did not put a single nucleus seed in Canadian soil. As soon as it was apparent that there were no weeds in the country the people got homesick and decided they must have the dear old weeds of their childhood and so they brought every pest they had been accustomed to, even the English sparrow. Then they looked at their fields all aflame with weeds, and said that Canada began to look like home."

"We have been as stupid with other things in our lives, sometimes disputes and hatreds, political and religious."

"A moving appeal was made to the west to lead the way in the forming of the new party. 'Come on, Canadians,' he said, quoting a famous incident in the Times paper, and said that we are no longer Liberals and Conservatives, but Canadians. The farmer must be the main strength of the new party; must be the hand of union, extending one hand to the workers of the cities and towns and the other hand to the returned soldiers."

"Don't limit your party only to these," he said in closing. "You will get teachers, ministers, doctors, clerks, merchants, everybody who wants an honest living and no more."

"Oh, men of Saskatchewan, I appeal to you to take a great part in the great struggle in which Canada will find her soul. I feel that this meeting will be the culmination of fifteen years and that this mighty body, in a crisis so momentous, possesses the power to start a movement which may mean the regeneration of Canada, so infinitely and so divinely beautiful."

GRAIN ELEVATOR BURNED
MINNEAPOLIS. — The Diamond Grain Elevator of Minneapolis, owned by Richman Grain Company, was totally destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of approximately \$90,000 of which forty thousand was done to grain in the building. The burning grain carried by wind, started a dozen fires in the vicinity.

VERMONT GOES 'WET'
MONTPELIER, Vt. — Lack of interest on the part of prohibition voters was the chief cause ascribed by "dry advocates" here for a swing to license voted in the returns from the voting in cities and towns of the state a few days ago. It was explained that the anti-alcohol element, considering the fight for prohibition won by the adoption of the original amendment, failed to appear at the polls, and to a certain extent allowed the liquor supporters to win by default.

Letters to the Editor

THE GREAT LESSON

The Editor of "The Courier", Regina.

Dear Mr. Editor: The following is a resolution introduced by Mr. Francis, principal of the Rosthern Schools and High School at the Grain Growers' Meeting held in the Town Hall, Rosthern, on the 11th of February, and to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting of the Rosthern Grain Growers' on the 25th of February.

Whereas, in the near future there is almost certain to be a great influx of people into Canada from foreign land, and

Whereas, among those entering Canada it is probable that only a few can speak the English language, the language of Canada, and,

Whereas, it is decidedly to the disadvantage of those persons not to be familiar with the language of the country which they intend to make their home, and,

Whereas, it is to the best interests of Canada and Canadian institutions that all people living within her boundaries should have sufficient knowledge of the English language, at least, to enable them to read and write English and conduct their business in English, and,

Whereas, in the proper exercise of the franchise such knowledge of the English language is absolutely necessary.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Rosthern Branch of the Grain Growers' Association is of the opinion that, before any settler coming to Canada from a country whose language is foreign to the language of Canada, before such person can secure a title to land, and before such person can exercise the right of the ballot, that person should be able to read and write English well enough to enable him to conduct his business in the language of Canada, the English language;

And, further, be it resolved that it is the opinion of the Rosthern Branch of the Grain Growers' Association that a period of three years, at most, be allowed each settler in which to learn the English language, and, if at the expiration of that period of time, such settler has not become familiar enough with the English language to be forced to return to the land from whence he came.

And, further, be it resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Immigration, and one to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Now, Mr. Editor, the ruins of an Empire or Empires may or may not be pleasing; they are always instructive; we have a perfect right to feel happy and satisfied over the downfall of certain empires, but we are more than unusually stupid if we do not profit by the lesson which lies within their wreckage. The lives of nations, like those of individuals, are governed by laws that cannot be violated with impunity. What are the laws, and what the nature of the attempts at violation? That is a subject to which men who have at heart the real interests of humanity are now devoting attention.

The spirit of a nation controls and entirely dominates from within each person, so that he feels it to be his own very being. He looks upon it as his absolute final aim, and his life is hid with that of his fellows in the common life of his people. The culture of the folk, the nation or people, thus becomes a sacred tradition, and the language in which it is enshrined becomes, as it were, the vehicle which carries the holy ark of the covenant.

Holding his own national sense as sacred, Mr. Francis with curious inconsistency and rank selfishness, has completely disregarded the fact that the men of other cultures, and other traditions, and other nationalities, may, with equal fervor, hold to the same way. Let us take as an example the German Empire which, by the fortunes of war, is made up of men who of Teutonic, Polish, Danish and French nationality are subject to common laws. The Teuton predominates, and the Teuton has assumed that mere weight of numbers gives to his nationality the right to expunge other nationalities. Will the Prussian to think is to act; he

is seldom an idle dreamer; he is usually active in doing, be it good or bad. Assuming it to be his right or duty to enforce homogeneity, he straightway proceeded in that path by way of an attack on the minor languages. Consider the absence of logic, the inconsistency, the selfishness, as stated by Mr. Barker, an Oxford man, and is one of the English scholars, and has turned a knowing hand to unraveling the German skein. He has sought to lay bare the significance of its texture and winding.

