

Citizens and Farmers Meet

Monday evening, December 12th there occurred at Manitoba Hall, Winnipeg, a gathering unique in the annals of progressive political movements. At that time and place the delegates who will represent the organized farmers of Western Canada at Ottawa were banqueted by the citizens of Winnipeg. Not only was the old maxim that farmers cannot stick together and work for reforms for the benefit of their class disproved, but it was also shown that they have the hearty support of the urban citizens in their demands. The gathering was made up of about three hundred and fifty farmers and one hundred and fifty citizens of Winnipeg, representing all classes; organized labor was represented by the leading exponents of the labor movements; business and professional men seconded the demands of the farmers in no uncertain terms; in fact the keynote of every speech was the unanimity with which all who desire better things in the government of our nation stand together. As one speaker put it we must all, whether of city or country, "hang together or hang separately."

The gathering was presided over by Alex. McDonald, a leading business man of Winnipeg, and an advocate of the reforms demanded by the organized farmers. In welcoming the delegates to Winnipeg and wishing them God-speed on their mission, he wished them to understand that they were not the only ones who were seeking and would be benefitted by the reforms that would be asked. "But," he said, "things are not as they should be when the agricultural classes or any other class of the people had to go to Ottawa to seek legislation that the welfare of the masses demands. Rather should the representatives at Ottawa come to the masses to find out what the people want." In concluding he assured them of the fraternal feeling of the residents of Winnipeg for the organized farmers of the Prairie Provinces.

The first speech of the evening was by John D. Hunt who called attention to the national character of the conclave. He said that city and rural residents were together as a unit in their demands. He urged the farmers not to simply request legislation, but demand it, and demand it in no uncertain terms, and concluding he said, "Do not take 'no' for an answer, the whole West is behind the movement."

R. G. McCuish welcomed the delegates on behalf of the younger men of Winnipeg. He characterized himself as an ardent free trader. In fact, Mr. McCuish was the man who introduced the resolution at the recent Liberal convention, urging upon the Laurier government the lowering of the tariff. Dr. Hutchinson stated that the farmers were in a position to demand the legislation they wished, for they were the real owners of the government and the government not the owner of the farmers, as one would be led to believe by frequent expressions from the seat of the government.

F. J. Dixon welcomed the delegates for the Trades and Labor Council. "The toilers of the city and of the farm," he said, "have one common foe, monopoly. The protective tariff is the curse that gives the monopolies sway over the workers and the toilers, and they, no matter whether of the city or the farm, must stand together and demand what is their right." The tariff has, he said, utterly failed as the method of collecting the revenue of the government. For every dollar turned into the government treasury ten dollars goes into the pockets of the manufacturers.

J. W. Scallion, whom the chairman characterized as "the war horse of the Grain Growers' movement" was given an ovation as he rose to respond for the farmers. He was very much gratified over the reception that the Winnipeg citizens had given the farmers' delegates, and was glad to know that more than the men of the soil were in the movement for better legislation. He also called attention to the fact that it was very peculiar that the farmers had to go to Ottawa to get legislation. If the representatives looked after the interests of their constituents such delegations would not be necessary. The farmers are getting together and will stand together and appeal for everything that will make Canada a greater and more glorious nation. The Grain Growers' Association is only in its infancy; it will more and more become a power in the land, but it will be necessary

for the toilers to back up their principles with their ballots, and all men get together and work for the common good. Upon concluding Mr. Scallion was given round after round of applause.

F. W. Green, secretary of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association responded for Saskatchewan. In a brief and witty speech Mr. Green made known the stand of the farmers. He stated that they were unanimous in their demands, and will fight for them and back up their demands with their ballots. The monster delegation was not going to Ottawa as a class delegation, but as one seeking the best for the whole country.

