

# FOUR THOUSAND FARMERS CALL ON GOVERNMENT

## ASK GOVERNMENT TO EXEMPT FARMERS OF 20, 21 AND 22

### Largest Agricultural Delegation Ever at Ottawa Addresses Petition to Premier, who Tells Farmers' Representatives that if Teutons Take the Channel Ports Canada's Food Supplies May Not Reach Armies which Now are in Dire Need of Reinforcements.

Ottawa, May 14—A deputation of over 4,000 farmers from the Maritime Provinces, Ontario and Quebec, the greatest which has ever assembled in the capital, waited on Sir Robert Borden today to present their case against the decision of the government to refuse exemption from military service to agriculturists of the ages of twenty, twenty-one and twenty-two years. The Quebec delegation was under the presidency of Hon. J. E. Caron, provincial minister of agriculture. The delegates presented the following petition to the government:

**The Petition.**  
"We come before you at this most critical moment of the deadly struggle for the protection of the liberties of the world.  
"Representing the agriculturists and food producers of Canada, we desire to approach you and place before you our well considered opinion regarding Canada's part in the further prosecution of this war.  
"This is a world war and it is daily becoming more evident that if decisive victory is to come to the Allied forces it must be directed from a world point of view. That being so, the responsible heads of the nations should never by their direction seek to minimize that part which their nation is fitted to do. Since the outbreak of this war, Canadians have played a brave part, but we are few in numbers. At the best we can only hold a small sector in the battlefield. Canada is preeminently a food-producing country. In the course of this long drawn struggle the business of food production is preeminently Canada's portion.

**Farmers Doing Share.**  
"Ever since the outbreak of the war this fact has been strikingly emphasized by the members of your cabinet that agriculture was the first industry in which your government specially instructed those whose energies it engaged to redouble their efforts in greater production and in so doing they would be placing themselves as directly in the line of attack as though employed in the trenches. Your government fortified this command by publishing the agricultural war book and launching your patriotism and production campaign in January, 1915, directly after the outbreak of the war.  
"The Canadian farmer, earnestly devoting all his energies to increase the food supply for the Britisher at home and the British soldier at the front, is doing his share in this gigantic struggle, says your minister.  
"To still further strengthen this conviction in the minds of yourselves and the farmers of Canada, in March, 1915, you issued a second agricultural war book—'Production and Thrift'—in

which your minister, after expressing the thanks of your government for the noble effort, says: 'Gain or no gain, the course before the farmers of Canada is as clear as it was last year, they must produce abundantly in order to meet the demands that may be made.'  
"Following this second appeal, in 1917, when everybody realized the grim nature of the struggle, that lay before us, with the Russian debacle in full view, thanks be to God, the great American nation became our allies. With all this in plain view, your government enacted the conscription measure, and then, sir, you called to your cabinet a new body of men—some new men—who through their noble spirit of patriotism and commanding sense of public duty and high honor proceeded to appeal to the Canadian electorates on the one hand and direct the enforcement of the measure on the other.  
"Under its provisions, and true to your record since the commencement of the war, exemptions were granted to practically every bona fide young single farmer between the ages of twenty and thirty-four years, your own people, your own loyal Canadian citizens—exemption certificates as sacred to them, and these should be as solemn and sacred to you, as the pledge for the sanctity of which the peoples of the allied nations are pouring out their life blood on the battle fields of France and Flanders.  
"Following the issue of these certificates, Sir Robert Borden, premier of Canada, according to press publications, declared:  
"We cannot emphasize too strongly the absolute, urgent necessity for increased food production. The issue of the war may depend on the quantity of food produced in Canada and the United States.  
"Then, sir, your government established your Canada Food Board, with Hon. C. A. Dunning as director of food production, who declared at the recent meeting of the joint committee of commerce and agriculture, held in Regina: 'The world is on fire, famine is approaching. I would like to inform you, gentlemen, of the serious need of men at the front, but the need of food is more urgent. The food situation in 1915 is very dark, but for 1919 it is even more so.'  
"Starvation Danger.  
"Dr. J. W. Robertson, another appointee, chairman of the advisory council, Canada Food Board, said: 'Unless we can get more food now we shall go under and a million people will starve. This is my opinion, and I know as much about the situation, perhaps, as any one.'  
"You also appointed Mr. H. B. Thom-

## CASUALTIES OF BRITISH HEAVY

Total for One Week During Intense Fighting 41,612, Largest List Yet Reported in Like Time.  
London, May 14—The total of British casualties reported in the week ending today is 41,612. They are divided as follows:  
Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 501; men, 5,065.  
Wounded or missing—Officers, 2,123; men, 33,923.  
Reports of British casualties are not available for some time after the actions in which they are sustained. The large total in the last week evidently represents losses suffered when the fighting in Flanders and Picardy was at its height. Complete records have not been given out, but it is probable that the casualties reported in the last week are the heaviest British losses of any week of the war. The total last week was 38,691.

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## Change in Situation.

