

WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

Bright Clippings from Wide-a-woke Contemporaries

Winnipeg, Dec. 6.—The combined farmers' organizations of all Canada, representing sixty thousand affiliated farmers, known as the Council of Agriculture, have formed a political platform for the purpose of bringing about economic, political and social reforms. The platform was formulated in Winnipeg last week and announced to-day.

The reforms aimed at include the amendment of the tariff laws by reducing the duty on goods imported from Great Britain to half the rates charged under the general tariff, and further reductions in the remaining tariff such as will insure complete free trade between Great Britain and Canada within five years.

It also urges that the reciprocity agreement with the United States be accepted by the Parliament of Canada, and that all foodstuffs not included in the reciprocity agreement of 1911 be placed on the free list, that agricultural implements, farm machinery, vehicles, fertilizer, coal, lumber, cement, illuminating, fuel and lubricating oils be placed on the free list.

The farmers ask that the customs tariff on all the necessities of life be materially reduced, and that all tariff concessions granted to other countries be extended to Great Britain.

Direct Taxation Proposed.

For the purpose of raising an additional revenue to make up for the reduction caused by the proposed tariff reforms, direct taxation on certain things is proposed. These include a tax on unimproved land values, on all incomes over \$4,000 and inheritance on large estates, and a tax on the profits over ten per cent. of corporations.

The farmers' representatives believe in the nationalization of all railways and express companies; that natural resources be let out only on short-term leases by public auction; the publicity of all political campaign funds, contributions and expenditures before or after elections; abolition of the patronage system; Federal franchise to women; full provincial autonomy in liquor legislation, including manufacture, export and import; and direct legislation, including initiative, referendum and the right of recall.

The political outlook as far as Labor is concerned in Manitoba is distinctly encouraging. During the last half-dozen years the number of working class representatives in the municipalities adjoining Winnipeg has steadily increased, while Dick Rigg has broken into the Legislature, and the Labor forces politically are ever becoming more aggressive. The present situation is thus sized up by the Voice, Winnipeg's live labor paper, and will no doubt be interesting to Forward readers.

"A most marked awakening of the Labor forces of Winnipeg and district is the feature of the annual municipal elections. The Central Labor Representation Committee has even had its difficulties in the direction of restraining local branches from taking too much on their hands, and the Social Democrats have been in the same predicament. A good deal of this enthusiasm is due to the very efficient manner in which Labor men on the various Municipal Councils during the past three or four years have performed their duties and forwarded the Labor platform and principles. In the municipalities adjoining Winnipeg five Labor representatives were given acclamation when their names were again placed in nomination last Tuesday. In the city itself no acclamations were given as neither of the sitting aldermen have to seek election this year. There are Labor or Social Democratic candidates in six wards and one for the Board of Control. These men have all been selected very carefully by committees of electors in the

divisions for which they are running. It is tribute to the trades union movement that after the nominations were all made and had been endorsed by the central body it was found that each and every candidate was the holder of a current trade union membership card and that they have without exception been active workers in the organized movement.

"This, then, is the time for a great rally of the Labor forces. Work to secure the election of these men, and do it now."

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

The people of Australia are bearing their part in the European war. They are shipping a lot of wheat to England. They are sending away thousands of their wage earners to the trenches of Europe. But prices of bread in Australia are somewhere around forty per cent. below what we in America are paying.

When the Australian food gamblers decided to corner all the grain in the Commonwealth, instead of letting them do it, as we in liberty-loving America do, the Australian Parliament stepped in and seized the entire stock of grain. The Australian Parliament said that no producer or grain should sell his grain to any food speculator, and both farmer and speculator would be liable to punishment under military law if they took part in any such transaction.

The result was that the capitalist food speculators went out of business, the Government paid the farmer a better price than he ever got for his wheat, and the Australian people are getting bread 40 per cent. cheaper than we in Canada are getting it.

The people of Australia are not scared by the word socialistic. They like cheap and good bread.

Toronto parents are not to be asked at the polls whether they want compulsory military drill for boys from the third class up—at least, if the School Management Committee's decision is not reversed.

Almost without debate the committee turned down Trustee Dr. Hunter's motion to take a referendum on Jan. 1 on the question. There was no fight over it. The drill advocates had a big majority.

The repeal of the law against the sale of skimmed milk in New York City is suggested by a city health official as a way to reduce the price of this commodity.

We can outdo this scientific gentleman by suggesting the sale of water whitened by some cheap means. If we are going to cheat our stomachs to tickle our pocketbooks let us do the job thoroughly.

HUGE SHIPPING PLUNDER.

What may probably be regarded (says the Times) as the individual shipping investment which has yielded the largest profit during the war has just come to the knowledge of the London market.

