

The Farmers at Work

By The Guide Special Correspondent

How the work of educating the Conservative leader was carried on

Seven locals of the U. F. A. were represented in the delegation which waited upon Mr. Borden in the Board of Trade room at Edmonton on Wednesday evening, June 28, including Edmonton, Strathcona, Clover Bar, East Clover Bar, Stoney Plain, Agricola and Bon Accord. F. C. Clare, secretary of the Edmonton local, presented a memorial to Mr. Borden stating the demands of the organized farmers in the terms of the Ottawa platform, and Mr. Borden gave his customary reply. As usual he gave no indication as to whether he believes in a reduction or an increase, either in the tariff generally, the British preference, or on such articles as agricultural implements, cement, and other things particularly mentioned by the farmers. Commenting on this and Mr. Borden's determined stand against reciprocity, Rice Sheppard asked Mr. Borden to make a statement as to what relief he proposed to give the farmers and other producers from the tariff burden under which they were suffering. "You must admit," said Mr. Sheppard, "that the farmer is suffering under a heavy burden by reason of protection."

Mr. Borden made no sign of assent or dissent, and Mr. Sheppard continued, "Perhaps you do not admit that. I figure that I pay \$200 a year in enhanced prices due to the protective tariff. On this suit I am wearing I paid \$3 duty. I do not complain of that because it went to the treasury of the country, but if it had been manufactured in this country I should have paid the \$3 just the same only it would have gone to the manufacturer."

No Tariff Policy

Replying, Mr. Borden said he did not profess to be able to present a cut and dried tariff at the present time. He was not competent to frame a tariff and before doing so, if he came into power, would seek the advice of a permanent commission of tariff experts who would investigate the conditions of every industry, including the most important of all—that of agriculture.

Mr. Borden was also presented with a civic address of welcome to the city of Edmonton, and in spite of wet weather an audience of between three and four thousand attended the public meeting where the same old speeches that have been previously reported were repeated to a not over enthusiastic audience. Hon. Frank Oliver, minister of the interior and member for Edmonton, was present and at the conclusion of the meeting shook hands with Mr. Borden and the members of his party with apparent cordiality.

U.F.A. at Vegreville

From Edmonton the party headed for the East, the first stop being at Vegreville, a cosmopolitan district settled by Anglo-Saxons, French Canadians and a large colony of Galicians. The first business as usual was the reception of a delegation of members of the U. F. A., the Vegreville local being represented by Howard McCleery and the Lavoy local by Hubert Morton. The memorials of both locals endorsed the Ottawa platform and asked for the enactment of the legislation necessary to carry it into effect; and that from Lavoy, after referring to Mr. Borden's pronouncements on the Hudson's Bay Railway, terminal elevators and chilled meat trade, said, "So far we have received inadequate satisfaction on these points, and your welcome and absolute assurance of relief in the event of your coming into power, has filled us with confidence and very great satisfaction, and we most sincerely thank you." The memorial also asked for the adoption of free trade between Canada and Great Britain and concluded, "This, it appears, might be a long step towards removing the embargo off Canadian live cattle going into Great Britain, which would greatly benefit Western Canada and would be a means of attaining the end towards which we in Canada should all work, the closer cementing of national ties between Canada and the Mother Country."

Mr. Borden made the usual reply and the usual program was also carried out at the public meeting, held in a small but overcrowded hall.

The two Battlefords, North Battleford and Battleford, were visited on Friday and

at both points large delegations of Grain Growers, representing between them all the branch associations in the Battleford Federal constituency, waited upon Mr. Borden to lay their views before him upon lines similar to those adopted elsewhere. Mr. Alfred Greensill, of Denholm, was the spokesman of the Grain Growers at North Battleford, and a memorial was read at the old town by C. F. Truscott, of Eagle Hills. The Battleford district is strongly Liberal and even more strongly pro-reciprocity, but all parties united to give Mr. Borden a warm reception. In Old Battleford, in fact, the Liberals, headed by the Federal member, Mr. A. Champagne, took the arrangements into their own hands, and in addition to a civic welcome the party were entertained at a banquet after the meeting.

The Grain Growers also met Mr. Borden at Lanigan and Prince Albert, the points visited on the 1st July, and made the same representations as at other points. At Lanigan the spokesmen of the farmers were Messrs. Ferry and Wright, and at Prince Albert, Messrs. Andrew Knox and Thomas McKay. Mr. Borden had a large and enthusiastic meeting at Prince Albert, the Empress theatre being filled to capacity.

