

TARIFFS IN FARMERS' PLATFORM

What Western Agriculturists Will Demand of Legislators and Government

Amended tariffs, an income tax, nationalization of railways and other important demands are made by the farmers of Western Canada in the "National Political Platform," framed by the Canadian Council of Agriculture as outlined below:—

Whereas the war has revealed the amazing financial strength of Great Britain, which has enabled her to finance not only her own part in the struggle, but also to assist in financing her Allies to the extent of hundreds of millions of pounds, this enviable position being due to the free trade policy which has enabled her to draw her supplies freely from every quarter of the globe and consequently to undersell her competitors on the world's markets, and because this policy has not only been profitable to Great Britain, but has greatly strengthened the bonds of empire by facilitating trade between the motherland and her overseas dominions, we believe that the best interests of the empire and of Canada would be served by reciprocal action on the part of Canada through gradual reductions of the tariff on British imports, having for its object a closer union and a better understanding between Canada and the motherland and by so doing not only strengthen the hands of Great Britain in the life and death struggle in which she is now engaged, but at the same time bring about a great reduction in the cost of living to our Canadian people;

And Whereas the protective tariff has fostered combines, trusts and "gentlemen's agreements" in almost every line of Canadian industrial enterprise, by means of which the people of Canada, both urban and rural, have been shamefully exploited through the elimination of competition, the ruination of many of our smaller industries and the advancement of prices on practically all manufactured goods to the full extent permitted by the tariff;

Agriculture is Basis.

And Whereas agriculture—the basic industry upon which the success of all other industries primarily depends—is almost stagnant throughout Canada as shown by the declining rural population in both Eastern and Western Canada, due largely to the greatly increased cost of agricultural implements and machinery, clothing, boots and shoes, building material and practically everything the farmer has to buy, caused by the protective tariff, so that it is becoming impossible for farmers generally to carry on farming operations profitably;

And Whereas the protective tariff is the most wasteful and costly method ever designed for raising national revenue, because for every dollar obtained thereby for the public treasury, at least three dollars pass into the pockets of the protected interests, thereby building up a privileged class at the expense of the masses, thus making the rich richer and the poor poorer;

And Whereas the protective tariff has been and is a chief corrupting influence in our national life because the protected interests, in order to maintain their unjust privileges, have contributed lavishly to political campaign funds, thus encouraging both political parties to look to them for support thereby lowering the standard of public morality;

Suggested Means of Making Reforms.

Therefore be it resolved that the Canadian Council of Agriculture, representing the organized farmers of Canada, urges that as a means of bringing about these much-needed reforms and at the same time reducing the high cost of living, now proving such a burden on the people of Canada, our tariff laws should be amended as follows:—

1.—By reducing the customs duty on goods imported from Great Britain to one half the rates charged under the general tariff and that further gradual, uniform reductions be made in the remaining tariff on British imports that will ensure complete free trade between Great Britain and Canada in five years.

2.—That the reciprocity agreement of 1911, which still remains on the United States statute books, be accepted by the parliament of Canada.

3.—That all foodstuffs not included in the reciprocity agreement be placed on the free list.

4.—That agricultural implements, farm machinery, vehicles, fertilizers, coal, lumber, cement, illuminating fuel and lubricating oils be placed on the free list.

5.—That the customs tariff on all the necessities of life be materially reduced.

6.—That all tariff concessions granted to other countries be immediately extended to Great Britain.

Income, Inheritance and Other Taxes.

As these tariff reductions will very considerably reduce the national revenue derived from that source, the Canadian Council of Agriculture would recommend that in order to provide the necessary additional revenue for carrying on the government of the country and for the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion, direct taxation be imposed in the following manner:—

1.—By a direct tax on unimproved land values, including all natural resources.

2.—By a sharply graduated income tax upon all incomes over \$4,000 a year.

3.—By a heavy graduated inheritance tax on large estates.

4.—By a graduated income tax on the profits of corporations over 10 per cent.

Other Suggestions of Farmers.

The Canadian Council of Agriculture desires to endorse also the following policies as in the best interests of the people of Canada:—

1.—The nationalization of all railway, telegraph and express companies.

2.—That no more natural resources be alienated from the crown, but brought into use only under short-term leases, in which the interests of the public shall be properly safeguarded, such leases to be granted only by public auction.

3.—Direct legislation, including the initiative and referendum and the right of recall.

4.—Publicity of political campaign fund contributions and expenditures both before and after elections.

5.—The abolition of the patronage system.

6.—Full provincial autonomy in liquor legislation, including manufacture, export and import.

7.—That the extension of the franchise to women in any province shall automatically admit them to the federal franchise.

Will Vote on Platform.

The following resolution has been adopted:—

"That the National Political Platform prepared by the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and adopted by this convention, be referred to the local associations, with a request that it be thoroughly discussed in each local and be voted upon not later than February 15, and that the result be forwarded to the central office promptly.

"And, further, we would urge that every member of the association who votes for the adoption of this platform, should use every legitimate means at the next Dominion election to secure the election of the candidate who can be depended upon to use his best efforts to have the principles of this platform enacted into legislation.

"And, further, as this platform represents the best interests of the entire community, both urban and rural, we would recommend that if a favorable vote is reported by the locals the district officers be notified to that effect by the central office and be requested to take the initiative in making the necessary arrangements for a plan of campaign in support of the platform."

WESTINGHOUSE ANNOUNCES BONUS

The increase in the authorized capital of the Canadian Westinghouse Company from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000, is followed by an announcement of the issue of \$1,250,000 of new stock at par to shareholders of record February 1 in the proportion of one share for every four shares held on that date.

The directors, out of the profits accumulated since the inception of the company, 12 years ago, have declared a dividend of 25 per cent., payable March 1 to shareholders of record February 1. This dividend will be used in payment for stock subscriptions.