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TO SECRETARIES

Dear Sir:—The Grain Growers two years ago sent a large delegation to Ottawa to make the following demands upon the government. These demands are now regarded as the "Farmers' Platform."

- (1) Government operation of terminal elevators by an independent commission.
- (2) Immediate construction by the government and operation by an independent commission of a railway from the wheat fields of the Prairie Provinces to Hudson's Bay.
- (3) An act to facilitate establishing co-operative societies.
- (4) Providing facilities for exporting chilled meat from the Western Provinces.
- (5) Amendments to Railway Act to facilitate securing compensation for stock killed or injured on railway tracts.

Wider Markets and Freer Trade

- (1) That we strongly favor reciprocal free trade between Canada and the United States in all horticultural, agricultural and animal products, spraying materials, fertilizers, illumination, fuel and lubrication oils, cement, fish and lumber.
- (2) Reciprocal free trade between the two countries in all agricultural implements, vehicles and parts of each of these, and in the event of a favorable arrangement being reached, it be carried into effect through the independent action of the respective governments, rather than by the hard and fast requirements of a treaty.
- (3) We also favor the principle of the British preferential tariff, and urge an immediate lowering of the duties on all British goods to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff schedule, whatever that may be, and that any trade advantages given the United States in reciprocal trade relation be extended to Great Britain.
- (4) For such further gradual reduction of the remaining preferential tariff as will ensure the establishment of complete free trade between Canada and the Motherland within ten years.

All those questions will come up for review at our next annual convention. In order to make the discussion intelligent and that we may at the annual convention act wisely, the executive desire that the branches take each of the questions up separately at their meetings. After full discussion suggest any changes that they desire to be made on any of the specific questions, or, if they wish to, eliminate any of the propositions from the farmers' platform.

For information to our members I would like to say by way of explanation:

(1) The government has let a contract to build a terminal elevator of two and one-half million bushels capacity at Port Arthur. They propose to have it in operation for the crop of 1913. Apparently their intention is to allow all the other terminal elevators at the lake front to be operated by private concerns as formerly.

(2) The government has let a contract for building the Hudson Bay Railway and the work of construction is going on. There is nothing, however, said about the method of operating the road after it is built.

No action has been taken on questions three, four and five.

The question of wider markets for our products, and free trade relationships with other countries in the purchasing of the commodities that farmers need on the farm and home is the most important one we have to face at the present moment. As far as our platform is concerned we stand where we were two years ago, and the grain growers should make a strong public pronouncement as to whether they want to continue the demand for access to the United States market with our natural products, the demand for free agricultural implements, and the increase of the British preference. There is a growing feeling that the grain growers ought to ask for immediate free trade with Great Britain. It is very desirable that all our branches should express themselves on this particular point as to whether the farmers should

make a demand for immediate free trade relationships between Canada and the Motherland, or adhere to our former demand of an immediate increase of the British preference to 50 per cent., and a gradual increase from year to year until free trade is established between Canada and Britain in ten years.

The government has passed an order in council authorizing the establishing of a sample market in Winnipeg and Fort William, on the 1st September, 1913. This question has a direct bearing on the operation of the terminal elevators. The sample market carries with it the privilege of mixing all grades of wheat at the terminal. The question of what kind of a certificate should be granted this mixed grade out of the terminals is one that farmers ought to seriously

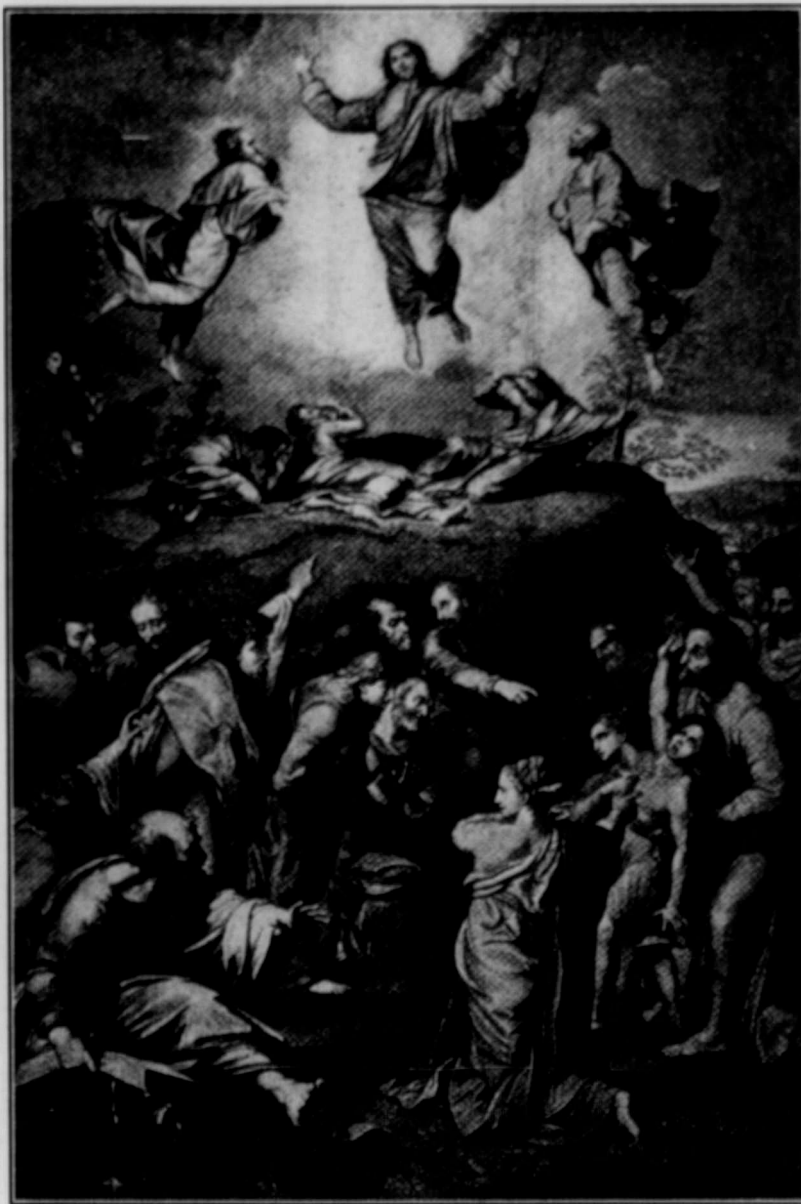
consider. And whereas: The companies doing Hail Insurance business do not seem to be generally patronized, and therefore do not relieve the situation to any appreciable extent.

