

Western Australia Farmers Enter Politics

As a result of a four days' conference held at Perth on March 12-15, the Farmers' and Settlers' Association of Western Australia has formed itself into a political body. Two thousand five hundred organized farmers were represented at the conference and by a vote of 103 to 17 (representing 53 branches against 7) it was resolved:

"That this meeting of delegates of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association of Western Australia, in conference assembled, hereby affirms the necessity for the primary producers of this State to embrace politics, and resolve that a political party be formed for the purpose of securing direct representation in the Federal and State Houses of Legislature; that this party shall be called the 'Country Party.'"

After thorough discussion the following objectives and platform were adopted:

Objectives

1. To keep strict watch over all legislation that may, directly or indirectly, affect the rural producers of the State.
2. To put into practical effect the platform as promulgated from time to time at the annual or special conference of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association.
3. To assist in the passing of legislation that is in the interest and for the welfare of the community as a whole.
4. The return of members to Parliament having a practical knowledge of country districts and requirements generally, and pledged to support the farmers' political platform.

Platform

1. The maintenance of the principle of the freehold tenure of land.
2. An organized system of assisted immigration, with a view to a vigorous policy of land settlement.
3. Construction of railways to already settled areas, and further extension to precede settlement.
4. Bulk handling of grain.
5. Improvement of accommodation and facilities for the handling and disposal of produce.
6. Decentralization and the utilization of all natural ports for shipping local produce.
7. Vigorous and comprehensive policy of water conservation and irrigation, with due regard to existing rights.
8. Extension of agricultural education.
9. The abolition of protective duties on all requisites of the primary producer.
10. To have repealed or to oppose all State and Federal legislation that has been, or may be, introduced to bring the rural producers under the operations of the Arbitration Act.
11. To ensure that all persons em-

ployed in the primary industries shall be paid a fair day's wage for a fair day's work.

12. Compulsory preferential voting, and voting by post with proper safeguards.

13. Economical administration of government departments and the expenditure of public funds.

15. Freedom of contract.

Co-operation

On the question "Whether this Association should engage in co-operative trading—(a) in the supply of necessaries for work on farms; (b) supply of the necessaries of life; (c) and the handling of produce of all kinds for market," it was agreed that a committee be appointed to confer with the W.A. Producers' Union and the Farmers' Mercantile Union, with a view to amalgamation into one body, the committee to report to the annual conference.

Many Free Traders

It will be observed that the conference pronounced for "the abolition of protective duties on all requisites of the primary producers." Some of the delegates were in favor of going further—in fact, an enthusiastic free trade element was strongly in evidence—but the general sense of the conference was against committing the Association to proposals which are not at present practicable, and it was decided to confine operations to endeavoring to secure the removal of the duties on implements and machinery.

EGG CIRCLES

An important part of the poultry work of the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture during the past year has been the organization of co-operative egg circles. Ten circles in all have been organized under the auspices of the branch; working in conjunction with the provincial and agricultural college authorities and the Poultry Producers' Association of Canada. The preliminary work in connection with a number of others has been done, and from present indications it is apparent that this phase of co-operative work is likely to have a rapid growth in the near future. Being primarily concerned with the improvement of the Canadian egg trade the Live Stock Branch has encouraged the formation of these circles because the movement affords a means whereby the quality of eggs can be improved as they leave the farm, and the pernicious practice of holding eggs, both on the farm and in the country store, largely eliminated. Co-operative effort of this kind also affords a medium whereby the eggs in any given community may be collected and marketed frequently

and regularly, and insures to the consumer a new-laid egg of uniform quality at no great increase in cost. At the time of joining the association the members agree to stamp each egg with a given number designated by the board of directors. This is done so that the eggs of each member may be identified when graded and payment made according to quality. A manager is appointed by the board of directors whose business it is to collect, grade, sell the eggs and apportion the returns among the members according to the quantity and quality received. In most circles the eggs from each farm are collected at stated intervals, but in others the members deliver the eggs to some central point such as a creamery, cheese factory, store or house, from which the manager makes the shipment. It is well known that at certain seasons of the year there is a wide difference between the price received for eggs by the farmer in the country store and the price paid by the consumer in the city. This difference is not nearly so marked in the spring of the year as it is in the late summer, fall and winter. In other words, as the quality of ordinary farm eggs becomes more uncertain the premium placed on new-laid circle eggs increases. While during the spring of the year prices received by circle members may not greatly exceed those paid in the local store, it is a fact that for the eggs produced in the month of December last year the majority of circles in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec received a price of from 35 to 50 cents a dozen. A limited number of circles will no doubt be able to take advantage of the rapidly growing select trade in the larger Canadian cities, but from the fact that the wholesale egg dealers in Ontario and Quebec have recently adopted a new system of buying on a basis of quality, it is likely that the product of the majority of circles will find its way to the consumer through the more recently established channels of trade. The Live Stock Branch stands ready and willing to help on the egg circle movement in every possible way. Officers of this branch are now in the field, and there is available a quantity of literature, including outlines of constitutions, by-laws, etc., dealing with the work, copies of which may be obtained upon request from the Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa.