"The members of your cabinet tell us that an entire change in the situation at the front has taken place. We have put before you the testimony of Lord Rhonda and we know of nothing that has transpired in the few days between the time of his receipt of his message by the Canada Food Board and the passage of this order-in-council in the slightest degree the extreme urgency for Canada's food production efforts.  
"At this crisis we have a duty to perform. As practical farmers we understand the present critical situation on the farms of Canada as no other class can and it is our plain duty to place the true condition before your government, and having done so, come what may, our duty is done and we leave the responsibility with you.  
"Therefore, as farmers and loyal Canadians, we hereby enter our most solemn protest against the great breach of faith by the breaking of those sacred covenants and take from our farms the very labor which will enable us to produce, and the absence of which, more particularly on Ontario live stock farms, will paralyze production, and we exhort your government to stay its hand in these proceedings, by instructing the military authorities to still grant continuous leave of absence to all bona fide young farmers.  
"In order to allay the existing irritation and restore the confidence of the farmers in your government, we most humbly request a careful consideration and an early reply."

## In Two Theatres.

The English speaking delegates met in the Russell Theatre. The Quebec delegates, who included fourteen members of the provincial parliament, gathered in the Francaise Theatre.  
**Sir Robert Replies.**  
In his reply the prime minister emphasized the necessity of holding the line on the western front. "I know where of I am speaking when I tell you," he declared, "that if the channel ports should be reached through the breaking of that line it would be to say the least, extremely problematical whether any of that production of which you speak could be made of service to the allied nations overseas to our men who are holding that line. I regard it as the supreme duty of this government to see that these men, some of whom have been fighting for three years, are sustained by such reinforcements as will enable them to hold the line."  
Mr. Caron, who spoke for the Quebec farmers, was careful to point out that he did not come as officially representing the Quebec government.

## NEWCASTLE

Newcastle, May 11—D. J. Buckley, the prominent mill owner, has donated \$300 to the Miramichi Hospital.  
Miss Mary Lawlor, daughter of Police Magistrate and Mrs. J. R. Lawlor, was successfully operated on for appendicitis at the Miramichi Hospital Saturday.  
Miss Cecilia Kingston, R. N., has gone to Texas, as nurse in a training camp.  
Miss Rachael McEwen, of Chatham, a graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and until now superintendent of the Woburn Hospital, is to be director of the New Malden Hospital.  
Miss Lillian Grace Lane, of Chatham has graduated this year from Malden Hospital.  
Mrs. Thomas Newman, of Derby, is a patient in the Miramichi Hospital.  
Mrs. P. B. Troy, of Dalhousie, was the guest of Mrs. John Morrissey this week.  
Mrs. F. Pine, of Moncton, who is en route to Edmundston, to join her husband there, is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. D. Kennedy.  
Mrs. Aved White, Jr., and daughter Sally, of Shediac, are visiting the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Thurber, Millerton.  
Miss Florence Russell, superintendent of Dr. King's hospital, Brunswick, Me., returned there this week after a month's visit to her home here.

## JAMES GORDON BENNETT DEAD

Proprietor of New York Herald Dies in France—Was One of Most Noted Journalists in His Time.  
Beaucau, France, May 14—James Gordon Bennett, proprietor of the New York Herald, died at 5.30 this morning, after having been unconscious for two days.  
Mr. Bennett's last words before relapsing into unconsciousness were in relation to his newspaper interests. Mrs. Bennett was with her husband when he died.  
Despatches from France early this month reported Mr. Bennett so seriously ill that his condition was giving serious cause for anxiety.  
Picturesque Figure.  
James Gordon Bennett, one of the most original and picturesque of the international journalists, and undoubtedly the greatest genius among the publishers of American newspapers of his time, was born in New York city, May 10, 1841, the only son of James Gordon Bennett, founder of the "Herald." He received his education from private tutors and was carefully trained for his journalistic career by his father. To build up a great newspaper had been the leading purpose of the father's life, and it is said that his son was to sustain and develop that which he had created. The older Bennett died in 1872 and his son fell heir to his large fortune and to the Herald, which had been the pride of his father. Young Bennett faithfully complied with his father's wish and, in doing so, displayed all the energy, sagacity, varied ability, personal probity and tremendous enterprise that had distinguished his father.  
Bennett, who had lived in France for about forty years, married a French lady a few years ago. He was enormously wealthy.

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The Strength of the World's Best Wheat is Sealed in (Government Standard) PURITY FLOUR MANUFACTURED BY Western Canada Flour Mills Co. Limited

Rich AND Mellow KING COLE TEA You'll Like the Flavor

2 IN 1 SHOE POLISHES LIQUIDS AND PASTES. FOR BLACK, WHITE, TAN, DARK BROWN OR OX-BLOOD SHOES. PRESERVE THE LEATHER.

Penmans Underwear THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE People of varied occupations and in different climates require different garments. Penmans Underwear is made in various weights and fabrics to suit all these conditions. Each garment fits perfectly and is made to wear well. Penmans, Limited, Paris

ATTENTION! New Perfection Oil Cook Stove Week May 6th to May 11th BEGINNING Monday morning, hardware, furniture and department stores from Halifax to Vancouver will display New Perfection Oil Cook Stoves, to remind you that now is the time to buy—to save coal and other scarce fuels; to save time, money and needless worry. The New Perfection, with its Long Blue Chimney, makes oil the ideal fuel—banishes the drudgery of coal, ashes and kindling—and gives excellent year-round cooking service at the low cost of Royalite Coal Oil. WATCH FOR YOUR DEALER'S WINDOW DISPLAY IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED BRANCHES IN ALL CITIES NEW PERFECTION OIL COOK STOVE

NEW PERFECTION OIL COOK STOVE

Advertisement for shipping lines and other services, including mentions of 'Steamship Co.', 'Boilers', and 'Shipping Lines'.