Heckling Becoming Popular

Lloydminster, the town on the present Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary, founded by the Barr colonists who marched 300 miles across the prairie from Saskatoon in 1902, gave Mr. Borden a reception such as he has received nowhere else during the tour. Ninety per cent. of the residents of the district are English people and the meeting held in the drill hall of the Saskatchewan Light Horse was typical of political meetings in the old land. While previous audiences have sat and listened patiently, whether they agreed or disagreed, the English in the Lloydminster people would not permit them to hear without protests statements which they considered to be incorrect, or arguments which they considered to be fallacious. Their protests were frequent, and Mr. Borden and his supporters were subjected to a heckling that they were not accustomed to. The Grain Growers and United Farmers were strongly represented, a two days' convention at which delegates representing 80 branches and unions were present, having been held prior to the meeting, and having adopted a series of resolutions which were presented to Mr. Borden in the following memorial, read by Mr. Stanley Rackham, president of the Lloydminster Agricultural society:

Lloydminster Memorial

"The organized farmers of the Lloydminster district extend to you a cordial welcome. We appreciate this opportunity for exchanging political views with the leader of the minority party in the House of Commons. We recognize that on many of the questions of primary importance embodied in the demands of the memorable delegation of farmers to Ottawa last December, the opposition is more in accord with the views of the farmers than the government party, and it is in the hope that the opposition party may yet see the reasonableness of all the essentials of our program that we now address you."

"We ask you to note that the value of agricultural products is based on a market open to the free competition of the world, whereas everything the farmers buy is burdened with a tribute levied for the purpose of artificially fostering and maintaining all other industrial enterprises. We calculate that about 25 per cent. of what we pay for the goods we buy is a price enhanced by our fiscal system, and for which we receive no adequate return."

"We welcome the reciprocity agreement with the United States as a first instalment of our demand to have that burden lightened, and the handicap to an advantageous market for our products removed. We ask the opposition leader to use his utmost to secure enactment of the reciprocity agreement, and we candidly disclaim confidence in any party or any politician under whatever guise of friendship and sympathy who persists in upholding the tariff system that exacts exorbitant tribute from the main producers

of wealth in order to provide attractive dividends for the class into whose hands the surplus of that wealth is ultimately manipulated. We emphasize our demand to have the duty on agricultural implements altogether removed, and we favor the lowering of the tariff on imports from Britain to at least half what it is now, and that it be periodically reduced until by the end of ten years we have absolute free trade with the Mother Country."

"We endorse the stand which the opposition has taken with regard to the terminal elevators and the Hudson's Bay Railway. We also appreciate your attitude towards the establishment of a chilled meat industry, and we again emphasize our demand that a complete chilled meat system owned and operated by the government, or a system of co-operation by the producers financed and controlled by the government be inaugurated without unnecessary delay. We ask that legislation be passed making railway companies liable for loss occasioned by live stock straying on to the lines. We call your attention to the fact that in Canada there is no act of Parliament providing for the incorporation of co-operative societies, and we ask that your party introduce or support a bill making such provision. We ask that the Autonomy Acts be so amended that we can adopt direct legislation in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and that the Initiative and Referendum be also established for Dominion affairs. Signed on behalf of eighty branches of organized farmers of Alberta and Saskatchewan."

Perley Being Educated

G. H. Perley was the first speaker, and he put forward his pet arguments against reciprocity with such evident belief in their effectiveness that it seemed cruel of the Lloydminster farmers not to accept them. His argument on wheat, that the higher price in Minneapolis was entirely due to local demand and would immediately disappear when the duty was removed, and that all our Canadian wheat would go to Minneapolis to the ruin of the Canadian milling industry, caused only merriment; the statement that 700,000 dozen eggs were imported from the United States last February when the hens in this

country were not laying owing to the cold weather, prompted a question as to whether higher protective duties would make Canadian hens lay, and the allegation (which by the way is quite contrary to the fact) that the reciprocity agreement prevents the duty on agricultural implements being reduced below 15 per cent., brought forth the cry of "Rats."