U.S. TARIFF REDUCTION

Washington, April 21.—Removal of all tariff from many articles of food and clothing; broad reductions in the rates of duty on all necessaries of life; an increase of tariff on many luxuries; and a new income tax that would touch the pocket of every American citizen whose net income exceeds \$4,000, are the striking features of the new Democratic Tariff Revision Bill, presented recently to the House.

Sugar would be free of duty in 1916, the bill proposing an immediate 25 per cent. reduction and the removal of the remaining duty in 1916.

Raw wool would be made free at once, with a correspondingly heavy reduction in the tariff on all woolen goods.

All these other articles are put on the free list namely:—meats, flour, bread, boots and shoes, lumber, coal, harness, saddlery, iron ore, milk and cream, potatoes, salt, corn, cornmeal, cotton bagging, agricultural implements, leather, wood pulp, Bibles, printing paper not worth more than 2½ cents per pound, typewriters, sewing machines, type-setting machines, cash registers, steel rails, fence wire, cotton ties, nails, hoop and band iron, fish, sulphur, soda, tanning materials, acetic and sulphuric acids, borax, lumber products, including broomhandles, clapboards, hubs for wheels, posts, laths, pickets, staves, and shingles.

While wheat flour is put on the free list, a duty of ten per cent. is imposed against countries which levy a duty on American flour. This will exclude flour from Canada and many other countries.

These principal items are taken from the free list and taxed:—Rough and uncut diamonds and precious stones, furs, coal tar products, ten per cent.; volatile oils, twenty per cent.; spices, from one cent to two cents per pound.

Chairman Underwood, of the Ways and Means Committee, in his statement accompanying the new Tariff Bill, gave the following comparative table, to show reductions in tariff duties made up on necessities. In each item, both the present tariff and the proposed tariff had been reduced to an ad valorem basis.