Now there; if folk speech is a consecrated thing, because it is the vehicle of folk culture, surely the folk speech of Poles and Danes and Frenchmen can plead a little to existence, and a right to be used no less than that of the Germans. To inflict dumbness on a people and to mutilate its tongue at the same time that you proclaim the pure sanctity of your own speech is to sin against the spirit of nationality with the same breath with which you proclaim it holy.

There are reasons urged in defence of this policy of one language and one school, and we don't want to ignore them. They cannot be ignored by men seeking all the truth. The Prussian has had "instructive feeling that the area of German government should be also the area of German nationality and that, if there are alien elements in the area of German government, they must be, as it were, chemically changed and transmuted until they are unified with and incorporated into the area of German nationality." Further, the administration of education will be easier if schools are not bilingual; the administration of justice will be simpler if there is only one language for pleading; the whole of public administration will run on a single gear instead of running on several, if the State addresses its subjects and can always expect to be addressed by its subjects in a single language.

And, finally, there might be the feeling that German culture is so large, so embracing, so universal, that it is good for all to use its treasures; if men are forced to use it, they are after all being "forced to be free," and at the cost of a little compulsion in their school days they are initiated into a large freedom of the mind, which will come from a full and liberal education in German speech, and through German speech in German culture.

Such is the Prussian case for homogeneity, given in the words of a fellow of New College, Oxford, a distinguished man of letters and a leader of public thought in old England. Where has it fallen down? For the spectacle of an empire splitting apart into distinct national groups is evidence that it has fallen down. Let us take as an illustration the Poles. Mr. Barker sums up the results of the German policy in the following words: the perverse policy of the German government has naturally had perverse results; intended to incorporate the Poles, it has made them more Polish; intended to incorporate them in German culture, it has driven them back on the ardent cultivation of their own; intended to create loyalty, it has destroyed loyalty; intended to strengthen Germanism, it has strengthened the Poles at the expense of the Germans.

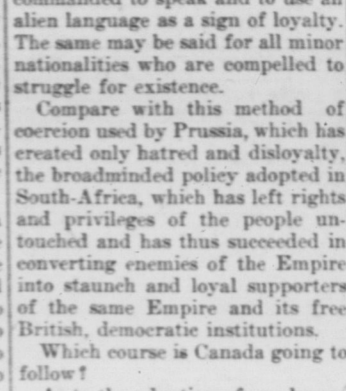
"The Polish language," wrote a German professor in 1914, "gains not only in the country districts but also in the towns, and even in the town of Posen the Polish middle class grows while the German decreases. But it is always so. He who sows dragons teeth can only reap a crop of armed and defiant warriors."

We might rest the case here, having learned that no amount of "political expediency" will be accepted as a substitute for the immutable laws of nationality. The Prussians believed themselves bigger than the law and succeeded only in breaking themselves. That is the gist of the case, but there is something more. The Germans made the primary mistake of looking upon the school as an adjunct of political power, and using Mr. Barker's words again, "to import a political motive into education is fatal to a free and liberal education; and when that political motive results in the use of compulsion and the drilling of a non-German population in German speech and history and culture, it is fatal to any sort of education at all."

The results? They are the same everywhere, Poland, Slesvig, Alsace and Lorraine. Think not that they are dependent solely upon the numbers affected. There are 150,000 Danes in Slesvig and 180,000 French in Alsace and Lorraine, and yet the policy of compulsory linguistic restriction was as ineffective for good in Slesvig, Alsace and

A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

MISS KELLY TELLS HOW LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND RESTORED HER HEALTH



Newark, N. J. — "For about three years I suffered from nervous breakdown and got so weak I could hardly stand, and had headaches every day. I tried everything I could think of and was under a physician's care for two years. A girl friend had used Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and she told me about it. From the first day I took it I began to feel better and now I am well and able to do most any kind of work. I have been recommending the Compound ever since and give you my permission to publish this letter." — Miss FLO KELLY, 476 So. 14th St., Newark, N.J. The reason this famous root and herb remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, was so successful in Miss Kelly's case was because it went to the root of her trouble, restored her to a normal, healthy condition and as a result her nervousness disappeared.

agitators. Mr. McQuarrie said that the latter had cost the province of British Columbia thousands of dollars in damages.

