

CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES

There has recently been published in booklet form the most interesting report of the Canadian Conference of Charities and Corrections which was held in Winnipeg almost a year ago. The object of the conference was to promote a discussion of the many social problems which the development of Canada towards nationhood is creating, and to obtain a survey of the economic and social conditions of the Dominion. The means to this end was found in a series of papers read by representative authorities on various subjects which in each case were followed by interesting discussions. In the report all the papers are admirably summarized and a perusal of their contents leads one to the conclusion that more intelligence and human interest in the real problems of Canada were displayed by the delegates during these five days' conference than by the sum total of our so called legislators in the last decade.

Problems Are Here

At the opening dinner the speakers agreed in admitting the arrival of many problems which had arisen in recent years and the necessity of confronting them. W. W. Lee, Immigration Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Montreal, and Miss E. Neufeld, of the Central Neighborhood House, Toronto, took up immigration problems, the first dealing with the effect of immigration on Canadian life and the latter taking as her theme the training of an immigrant for Canadian civilization. Dr. Helen McMurphy, who is Assistant Inspector for Public Institutions in Ontario, read a paper on the feeble minded, whom she declared now constitute a national problem.

Less Than Living Wage

Perhaps the most striking paper of the meeting was that of the Rev. J. S. Woodsworth, who has now, with single-minded unselfishness, devoted his life to the

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organization of the Canadian Welfare League. There is no greater authority on social problems in Winnipeg than Mr. Woodsworth and the facts which he produced are almost staggering. He proves by chapter and verse that in this new country teeming with natural resources, which are the pride of real estate agents, a very considerable margin of our city population do not obtain a living wage. He pointed out the inevitable results of physical deterioration and national decadence which must ensue. He openly advocated the establishment of a minimum wage, declaring that the right to live decently by one's labors is as important as the right of life and more important than the general right of property.

Protection Injures Farmers

Agricultural problems were not omitted and all rural reformers should read a most interesting and exhaustive paper on the rural life problem in Canada by the Rev. J. Macdougall, of Spencerville, Ontario. Mr. Macdougall is neither a farmer nor a politician and his evidence is carefully weighed. He emphatically declares that rural life in Canada is stagnant; that our development has become lop-sided in favor of the urban duties and that unless great changes in our economic and social fabric are introduced, the future of the country will be seriously jeopardised. His figures about the rural exodus in Ontario are truly startling. For the general unhappy condition of rural life he sees two contributing causes: the relative inefficiency of agriculture's organization and the exploitation of the farmers. To remedy the former he preaches co-operative organization in buying and selling and in finance. He lays special stress on the necessity of the farmers securing capital under better terms. He declares that two principal forms of exploitation are the uneconomic taxation, which is "the right hand load upon the farmer," and protection, which is "the left hand handicap." In fact, Mr. Macdougall finds himself in full agreement with the majority of the contentions which the Grain Growers and their friends have put forward for many years.

Prison Farms Successful

It would be a tedious task to attempt to give any adequate summary of the many other excellent papers with which

the conference was favored and a few rough details must suffice. The Hon. W. J. Hanna and the Rev. W. B. Findlay narrated the successful experiment of the Prison Farm in Ontario. Rufus Smith, of Montreal, spoke of "Social Work as a Profession." William Leiserson, of Wisconsin, on "Public Employment Offices in Theory and Practice." John Bradford, of Montreal, on "Developing the Social Life of the Community," and at the final luncheon Howard Strong, of Minneapolis, gave a most instructive and inspiring address on "Business Men—Charities and Social Welfare."

Copies of the report may be secured for 25 cents postpaid per copy from the Associated Charities, 301 Edwin Street, Winnipeg.

MASSEY-HARRIS TAXES

Thomas Findley, vice-president of the Massey-Harris Company, has protested the increased assessment on the Massey-Harris property facing on King Street at the corner of Strachan Avenue. He appeared before the Court of Revision at the City Hall to-day to register a complaint. The company has property on the southeast, southwest and northwest corners of Strachan Avenue and King Street. The assessment has been raised on all of the lots. He declared that if the rate of assessment kept on going up no new manufacturing concerns would come into Toronto. He even went so far as to say that if it was not for the valuable plant which his firm had built up here they would move out.

Some of the property is assessed at \$17,500. This is the triangular piece on the southeast side of King Street. Mr. Findley pointed out that it was not being used for show room purposes, but solely for a foundry and for heavy work.

"What would you say was a fair price for purely manufacturing property in Toronto?" asked Chairman P.H. Drayton. "Five thousand dollars an acre," was the reply.

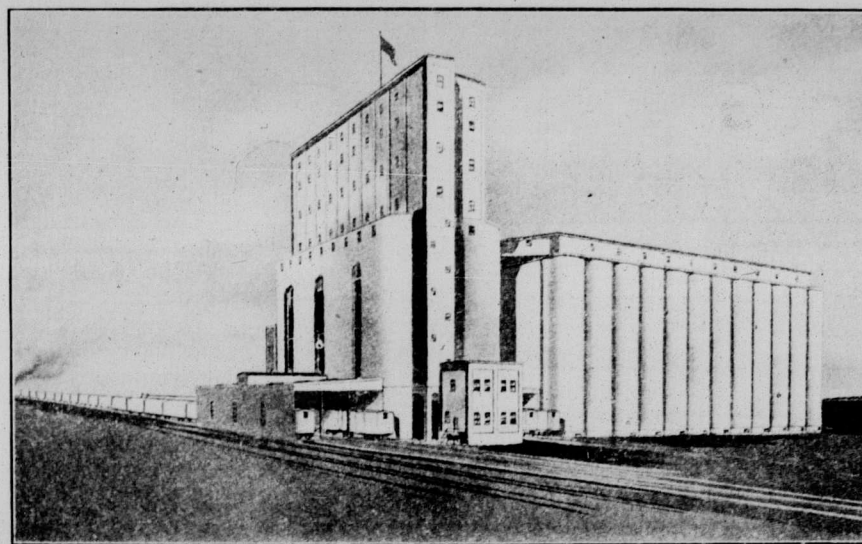
Mr. Findley said that a great portion of their property was not useful for retail or residential purposes, and therefore it should be assessed at a lower rate. Further, he could not understand why the assessment should be increased this year, as he maintained that property had gone down in value in the last twelve months.