R. C. Henders, president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, was very much gratified over the backing they were receiving from the residents of Winnipeg. He referred to the resolution passed by the Winnipeg Board of Trade, demanding government ownership and operation of the Hudson's Bay Railway, and stated that several boards of trade throughout the West passed similar resolutions. This is one of the straws, he said, that shows how the wind blows, and demonstrates that the progressive spirit in the West is not confined to "a few disgruntled farmers." The thinking classes of all the Prairie Provinces are behind the movement. The farmers, he said, will not mince matters at Ottawa; they know what they want and will go after it. The spirit of democracy is in the air and all will unite to make the government, of the people and by the people.

R. A. Rigg, president of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council, spoke of the relationship of organized labor and the organized farmers, and urged closer bonds between them.

T. D. Robinson was glad to see that the farmers are taking hold of this for themselves. The tariff, he said, is not a political question but a political fact. All are united in the knowledge that the protective tariff is a burden on the country that must be lightened.

R. L. Richardson said that the farmers were just finding their strength. "We are beginning to show the Canadian politicians that we are going to go after all the things needed to improve the lot of the men of the soil."

R. A. Bannar, K.C., said that the government will find that they are meeting a body of men who know what they want and will not be put off the track by the dishonest arguments of the manufacturers and other monopolistic classes.

W. W. Buchanan stated that he was an absolute free trader and warned the farmers to beware of the smooth representatives of the manufacturers who would meet them at Ottawa, and reminded them that the manufacturers will do "Anything under Heaven except get off their backs."

Rev. Dr. Bland, of Winnipeg, spoke of the present movement in England and seconded all the demands of the farmers.

W. J. Tregillus, Calgary, spoke of the importance of the agricultural class in the government of Canada, especially in the West. They are a dominating factor. The farmers are at the basis of the prosperity of the nation, and by their work produce something which was not before.

W. H. Trumen, of Winnipeg, in a short speech complimented the farmers on their progressive spirit and urged them to keep after needed reform till they get it.

E. J. Frean, Secretary of the United Farmers' Associations of Alberta, in a few words moved a vote of thanks to the citizens of Winnipeg. The vote was seconded by Dr. Hill, of Kinley.

After the banquet and the speeches the delegates, escorted by a number of Winnipeg residents moved to the C. P. R. station and entrained for Ottawa. The special train consisted of eleven cars.

NORTH DAKOTA POPULATION

Bismark, N.D., Dec. 11.—The census returns for North Dakota are a distinct disappointment to the people of the state, as while they show a wonderful percentage increase, the total population is not as large as was hoped, and as the well-informed still hold they should be. The returns give the state a population of 377,936, and shows a gain over the last federal census of over 80 per cent. There are, however, 137,000 school children in the state and on the lowest basis of proportion ever used this would bring the state population to over 700,000, and North Dakota is a state that is not over-

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References: Union Bank of Canada, Royal Bank of Canada

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run with children. The returns will, however, undoubtedly require the redistribution of congressional districts, making three instead of two districts.

FISHERIES DISPUTE

Ottawa, Ont., December 8.—The international fisheries commission met today in Ottawa in the rooms of Mr. Brodeur, house of commons. The sessions will continue for three days, and will conclude on Saturday.

The commission consists of United States Commissioner President David Starr Jordan, the famous fishery expert, and Professor Edward E. Prince, Canada's leading expert on international and scientific fishery questions. The object of the conference, it is understood, is to thoroughly discuss certain controversial matters arising out of the system of fishery regulations, which Professors Jordan and Prince were authorized to frame under the treaty of 1908 between Great Britain and the United States for the settlement of fishery difficulties in the contiguous international waters from the Atlantic coast along the great lakes to the Pacific coast.

The members of the Saskatchewan fisheries commission, of which Professor Prince is chairman, are also here drawing up their report. Hon. Walter Scott, premier of Saskatchewan, arrived in the capital today to attend the conference of Dominion premiers tomorrow in respect to the question of representation in the federal house.

NEW STATE CABLES

Montreal, December 8.—The Herald this afternoon says: There is a movement for laying the new submarine state-owned Atlantic cable, of which Montreal will be one of the termini, and it is likely the scheme will take such shape that it will be submitted with the necessary plans and reports at the meeting of the imperial conference to be held in London next summer.

