

of Parliament, with regard to the carrying out of the war policy, correspond to the status which they enjoyed before the practice crept in of making them subservient to those whom they created and whom they may destroy.

In this prolonged crisis of the national fate, the hour has arrived to re-establish the inherent freedom of the House of Commons, and we are certain that in the restoration the people of Canada will sustain you, and that the sacrifices of war will be justified and honoured in the blessings and progress of peace.

May we inform you that we remain at the Windsor Hotel, where we shall be happy to receive whatever answer the House may return to this address.

We are, Mr. Speaker,
Yours very sincerely,

The following correspondence passed between the officers of the delegation and the Prime Minister:

Ottawa, Ontario, May 15th, 1918.

To the Right Honourable
Sir Robert Borden, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa.

Right Honourable Sir,—

On behalf of the Conference of farmers assembled in Ottawa to-day, I have the honour to give you communication of a letter that I have been instructed to address to the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons.

I humbly beg that you, as leader of the House of Commons, would kindly see that our request be received by the House of Commons and approved of.

I have the honour to be,
Right Honourable Sir,
Your humble servant,
(Sgd.) R. H. Halbert,
Chairman.

Ottawa, Ont., 17th May, 1918.

Dear Sirs,—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 15th, conveying to me a copy of your communication of the same date to the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Faithfully yours,
(Sgd.) R. L. Borden.

Messrs. J. J. Morrison, and
C. W. Gurney,
Windsor Hotel, Ottawa.

94 Windsor Hotel, Ottawa,
May 16, 1918.

To the Right Hon.
Sir Robert L. Borden, P.C., G.C.M.G.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.,

Right Honourable Sir:

In view of the communications we have recently had the honor to exchange, the Standing Committee of the Farmers' Conference have asked me to forward this copy of a resolution which was passed at the last session of the Farmers' Conference held at Ottawa on May 15th, 1918.

It is moved by Jas. Miner, farmer, Province of Alberta, seconded by J. J. Morrison, Province of Ontario:

"That the representations made yesterday to the Prime Minister having apparently failed to effect the desired result, the Convention appoint a Committee to take such further action as it deems advisable, and particularly to request

the Government that past and further proceedings under the Order in Council of April 20th withdrawing men from food production be deferred until the Registration of Man Power, which the Prime Minister himself assured us will be completed shortly, discloses the forces available for the most effective prosecution of Canada's war effort." Unanimously adopted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) C. W. Gurney:

Ottawa, Ont., May 17th, 1918.

Dear Sir,—

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 16th instant setting forth a resolution passed at the last session of the Farmers' Convention held at Ottawa May 15th, 1918. The representations therein set forth will be attentively considered.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) R. L. Borden.

C. W. Gurney, Esq.,
94 Windsor Hotel,
Ottawa.

Now, honourable gentlemen, you will all admit, whether friends or foes of the Government, that that was not the proper way to answer that delegation, representing from three to four million of people of this Dominion of Canada. The replies are not only curt, but there is a want of politeness in them, and I charge him, as a minister of the state and Prime Minister of this country, with dereliction of duty in regard to this matter. This was no longer a private document to be pigeonholed and thrown into the waste-basket. Sir Robert Borden, the Prime Minister of this country, has not treated the farming community of this country as they should have been treated, especially when they went about their business in a legitimate and practical way. Seeing that they could get no recognition there, they wrote to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who used practically the same language, only he went a little further and attempted to criticise the document.

The following is the letter from the delegation to His Honour the Speaker of the House of Commons, and his reply thereto:

Russell Theatre,
Ottawa, Ont., May 14th, 1918.

The Honourable E. N. Rhodes,
Speaker, House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Sir:—

On behalf of several thousand Ontario farmers, I beg to transmit to you the following Resolution just passed, and to say that, encouraged by the reception recently accorded the President of the American Federation of Labor, we are confident the request will be granted:

"That this meeting instructs the Chairman respectfully to ask the House of Commons to receive him and two delegates he shall name, at the sitting of the House this afternoon, to hear their address upon the situation in the