A few years ago a British steamer which had stranded on the South American coast was sold, as she lay, to

Sub Hustlers, and Local Secretaries, are requested to forward at once all monies collected on sale of Subs.

neutrals for £1,500 (\$7,500). The purchasers had her refloated and repaired, and employed her in trade. She has now been resold for £320,000 (\$8,000,000), being 200 times the price paid for her as a wreck. This yield takes no account of the cost of salving and repairing her, but presumably these expenses would have been very amply covered by her earnings since she was salved, including two years of extremely high freights. The present price merely represents the current value of tonnage.

WHY NOT CONSCRIPT THESE?

Start in on Munition Plants and Other Industries Run for Profit.

"Government contracts are very profitable, so munition makers promote war scares to keep their plants busy. The munition makers provide the hill-men of India, and other tribes with the modern munitions with which to keep up border raids which cost England millions, and the chronic revolutionists of Spanish America contribute immense sums to this world trust. The threat of the armor plate makers, to increase the price of their product by over \$200 a ton if the Government goes into the business, would be treated as treason if it came from organized labor. Only since commercialism became identified with war has it been demanded that human beings should give their all, while property should not only be free from requisition, but enjoy colossal benefits as well."—Frederic C. Howe, in Pearson's Magazine.

LEADING LIBERAL PAPER ON PEACE TERMS.

Is It a Hint?

The sky begins to clear somewhat. M. Renaudel, in L'Humanite (Oct. 16, 1916) has urged the French Government to declare what would be its conditions of peace.

Herr Harden in Germany has demanded the settlement of the war by arbitration (see Times Nov. 6, 1916).

The German Chancellor has replied to Lord Grey and has agreed to the League to Enforce Peace proposal.

And the Manchester Guardian, the leading Liberal organ in Britain, has begun tentatively and hesitatingly, it is true, but nevertheless has begun to suggest the cessation of the carnage in Europe by a negotiated peace. Here is the Guardian (Nov. 11, 1916):

The great question for us and for the world is whether anything can as yet be made of the desire, amounting to a yearning, for peace which German utterances indicate. Clearly as long as Germany seeks to play off one ally against another or to dispose of the territory of any member of the alliance according to her will and pleasure no progress can be made. If, on the other hand, the allies' terms were known and were moderate as regards Germany itself, it is possible that a spontaneous popular movement in that country would force the Government's hand, not without some tacit sympathy on the part of the Chancellor. It is not to be supposed that Germany entertains the same view of what is due to her allies as do the nations of the entente. It is not in accordance with her traditions or her principles to do so, and she is so completely the head of her alliance that she has only to say to Austrian, Bulgarian, or Turk "Go" and he goeth, or "Cede" and he will cede. On our side it is different. The allies of the entente will act together in full confidence and accord in the making of peace as in the making of war, and for this reason it is not possible, as some lovers of peace have too hastily assumed, for our Government to speak for all except after consultation with all. But it is open to the allied Governments to utilize the coming winter in taking further counsel with one another, and to re-

view the situation in the light of that which is perhaps the greatest change which the summer has brought—decisive evidence of a chastened spirit and a saner outlook among the German people.

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

(Continued from Page Six)

four years and still there are people who want to know if unionism pays.

The ladle or spoon is a device for carrying soup from the plate to the mouth. If there is a leak in the spoon, some or much of the soup will drop out—a loss that occurs between the hand of the soup-maker and the mouth of the soup-eater. "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip."

Economy is sometimes—not always—a virtue. An economist once discovered that a leaking spoon would do him service if he slipped in his own soup dish between the soup-maker and the soup-eater and caught the leaking soup. In such way the wise economist could get soup without the trouble of making it.

"I never learned how to get rich, until I learned how to make other men work for me."—Andrew Carnegie, steel magnate, owner of mineral lands, etc., etc.

"Geel but that's dead easy," says the public utilities man; and he drills another hole in the soup-spoon, gets a "lot" of soup for nothing, thins it down with water, feeds it to the soup-eaters at so much per mile for transportation, requires his patrons to pay 5 per cent. interest on his "First Mortgage Railroad Investment Bonds," and insistently demands interest on the all water common stock that he has added to the transportation soup that the common soup-eaters may pay for and consume.

"Charge all the traffic will bear. Damn The Public!"—Vanderbilt, Public (?) Utilities Servant, and Railroad Magnate.

IT TAKES STRENGTH.

It takes great strength to train
To modern service, your ancestral brain,
To lift the weight of the unnumbered years
Of dead men's habits, methods and ideas.
To hold that back with one hand, and support
With the other the weak steps of a new thought
It takes great strength to live your life
Up square with your accepted thought,
And hold it there.

Resisting that inertia that drags back,
From new attempts to the old habit's track.

It's so easy to slip back—to sink—
So hard to live abreast of what you think.

It takes great strength to live where you belong

When other people think that you are wrong,

People you love, and who love you, and whose

Approval is a pleasure you would choose.

To bear this bravely and succeed at length

In living your belief—well, IT TAKES STRENGTH.

—Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

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