It is to be the Atlantic section of the "All-Red-Cable" of which the already existing state-owned Pacific cable will be the Pacific arm. Intermediate connection across Canada will be made with the wires of the Canadian Pacific railway. Details which thus far reached the Canadian Pacific authorities are of a somewhat meagre character, and it is likely a full exposition of the plan will be made before the imperial conference meets. The new cable route would be far more to the north than any existing cable.

The new cable is to be the reply to the boycott which has been made of the Pacific cable by the existing cable companies, and it is expected it will result in the cutting of the Atlantic cable rate to a third.

C. P. R. ASKS CHARTER

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—The Canadian Pacific Railway company will apply to the parliament of Canada at its present session for an act authorizing it to construct the following lines of railway:

1.—From a point at or near Wilkie on the company's Pheasant Hills branch, in a southerly and south-easterly direction to a junction with the company's Moose Jaw branch in township 30, range 16 or 17, west 3rd meridian, Saskatchewan.

2.—From a point at or near Kerr Robert on the company's Moose Jaw branch in a north-easterly and easterly direction to a junction with the line described above in township 38 or 39, range 19 or 20, west 3rd meridian, Saskatchewan.

Notice is given that an application

will be made to parliament for an act to incorporate a railway company under the name of "The Canadian Inter-Mountain Railway company," with power to lay out, construct, and equip a line of railwark operated by steam, electricity, or other power for the carrying of freight, passengers and express.

(A.) Commencing at a point at or near Coutts, thence northerly to the Milk river, thence in a general westerly direction to the town of Cardston, thence in a general southwesterly direction to the western boundary of Alberta at the summit of Kishemench Pass, thence in a general westerly direction in British Columbia to the Flathead river, thence in a general northerly direction to a point on the Canadian Pacific railway at or near the city of Fernie.

(2) From a point at or near the Milk river in Alberta in a general easterly direction by the most feasible route to Estevan, in Saskatchewan.

Power is asked to construct the following branch lines: (A) From a point on the said railway at or near the junction of the Calder creek and Flathead river, to a point at or near the town of Elko. (B) From a point at or near Cardston, Alberta, to Lethbridge. (C) From a point in or near township 3, range one, west of the fourth meridian Alberta, to Medicine Hat. (D) From a point in or near township 4, range 19, west of the third meridian to Swift Current. (E) From a point in or near township 6 range 20, west of the second meridian, to Moose Jaw, with power to build other branch lines in the province of British Columbia not exceeding in any one case twenty miles in length.

MINNEAPOLIS MILLING

Minneapolis, Dec. 8.—The flour mills of Minneapolis and the country mills of the Northwest, together consumed, in the statistical milling year that ends August 31, the total of 142,783,000 bushels of wheat, which was 20,000,000 more than in 1909, about 22,000,000 more than in 1908, and nearly 23,000,000 more than in 1907.

The Minneapolis mills ground approximately 10,700,000 bushels more wheat than in the year preceding, the Duluth superior mills 329,000 bushels more, and the 27 interior mills increased their consumption 5,687,000 bushels, while other mills that do not make reports used up the remaining quantity to make the increase as estimated. Secretary Clark, vice-president of the Northwestern Miller company, and grain trade statistician, to-day issued his report in which the above figures appeared.

The crop year ending August 31, 1910, was one of the most active ever known in the milling industry, and the chamber of commerce report for that period, published August 31, showed flour shipment from Minneapolis at 16,687,000 barrels had made a new record surpassing even the high figures of six years back and comparing with 14,117,000 barrels in 1909, while wheat receipts in Minneapolis were 101,000,000 compared with 84,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1909. The federal government estimated that the three states, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota produced a record wheat crop of 1909, the total being 233,000,000 bushels.

PROGRESS ON G.T.P.

Edmonton, December 8.—Up till last evening thirty miles of steel had been laid of Grand Trunk Pacific main line west of Edson. There are still forty miles more to be laid to Prairie Creek and Athabasca.