Government Elevators Opening

The official announcement has just been made by the board of grain commissioners that the two big interior storage elevators at Saskatoon and Moose Jaw will open for business on October 5. The commissioners announce that they have made the tariff for these elevators so low that farmers can ship to them and have their grain cleaned and treated, pay the stopover charges and storage

seed grain purchased by the government to supply the settlers who have lost their crops in the dry districts.

Both the new elevators have been equipped with the very latest equipment for cleaning, drying, sacking and storing grain of all kinds. It is expected that they will enable farmers generally thruout the West to secure a better supply of clean seed than has been available in the past.



Design of New Government Elevators at Moose Jaw and Saskatoon, which will Open for Business on October 5.

charges and have it forwarded to the government elevator at Fort William without costing any more than the present terminal charges at the head of the lakes. It is expected that this provision by the government will ensure a large amount of grain being shipped to these interior storage houses.

Another provision that the commissioners have made is for a seed expert to be present at each of the elevators to examine and test for germination the

The government has appointed W. J. Lindsay, Grain Exchange, Winnipeg, and Angus Mackay, Indian Head, Sask., as purchasing agents for the seed grain for settlers. Farmers may apply to either of these men for particulars as to prices and requirements.

Copies of the tariff for the elevators at Moose Jaw and Saskatoon and all other particulars may be secured from the Board of Grain Commissioners, Fort William, Ont.

It was pointed out that square pieces of property in the same neighborhood were assessed at \$21,000, while the triangular piece owned by the Massey-Harris firm was assessed at \$17,500.

"It looks as if the Assessment Department was going to lay siege to us," remarked Mr. Findley. "The assessment was raised on us last year and this year it has been raised again. The high assessment may force the company to leave Toronto," he said. "For every thousand dollars profit we make in Toronto we can make two thousand in Brantford, and three thousand in Woodstock. The time is coming when it will be impossible for a manufacturing firm to make money in Toronto."

The total assessment of 25 acres was \$1,328,000.

Judgment was reserved—Toronto News, Sept. 14, 1914.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK MESS

From Montreal Gazette (Conservative)

When the New Brunswick land and railway scandal was young the St. John Globe intimated that representatives of the Liberal party in the province had made proposals that would have permitted a hushing up of the charges that had been advanced. The evidence showed that there was ground for The Globe's statement, discreditable as it must be held to be. J. B. Baxter, M.P.P., giving his testimony, said he had knowledge of a meeting at Fredericton where it was stated on behalf of the Liberal party that the Liberals were prepared to stifle the inquiry if J. K. Flemming would admit that money had been illegally collected from limit holders, retire from the Premiership and give the managers of the Liberal party \$10,000—to be taken, presumably, out of the graft fund.

This proposition, immoral as it is in its nature, is not without precedent in Canadian politics. When the Conservative party in Quebec under Chapeau and Mousseau was earning the humiliation that came to it and Mercier was managing the Liberal party of the province on business as business lines, on more than one occasion the Liberal managers were paid heavy sums to withdraw election petitions the trial of which would have been damaging to the party in power. In New Brunswick, however, the corrupt suggestions were not accepted. The province has suffered somewhat in reputation in consequence. It is now known that a regular system of collecting from timber limit lessees was operated in connection with one of the departments of the Administration, and that the proceeds were invested in a fund from which on occasion a minister borrowed for his business purposes. This latter incident, however, was not regular, and the money was returned. The fund was designed for election campaign purposes. Money was also sought and taken from contractors on a railway subsidized by grants out of the public taxes.

It is not necessary to say much in condemnation of such a state of affairs. No right-minded man can regard it in any but one light; and tho those who follow events must feel that they upon whom the tower of Siloam has fallen are not sinners above all others in Israel, they can accept neither justification nor excuse for what has happened. There will have to be a change in the Administration of the province. It can only be trusted that when the Conservative sinners go no advantage will come to the Liberals who thought they saw in a discreditable situation a chance to swell their own campaign fund.

FARMERS IN CANADA

So far as can be ascertained there are about 800,000 farmers in Canada, made up as follows:

Ontario	238,905
Quebec	206,500
Saskatchewan	72,215
Nova Scotia	61,240
Manitoba	55,050
New Brunswick	50,468
Alberta	46,545
B. C.	37,760
P. E. I.	15,750
Territories	4,500
Total	788,978

If these men were to each sow an additional ten acres of wheat, the increase in wheat acreage would be 8,000,000 acres. At twelve and a half bushels to the acre, the crop of Canada would be increased by 100,000,000 bushels.

Is the task too great?—Canadian Courier.