

Interest is being taken than ever before in the actions of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. At the last meeting of the Council held in Winnipeg, which was attended by three representatives of the Ontario Association, Secretary Roderick McKenzie made some important recommendations. One was that the Council should prepare a platform that would be in the best interests of the farmers of Canada and which would be drafted with the object of protecting the interests of the farmers just as the manufacturers and other similar organizations seek to secure legislation that will promote their interests. This platform was later prepared and is to be discussed at the approaching annual convention of the United Farmers of Ontario.

Mr. McKenzie's second recommendation was that the Council should take the initiative in preparing plans that would result in the returning to parliament at the next election, of as many representative farmers as possible. At present, although the farmers of Canada form over half the population of the Dominion, there is only a mere handful of farmers in the House of Commons at Ottawa and in most of the Provincial legislatures, except in Saskatchewan and Alberta where the farmers are well represented. In Ontario there are less than 20 farmers in the legislature, which has about 110 members.

During the discussion of this suggestion, attention was called to the fact that sometimes political parties succeed in securing farmers as candidates who refuse to support the farmers' platform. Such a farmer, particularly in Ontario where towns and cities frequently form part of a country riding, sometimes has as an opponent a city man who accepts the farmers' platform and pledges himself to work for it. The question was raised, what should farmers do under the circumstances, providing both men are known to be men of this world? The discussion on this point was not completed, although the following resolution relating to Mr. McKenzie's recommendation, was finally carried:

"WHEREAS representation to the Parliament of Canada is largely composed of men whose training and environment is that of the town and city, and as a result their viewpoint is that of the urban population;

"WHEREAS the basic interest of Canada is agriculture, and whereas in order to adequately represent the viewpoint and needs of agriculture, and secure well balanced legislation which would put the agricultural industry on an equality with other industries, it is necessary to have an adequate representation of farmers in the House.

"THEREFORE be it resolved that this Council urge farmers in Canada to take such steps in every rural constituency as is found necessary to assure a fair representation of farmers in the next Parliament, when pledged to stand by the farmers' platform.

Conditions in Ontario.

Mr. McKenzie reported that as a result of his trip last fall to Ontario, that he had addressed meetings of farmers in different parts of the Province, as well as meetings of business men in some of the towns and cities and he had become convinced that the farmers of Ontario are ready to unite and work with the farmers of Western Canada for the improvement of the position of the farmers as a class. "Many farmers" he said, "are beginning to find out that our system of protection has been framed mainly to help the big manufacturing industries and not the farmers, with the result that the manufacturing industries have been growing while the farming

industry has been declining. As a result, many farmers are becoming dissatisfied with these conditions and are beginning to realize that they are being unfairly taxed in these respects."

It was recommended by Mr. McKenzie that an effort should be made to raise enough funds to send to Ontario and eastern points, speakers from western Canada, who would be able to explain to the Ontario farmers how western farmers have succeeded in organizing as they have, the various ways in which the protective tariff tends to build up city business at the expense of the farmers and other ways in which farmers as a class are discriminated against by our laws. He further recommended that these speakers should address city gatherings wherever possible, as well as meetings of farmers in order to make the farmers' platform better known, because, as it is a perfectly fair platform to all classes, it would be likely to win support from many city people.

Action was not taken on this last recommendation, although its importance was realized. In this connection it is interesting to note, however, that for the approaching convention of the United Farmers of Ontario, several of the leaders in the farmers' movement in western Canada are likely to be present and speak. Some of them are willing to address meetings of local farmers' clubs in the province after the convention. It is expected that quite a number of these meetings will be held. An interesting feature of the discussion was that it showed a growing desire for united action on behalf of the farmers in both eastern and western Canada.

At a recent meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, held in Winnipeg, an application was received from the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association to be admitted to membership. The Canadian Council of Agriculture is composed of delegates from the provincial farmers' organizations of the prairie provinces and of Ontario. The application created an interesting discussion as the result of which the view was expressed that the secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture should visit British Columbia and talk the matter over with the officers of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association. The view was held by some of the delegates that the interests of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association and the farmers' organizations, were no different in various ways, that it might not be advisable to admit the association to membership. In this connection it was pointed out that the fruit growers of British Columbia had succeeded in having the tariff on apples increased, thereby imposing a burden on the farmers of the prairies, who would have to buy such apples. It was pointed out also, that the Fruit Growers' Association was supported largely by a government grant and that its object was confined largely to the fruit industry only. The final decision, however, was that the matter deserved careful consideration. It is probable that Secretary R. McKenzie will attend the annual convention of the Fruit Growers' Association in February.

According to the investigations by the United States Forest Service the greatest number of trees struck by lightning in any locality is the dominant variety. Laboratory tests have shown that the conductivity of wood depends on its water content. In investigations of the old theories about some trees being struck more by lightning than others have shown that no species of tree is more susceptible to lightning stroke than any other, except in so far as the species determines the height of the tree.

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