Misinformation

Mr. Perley quoted freely from a United States publication giving comparative prices in Canada and the United States, and asked if the Lloydminster farmers wanted to sell their horses in the United States, where they were cheaper than in Canada. "No," replied a voice from the audience, "we want to buy some." When Mr. Perley quoted the low price of sheep across the line, someone remarked that he would like to get some mutton, but when he gave the prices of hogs, a gentleman on the platform said his figures must be wrong for such prices were never paid around Lloydminster. Mr. Perley made another mistake when he repeated the statement he had made at several other places, that neither the Grain Growers nor Sir Wilfrid Laurier mentioned reciprocity last summer, a number of people rising to contradict him on this point. "We did here in this town," said a farmer on the platform. "The same gentleman who read the paper tonight read a paper to Sir Wilfrid Laurier asking him for the self-same thing." So one after another, the sons of the soil knocked over the other arguments of the millionaire politician.

Borden more Cautious

Mr. Borden, having seen the sorry figure that his friend had cut did not say much about the economic side of reciprocity, dwelling rather on the national aspect of the proposal, in the endeavor, which appeared to be a vain one, of persuading the Englishmen of Lloydminster that by trading with the Americans they would endanger British connection. Mr. Borden also spoke at some length on government ownership of terminal elevators, the Hudson's Bay Railway, the chilled meat trade and co-operative legislation, on all of which points he was heartily applauded.

Review of Borden's Campaign

(By the Guide Special Correspondent)

Prince Albert, Sask., July 1.—Mr. Borden and his party have now been travelling in the Western Provinces for two weeks. They have held twenty-six meetings, and received a large number of delegations of organized farmers, and it is now possible to form a fairly good idea of the effect which has been produced by the anti-reciprocity campaign upon which they are engaged. It is generally recognized that the three Prairie Provinces are the stronghold of pro-reciprocity sentiment, and in coming to the West, Mr. Borden and his lieutenants realized that they would, as a rule, be met by unsympathetic audiences, their hope being that they would be able to convince a sufficient number of the people of the West that reciprocity would be a bad thing for them and for Canada, to at least retain at the next election the approximately even balance between the parties which at present exists west of the Great Lakes.

The party consists of Mr. R. L. Borden, K.C., M.P. for Halifax, Nova Scotia, and leader of the opposition in the Dominion parliament; Mr. George H. Perley, an American born millionaire lumberman and pulp manufacturer; Mr. J. G. H. Bergeron, a French-Canadian lawyer from Montreal, who was M.P. for Beauharnois, Quebec, for thirty years previous to his defeat in 1908; Mr. Andrew Broder, a farmer, and M.P. for Dundas county, Ontario, and Dr. W. J. Roche, M.P. for Marquette, Man.

A Hearty Welcome

An outstanding feature of the tour has been the very cordial reception Mr. Borden has everywhere received. At

almost every place which he has visited he and his party have been met by bands and driven in automobiles through streets decorated in their honor. Everything possible, in fact, has been done to make Mr. Borden's visit to the West pleasant, to make him acquainted with local conditions, and with the needs and advantages of the various sections of the country and to show that the West joins with the East in its appreciation of Mr. Borden's services to the country, and his place as one of Canada's leading public men. But while, no doubt, it has been most gratifying to Mr. Borden to be thus honored, it must have been a severe blow to him politically, after receiving a bouquet of flowers and a civic address of welcome, couched in the highest terms of praise of his statesmanlike qualities, to be frankly told that the mayor who has welcomed him so warmly is president of the local Liberal association, and that many of the automobiles in which he and his friends and the newspaper correspondents who are accompanying the party have been driven around in will be used on election day to bring in voters to help, or at least to try, to prevent his having an opportunity to exercise those qualities of statesmanship in the capacity of Premier of Canada.

The West Unconvinced

Mr. Borden, it is safe to say, has not won any appreciable number of the people of the West from their belief in reciprocity and lower tariff. The people of Western Canada have been very glad of the opportunity to show Mr. Borden

Continued on Page 15



EAGER

That great in the work of... Killarney... sixteen delegations in the... to perfect the... executive... present: J. Rankin, Geo. S. M. Hay, W. Mahon, L. representing... Taylor, repr... Jones, John I. D. L. Stewart, Wilson, of M... and gave a... President Ste... the objects of... then spent so... ous by-laws... cussion arose... states that... any way bec... the existing... new one. I... to let the... drafted. It... ings of the... This suggest... down, and a... open to the... discussion al... agreement—... was decided... and a comm... the following... to D. Schafl... day evening... "Mr. Scha... the central... the electoral... senting the... larney, Hol... and Lena, w... of re-affirm... unanimously



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