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JOHN T. G. CARR

OTTAWA AND THE FARMERS' INTERESTS

A Move by the Federal Government
to Find Out What Ails Agriculture in Canada--T. W.
Caldwell Busy

(Special to The Observer)
Something over a month ago, Mr. Miller, the Progressive member for Qu'Appelle, Sask., moved a resolution in the House, asking that the Government appoint a Commission to inquire into the grain marketing trade of Canada, and made a strong speech in support of it, claiming that there were certain abuses in the transportation and marketing of this immense crop. T. W. Caldwell, the Progressive member for Carleton-Place, is followed by Mr. Miller and urged that the Government would not limit the scope of this inquiry to grain marketing alone, but should extend it to include all agricultural exports from Canada, including an investigation into the spread of the price in agricultural products between the producer and the consumer; the relative cost of agricultural products and manufactured articles, which are the farmers' raw materials entering into that production; the banking and financial resources and credits of the country as affecting agricultural producers, with an investigation of the various rural credit systems in this and other countries.

The result was the Government appointed the following Committee to carry on the proposed investigation: Messrs. Borden, Caldwell, Clifford, Elliott, Gardiner, Grimmer, Hammett, Lacombe, McKay, McMaster, McMur-ray, Milne, Munro, Robinson, Sales, Stannard, Stannard and Tupper.

The following is the agenda as outlined by the Committee at their first meeting:

The present condition of agriculture:

(a) In the Maritime Provinces.
(b) In Ontario and Quebec.
(c) In the Prairie Provinces.
(d) In British Columbia.

2. The causes of such conditions: Where these conditions are unfavorable, an examination into remedies, with special reference to the best methods of livestock marketing; the lowering of production costs; the development of the bacon industry; of the beef industry; a special investigation into the fruit industry as regards apples, tender fruits, small fruits and bush fruits; involving the problems of production, marketing and transportation. An investigation into the dairy industry along the lines of direction or encouragement of breeding, suitable crop production and marketing. Consideration of special lines of farming or particular crops as likely to increase farm returns and afford diversification in production, with regard to sugarbeets, tobacco, flax, hemp, potatoes, special Northern grown seeds or cereals, grasses, clovers, vegetables and roots, fur farming, maple sugar industry, beekeeping.

3. The cause of the difference between the prices of agricultural products sold to the producer and the ultimate cost of the same to the consumer.

4. The relation of prices of commodities purchased by agricultural producers and the prices obtained by such producers for their own products.

5. The banking and financial resources and credits of the country as affecting agricultural producers, with an examination into the various systems of rural credits in this and other countries.

6. The marketing and transportation facilities of the country in respect to agricultural products, with a special investigation into the merits and demerits of co-operative buying and selling, and including an examination into alleged abuses connected with the mixing of grains in elevators.

The above agenda will show that the work of the Committee is directly along the lines suggested by Mr. Caldwell. Up to the present time, a great deal of evidence has been adduced before this Committee and just here I may say that all the evidence given this Committee is sworn testimony.

The evidence given is sworn along the different lines of agricultural production so to show that all branches of agricultural production are being carried on at a loss at the present time. Probably one of the most convincing witnesses before the Committee was Professor Leitch, of the Agricultural College, who has during the past two years carried on experiments in the Province of Ontario to determine the cost of production of the different farm crops, as well as the raising of beef cattle and dairying. Professor Leitch, realizing that the general public do not take statistics on the cost of production from the various Dominion Experimental farms very seriously, selected 17 average farms in the Province of Ontario, so as to get his statistics under normal farming conditions.

He installed an accurate system of book-keeping on each of these 17 farms, whereby an accurate account was kept of all the necessary outlay, as the expense of carrying on the farming operations, and credited the farms with every item produced on them. The farmer was allowed 54 cents per hour for 10-14 hours per day for 355 days in the year on the stock farms, not even allowing them Christmas Day as a holiday; and at the end of the year, these 17 farms showed an average deficit of \$1400 each for the year.

This will be rather interesting information for the people of Carleton-Place, and especially for the Government of New Brunswick, who have stated during the present session that if the farmers of Carleton-Place had been growing cattle instead of potatoes, they might have been in easy

circumstances today.

The evidence given before this Special Committee so far would indicate that the cattle growing and dairy industry, including hog raising, is the most profitable branch of farming in Canada at the present time and the statement above of the financial result of this industry in one of the most favorable sections of Canada for its successful operation, will indicate to the general public the very serious plight in which agricultural finds itself today.

This Committee had a witness before it from the Province of Quebec, who is a milk dealer in the City of Montreal, who had no hesitation in testifying under oath that the farmers in the vicinity of Montreal, who were carrying on mixed farming and producing milk for the city market, were doing so at a heavy financial loss annually. He stated that due to this fact, the young men and young women were leaving the farms of Quebec some going to the cities of Canada but the larger number drifting to the United States in search of employment, and unless some action was taken by the Government to lower the cost of production by removing the duty and sales tax on the implements used by the farmer, as well as that on boots and shoes, woolen clothing, etc., used by the farmers, he could see no hope for the continuance of the farmers on the land, even in the Province of Quebec.

This came as something of a surprise to the members of the Committee, as Quebec has been held up as the one province in which the farmers were both prosperous and contented, and it is possible that there is no other province in Canada that is in a better position to make farming pay due to several reasons, one of which being that they have a very good home market for the farmers' products, with a very short freight haul. Then again it is a noted fact that the families in the Province of Quebec are larger than in any other province in Canada, which enables the farmer to carry on with the assistance of the members of his own family with very little outlay for hired help, and practically every witness who has appeared before this Committee is of the opinion that freight rates should be lowered. Nearly all agree that the duty on sales tax should be lowered on the tools of production and the necessities of life.