Therefore, we deem the time has arrived when some better scheme of hail insurance should be inaugurated, such scheme to be general in its operation, and the rate or premium so low as to command the support of every grain grower.

The following resolution from the Lauder branch on Hail Insurance is submitted to you for consideration:

Resolution Re Hail Insurance

Whereas hail storms are of frequent occurrence in this province, causing much damage to growing crops, and thereby entailing great loss and frequently financial embarrassment to the farmer.



THE ASCENSION

consider, and each branch ought to make a pronouncement upon it. There is much dissatisfaction with our grading system and the weighing at the terminal elevators on this crop. What suggestions have you to make about improving those conditions? The alleged errors in grading may be due to imperfect sampling of the grain in cars or possible substitution of samples before they reach the inspector. Would you be in favor of making a demand for duplicate samples? such as obtain in Minneapolis and Duluth, where, in addition to the sampling of the inspection department, the Chamber of Commerce secures samples from the cars independent of the state inspection department. This forms a check on the state samplers and gives an opportunity for the cars to be re-sampled if an error is found to have occurred.

The question of co-operation is becoming more prominent. Thoughtful men re-

gard co-operation in the distribution of farm products and purchasing of farm commodities as the most effective remedy to meet the encroachments of "special interests" and would be in the interests of producer and consumer alike.

Have these questions thoroughly discussed and express your views upon what should be done by way of resolution to be presented at our annual convention.

R. McKENZIE, Secretary.

A DISTRICT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

The following constitution for District Associations, which was outlined at a district meeting which was held in Portage la Prairie on July 8, will be discussed at the District Convention to be held in the Municipal Hall, in Portage, on December 21, beginning at 10 a.m.

Directors:

Peter Wright, Myrtle; R. M. Wilson, Marringhurst; D. D. McArthur, Lauder; Frank Simpson, St. Louis Lake; W. H. Bewell, Rosser; R. J. Avison, Gilbert Plains.

The district association shall be composed of the branch associations in the district. Its objects shall be to organize new branches and strengthen weak ones, to promote the principles of organization and co-operation among the farmers. Each district shall hold annual convention the third week in December. The annual convention shall be composed of one delegate for every five members in the branch associations.

Each branch affiliated with the district shall elect one representative to the advisory board of the district and this board shall elect a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer from among their number.

These three officers shall comprise the executive. The duties of the officers shall be the same as in clauses 17, 18 and 19 of the constitution for branch associations. Each branch association shall contribute ten cents per member to the district association. All meetings shall be at the call of the district president, to be notified by the secretary at least ten days prior to date of meeting. All resolutions to the central convention from the branches shall be presented to the district convention to be discussed at its annual meeting.

COLIN H. BURNELL,
Dist. Sec.-Treas.

The following statement of the success attained by the Bowsman Farmers' Co. during its first year of co-operative trading will be read with interest. Coming direct from the company, it can be relied upon.

THE BOWSMAN FARMERS' CO. LTD.
Results Achieved by a Farmers' Co-Operative Store in a year's Successful Trading

At a shareholders' meeting of the above company, with most of the members present, the following gratifying result of their first twelve months' trading was presented by the directors. After paying all running expenses and wiping off the organization expenses, which included \$119.25 for the charter of incorporation and framing of the by-laws by a Winnipeg solicitor, also considerable extra expense in procuring the initial stock of merchandise, there remained a net profit of \$274.54.

This sum, after paying interest on a small loan from some of the shareholders was sufficient to pay 7 per cent. dividend on the shares. As, however, at a previous shareholders' meeting it had been decided to dispose of the net profits in the following manner, 1-5 to a reserve fund, 2-5 to interest on shares, and 2-5 to a bonus on all the cash purchases of members (cash or thirty days), the allotment of the profits gave \$42.42 to the reserve fund, \$86.80 to the bonus on purchases, and \$86.42 to a dividend on the shares at the rate of 2 3/4 per cent., the amount in fully paid up shares in the company being \$3,143.00. The shareholders having received this statement with approval it was decided to accept this report and pay the dividends accordingly.

This store is open to any customer who wishes to deal there and its object is the reduction of prices of all kinds of merchandise and the securing of the highest possible price for produce and by the competition which has arisen in the town of Bowsman the farmers in the vicinity are getting a benefit in many ways as the result of their enterprise. Were it possible (and why not) to have a similar store in each of the neighboring towns in the Swan Valley a great saving could be made as it would be easy to purchase many articles in large quantities.

F. E. Renouf has had the management from the commencement and thanks to the hearty support of a number of progressive farmers, who recognise that co-operation in its true sense is the real solution of a great many of the farmers' severest handicaps, this store has now become well established and promises to be of even greater benefit in the future.

The conduct of our lives is the true mirror of our doctrine.—Montaigne.