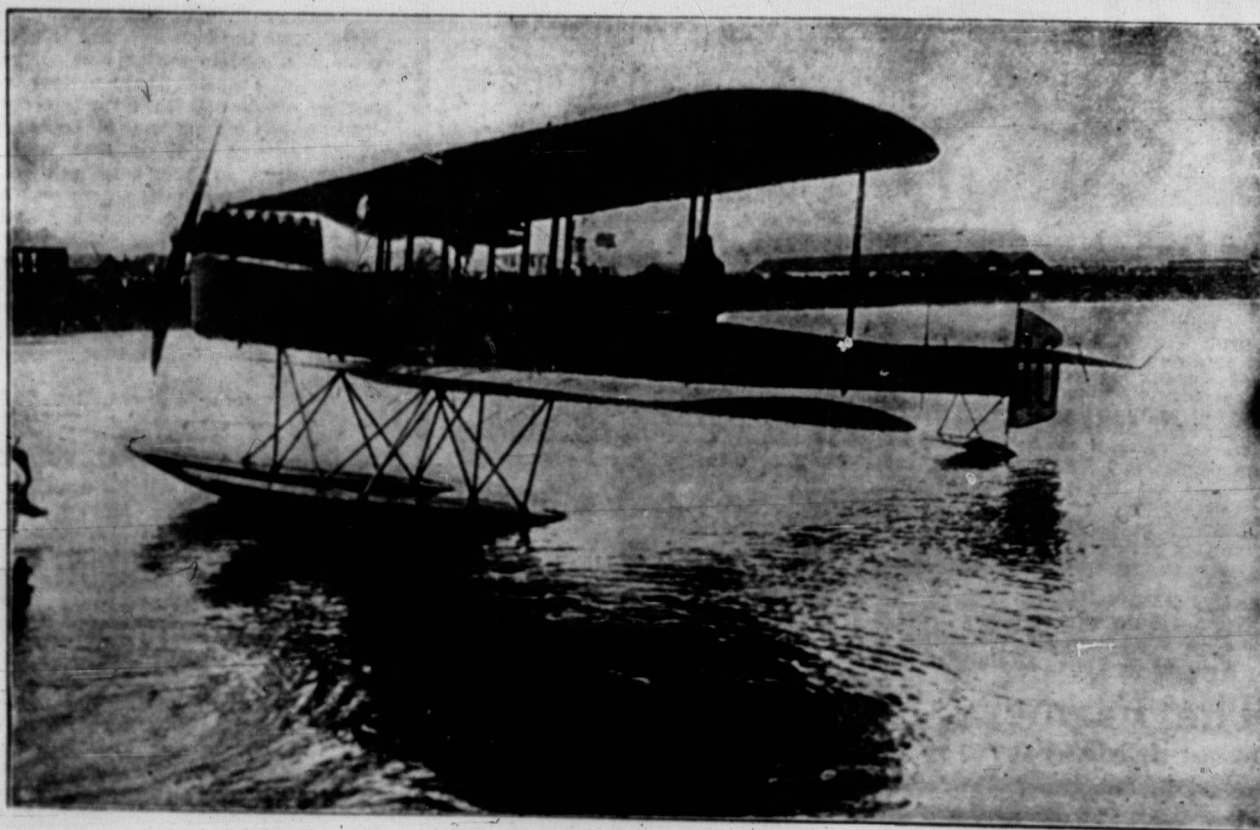
Article	Present Law	Proposed Law
Lime	\$9.17	\$5.00
Grindstones	9.21	8.33
Bicycles	45.00	25.00
Pocket knives	77.68	35.00
Razors	72.36	35.00
Scissors and shears	53.77	30.00
Knives and forks	41.98	27.00
Furniture	35.00	15.00
Cattle	27.07	10.00
Eggs	36.38	14.29
Stocks, etc., of fruit trees	54.44	27.58
Cotton cloth	50.00	26.69
Cotton clothing	42.74	26.69
Stockings, hose and half hose, selvedge	75.38	50.00
Men's and boy's cotton work gloves	89.17	35.00
Knit shirts, drawers, etc., and underwear	60.27	25.00
Collars and cuffs	49.10	30.00
Blankets	72.69	25.00
Flannel	93.29	30.00
Clothing, ready-made	79.56	35.00
Women's and children's dress goods	99.70	35.00
Sewing silk	25.00	15.00
Wrapping paper	35.00	25.00
Books	25.00	15.00
Brooms	40.00	15.00
Matches	27.59	14.00
Harness and saddlery, other than leather	35.00	20.00
India rubber, manufactures of	35.00	10.00
Lead pencils	39.00	25.00

Total reduction in customs revenue effected by new tariff, amounting to \$80,000,000 (estimated), to be made up by the imposition of an income tax payable on all incomes exceeding \$4,000 per annum, and by a heavy increase in customs duties on many luxuries.

OPENING OF NAVIGATION

Fort William, Ont., April 24.—With every foot of space in the huge terminal elevators at the Canadian Head of the Lakes, utilized, with scores of grain laden cars that cannot be unloaded standing on side tracks and with the contents of the big coal bins of western dealers at this point growing alarmingly low, there has not been a time in recent years when the formal opening of navigation has been more welcome than it was today. Not only will the arrival of a dozen or so freighters in the harbor this afternoon and tonight mean that grain will again commence to move from the West, but also that hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise, purchased weeks and even months ago in the East and held for the cheaper lake and rail freight rates, will henceforth pour into Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan in a continuous stream.

War is a tragic mark on the failure of statesmanship.—Mr. Walter Runciman.



THE LATEST TYPE OF THE ASTRA HYDROPLANE, PURCHASED BY THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY

The heard the bi weeks present report tically sult of no sur power allied ing C that se ing th ner, by as a r charge nesses stricte attach even i rigidly Of cou and 12 immed ed to e busines be com they sa mercy 20 and point o ment in just a Prairie was ea praised conditi years a the bar they w and qu find th lesson of the never c are oth Even t per cen farmers less pol the ban cent. int agers t reckoni ate inte if the ba lead the There in conn entire s; able fra which tl and the fullest i present about tl over \$1 which h keeping. ures res cases ut funds h manager sent to victims, great ne lieved tl tors or the char large loa of intere of the l sums of