This Committee is fortunate in having for its chairman, Andrew McMaster of Brome, P. Q., who is a man of long practical experience and sound judgment and who has a wide knowledge and a sympathetic understanding of the life from which agriculture is suffering at the present time. Mr. McMaster stated one day recently that he had served on a great many parliamentary committees and that he considered the members of the present Committee the most wide-awake, aggressive and hard-working of any committee on which he had ever served, and the member for Carleton-Place is not one of the least of these.

While this committee will not be able to complete its labors in less than another month at least, it hopes to make an interim report to the House before the Budget is brought down, in order that the Government may have an opportunity of embodying its recommendations with regard to tariff reductions in the Budget.

MRS. ROBERT CARVELL

Mrs. Robert Carvell who has been ill a month, died at her home at Lakewood, N. B., on Sunday morning, April 23rd, aged 44 years. Everything that most skill and careful nursing could do was done to save her for her loved ones, but it was of no avail. Miss Bertha Carvell, R. N., of Boston, Mrs. A. Y. Dickinson, R. N., of Hartland, and the Misses McLean and Haines, Woodstock nurses, with the deceased during her last illness. She is survived by her husband, her mother, Mrs. William Ames of Lakeville, one sister, Mrs. A. Y. Dickinson of Hartland, and one brother, Coun. W. F. Anderson of Lakeville. She was the daughter of the late Wm. Anderson of Lakeville.

The deceased was a prominent member of the W. M. S. of the Methodist church, and an active worker in every movement to promote civic righteousness. She was a model housewife, mother, and neighbor, known to everybody. Her faith enabled her to cultivate a strong Christian character which delighted in generous giving to every worthy object and in constant activity for the welfare of her church. Death came unexpectedly, in the midst of a happy and useful life, and for her means a deeper joy in a happy eternity.

The funeral was held at her home at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning and was attended by the Methodist clergymen, Rev. Hugh Miller. Burial was in the family lot in the Williamstown cemetery. Hon. F. E. Carvell, Minister, Mrs. Carvell were present from Ottawa, and Miss Bertha Carvell, R. N., from Boston. The pall bearers were R. F. Jones, Haystack Wilson, Thomas Emery and Scott McAuley.

DEBATE POWER AT GRAND FALLS

Representatives of Large Financial
Interests Discuss Matter With
Premier Veniot

Fredericton, April 15.—Reports of impending industrial development in New Brunswick, and especially upon the upper St. John river, as a result of the anticipated development of the Grand Falls power are being generally circulated in well informed circles today following the important announcement made in the Provincial Legislature yesterday afternoon by Premier Veniot that he had just completed a conference with the representatives of powerful European capitalists who were seeking location in the province for pulp and paper industries.

For some time it has been said that an American syndicate in which some of the leading newspaper publishers of New York are said to dominate have also been negotiating in connection with the establishment of pulp and paper mills in New Brunswick, and it is said that some of their representatives have recently undertaken negotiations in connection with certain extensive timber lands in the province and it has been reported that these American interests might bring about an amalgamation of some kind with certain existing provincial pulp and paper interests.

While no intimation was given by Premier Veniot as to the identity of the representatives of the European interests with whom he conferred yesterday, it is said that they were traveling incognito and that no mention would have been made of the meeting had it not been that some disposition was suddenly shown by the Opposition to hold up the amendment of the New Brunswick Electric Power Act under which the borrowing powers of the Hydro Commission are increased from \$2,800,000 to \$3,800,000, to provide for the preliminary expenditures in connection with the Grand Falls development if the Government determines to go on with the project. From one generally well-informed source it was learned that the financial interests they represent are Parisian capitalists.

It is also learned that other industrial development now crystallizing on the Upper St. John river include an immense hard woods industry, in connection with which some contracts are said to have already been entered into, and it is said that the International Paper Company are about to make a big enlargement of their pulp mill at Van Buren, which is on the Maine side of the St. John river, a few miles above Grand Falls.

The announcement by Premier Veniot that a certain market for 35,000 horsepower of electric energy developed from Grand Falls is in sight is taken as making it definitely certain that the development of the most potential water power east of the Niagara Falls in Canada will be proceeded with practically as soon as the necessary detailed arrangements have been completed.

NEW SCHOOL ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

This is the Latest and the People
Hope the Last Decision

Tis considerable amount of business transacted by the School Board in session Tuesday forenoon. Besides the ordinary routine a good deal of time was spent in discussion of reports from the Medical Inspector, the School Inspector and a communication from Capt. Harvey Reid. As Mrs. Winifred Laskey had intimated to the Board that she did not desire the principalship for next year, the position had been offered to Mr. Reid, who was considering some good offers from the United States. He has concluded to try the work here provided he qualifies during the June and July exams, which no doubt he can manage, having taken a Carleton County Scholarship, B. A. degree with honors at Acadia, Gov. Gen. Medal highest standing for 4 years, B. A. degree with honors Oxford, England, a Rhodes Scholarship, as well as the Fishman Law Prize. He was also senior instructor for two years in a large public school in England and has a good war record to his credit.

Inspector Moore agreed to the revised plans for the new school house with the request that 5 feet be added to the width of the building, making the site as now agreed on by the Board 75 x 90 ft., two-storey with basement and situated to be erected on the school garden site, so called, on west side of Main street. After considerable discussion the Board passed a motion to reconsider the matter of the site and finally agreed as outlined above.

As regards the resignation of one of the members of the Board who has moved to another parish, the matter was referred to the Inspector.

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