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SYDNEY - NOVA SCOTIA

Council of Agriculture Deals With Military Situation

Western Farmers Support Ontario Farmers in Important Problems. Will Consult With Government. Appoint New Secretary of Council.

H. Bronson Cowan, Editor-in-Chief of Farm and Dairy.

MATTERS of great interest to the farmers of Canada were dealt with at a largely-attended meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, in Winnipeg on Friday and Saturday, July 5 and 6. These included more especially conditions growing out of the Military Service Act as it is affected by the recent Order-in-Council cancelling the exemptions of young men, 20 to 22 years of age; the famous telegram by the executive of the United Farmers of Alberta to the Government at the time of the recent big delegation of farmers to Ottawa; the threatened further heavy increase in freight rates, and the appointment of a new secretary of the council to fill the vacancy created by the election of the former secretary, Mr. Roderick McKenzie, to the vice-presidency.

Those Present.

The three prairie provinces and Ontario were represented at the meeting. Those present included President H. W. Wood, of Alberta; J. Maharg, M.P., president of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; R. C. Hinders, M.P., president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; Hon. Geo. Langley, M.L.A., and J. B. Musellman, Regina; R. McKenzie, Winnipeg; John Kennedy, Winnipeg; C. Rice-Jones, Calgary; F. Riddell, Regina; J. Reid, M.P., Arcadia, Sask.; Peter Wright, Myrtle, Man., and numerous other representatives of the farmers' organizations of the three prairie provinces. The delegates from Ontario were Messrs. Col. J. Z. Fraser, Burford; C. W. Gurney, Paris; J. J. Morrison, of Toronto, and H. B. Cowan, of Farm and Dairy, Peterborough. Three sessions were held on both days.

The new secretary of the council is Mr. Norman Lambert, a trained newspaper man, who recently has been acting in an editorial capacity on the Grain Growers' Guide, and who is well posted in regard to the farmers' movement both in Western and Eastern Canada.

Alberta Telegram.

Three members of the executive committee of the United Farmers of Alberta, who sent the famous telegram to Ottawa, were present. They made a full and satisfactory explanation of the circumstances surrounding the sending of the telegram, submitted a copy of the minutes of the meeting, and proved that there had been a lot of misunderstandings about the telegram. They were most anxious to set things right with the organized farmers of Ontario. We expect to deal with this matter fully in next week's issue of Farm and Dairy.

Military Matters.

In all the discussions there was apparent a desire to support the Dominion Government loyally in this time of national stress, although many titles taken have been made that need to be rectified. Lack of space makes it impossible to deal with these matters fully. The following statement was discussed and adopted unanimously: "The Canadian Council of Agriculture, in meeting assembled, July 5th and 6th, 1918, in the City of Winnipeg, places itself on record as believing that the suppression of the Allied nations is the winning of the war, and that in this work Canada should continue to bear its part in the most effective way. In this declaration the council believes that it voices the opinion of not only the several farmers' organizations, but also the great body of the farming communities throughout Canada.

"Reconscience that the Government.

because of the needs of the military situation at the front, deemed it necessary to cancel all military exemptions, as provided for in the Order-in-Council of April 20th, and understanding that the Government is prepared to bear the full responsibility for its actions, the council, because of its intimate knowledge of the agricultural situation throughout Canada, desires to call attention to the following:

"First—That because of the large number of voluntary enlistments from the farms of Canada and the extreme labor shortage due to this and other causes the action of the Government in cancelling exemptions has very seriously interfered with production, and will further materially reduce the production of livestock, grain, and other products of the farm.

"Second—That the indiscriminate regional hardship upon the agricultural industry, inasmuch as the young people of our farms have been trained for farm work almost from infancy, and therefore are qualified to undertake responsible tasks on the farms at a much earlier age than is the case with young men who enter special occupations in urban centers; and, further, the older men having left the home farms, the responsibility for conducting the farm operations in many cases rests entirely on these young men.

"Third—That the desire of the Government that leave of absence should be granted in cases of extreme hardship has not been achieved in a large number of cases throughout the country, ill-advised actions of minor military officials, which condition has led to much unrest throughout the country, we would instruct our executive in the situation, that he has thus been created before the Government fully, with the object of preventing any further such miscarriages of justice in these matters; and we would in connection with the drafting of the young men from 20 to 22 years of age, and of ensuring all entitled to receive leave of absence, as provided for by the Government, receiving the same.

"Fourth—That before making further changes in the Military Service Act, or calling up men of the 18-year-old and 23 to 26-year-old classes, at present on leave of absence, thus affecting the labor supply of the country in essential industries, the representatives of organized agriculture should first be given an opportunity to lay full information before the Government in regard thereto.

"Fifth—That young men who were granted exemption as long as they continued to be engaged in an essential occupation and who got married after the date of their exemption and before the Government's action in cancelling such exemptions shall be treated as married men, and be granted exemption until the married class is called. Carried.

"Sixth—That so far as possible provision be made to continue military training in the military training depots of their respective provinces, in order that leave of absence may be granted to suitable men to assist with the harvest.

"Seventh—That provision shall be made by the Government for the appointment of a trustee or trustees in each province, with power to administer the estates of men engaged in military service, and be granted exemption for such assistance as is called.

The Cross Case.

The Ontario delegates explained the circumstances connected with the recent prosecution of Mr. Cross, a farmer of Brantford, Ont., who was prosecuted for making seditious utterances

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