Mr. Fielding's speech on Friday on the address from the throne surprised, electrified, and at times, mystified parliament. It is years since a critic so able and candid has been heard in the house.

The speech was in two parts. The afternoon section was a stinging criticism of the government, particularly the futility of its representation at the peace conference and a riddling of the contention that thereby Canada is suddenly raised to a plane of added status. In the evening it was more of a declaration of adherence to unionism, with well defined qualifications and no guarantee of how long he will stay. At recess time he was loudly cheered by the opposition and hailed as a leader. Regrets even were expressed that he had not been selected instead of Dr. D. McKenzie.

There was an altered tone at night and a declaration against any change of government just now and the affirmed intention of playing the role of a friendly, candid critic.

It is admitted that Mr. Fielding, dealing with the tariff, gave an uncomfortable half hour to some western Unionists. He declared for partyism, maintaining that such is the only road that will lead them anywhere. Let them choose, as it were, between the sheep and the goat, but choose some party anyway, abandoning the separate group idea. His defence of reciprocity, his castigation of those who had decried the achievements and sacrifices of Laurier on the tariff issue, and his declaration of sustained sympathy for the cause of lower tariffs led the house to the conclusion that, though standing by the government of the time being, his ultimate desire is a reunited Liberalism with a trade policy attuned essentially to the west and conforming to its progressive demands. The speech in part was a belittlement of those western members who seem to place such an implicit faith in the Union government and expect great things from it in the line of fiscal reform.

STRIKERS DISAPPOINTED
SEATTLE, Wash. — Thousands of shipyard workers who reported to their former places of employment in Aberdeen, Tacoma and Seattle, for the first time since they struck for higher pay, January 21, were disappointed at being refused work temporarily. In Seattle only about 1,000 men were put at work in 11 shipyards.

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Sask. Grain Growers' Convention

(Continued from page 3.)

could be obtained. Transportation and other facilities were in such a condition that it was impossible to get foodstuffs to great masses of the starving peoples. It was therefore a difficult matter to strike a balance between the amount of food available and the amount for which there was an available demand. He thought that with proper distribution there would be none too much.

Regarding credit facilities he said this would be settled at the peace conference. There was nothing absolute yet, either as to the requirements or the means of furnishing credits.

James Robinson believed that the convention would be very ill-advised to go on record either as favoring or opposing a fixed price until they had more information as to the present and prospective condition of the wheat market. After all the first consideration was not a fixed price, but any price. The prospects for moving Canadian wheat were not bright. In Montreal the elevators were full, and the grain boats were loaded at the Eastern lake ports. More American wheat than Canadian wheat had passed through the Eastern elevators. The old crop was backing up, and it might be found necessary to put an embargo on wheat. The old crop, he said, could not be placed on the market before the new crop came along. The only change we had to market our grain was for the government to provide credit to those who wanted to purchase it. United States had already done this, and had advanced \$400,000,000 as a start.

Mr. Dunning favored the resolution because, he said, they needed more than ever now to put it up to the government that agriculture was in the greatest jeopardy. Canadian governments did not attach the importance to agriculture that they should. When he was on the Food Board a year ago, he had asked the government to treat the farmers the same as they did the munition makers, and guarantee wheat prices. This was necessary in order to have men undertake to break up new land. He also arraigned the government for not making any attempt to arrange the credit by which the Canadian crop could be moved forward to those who were in dire need of it. He intimated that there had been so much laxity on the part of the United States authorities. Representatives from Western Canada, in the House of Commons, should press for the national selling of the next year's crop, and to see that the most wide-awake saleremen available were made busy in helping to dispose of it. After some further discussion the resolution was carried by a large majority. It read as follows:—

"Whereas the profits to the Canadian producer from the wheat crop of 1917 and 1918 were restricted by a fixed price which the federal government established in the interest of the consumer, and especially of our Allies across the sea;

"And whereas, throughout the period of the war and at this time, the farmers of Canada, in loyal response to the government's call for greater production, have incurred the consequences of poor farming methods in order to secure immediate results;

"And whereas the cost of living, and of all commodities entering into the production of wheat, are now as high as, or higher than, at any time during the last two years;

"And whereas these conditions of cost will prevail throughout the period of preparation, sowing and harvesting the 1919 crop;

(To be continued.)

ALL ORDERS FOR COPIES of "Der Duitj-Geschiede Haasbrood, Gories-Artender" für 1919 which we have received since last fall have now been filled. If you have ordered a 1919 "Haasbrood" Almanac and have not yet received same, ask your Postmaster or write us a postcard. There are still several hundred copies on hand. Order one to-day. PRICE ONLY 5c. SASK. COURIER PUBL. CO., LTD. 1835 Halifax Street, Regina, Sask.



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