

F. M. Gates—E. H. Clayton—

"That as the question of a contribution to the British Navy is foreign to the interests of the Grain Growers' as Grain Growers,

"Therefore a discussion of the subject is not in order, and it should not be dealt with by this convention." Carried.

Geo. Langley—T. Conlan—

"Whereas railway companies are at the present time building their lines with a view to competition rather than developing new country,

"Therefore be it resolved that in the future, charter or government aid be only granted to those companies who build with a view of developing new country." Carried.

J. A. Murray—Mr. Morgan—

"That whereas Canadian machinery can be purchased from ten per cent to thirty per cent less in Great Britain than in the Canadian West,

"And whereas we believe such conditions are caused by the high protective tariff existing at the present time,

"Therefore be it resolved that immediate steps be taken regarding the said tariff so that the home purchaser may at least be able to purchase as cheaply as the outside world,

"And further, that the Ottawa Government be requested to accept the unconditional offer of the United States Government for reciprocal free trade in farm implements." Carried.

Geo. Langley—H. Dorrell—

"Whereas nearly all terminal and transfer storage elevators are owned and operated by dealers in grain,

"Therefore be it resolved that pressure be brought to bear on the federal government to immediately acquire a system of terminal and transfer elevators, not only to the east, but also on the Pacific coast."

In speaking to this resolution, George Langley told the convention of his two interviews with the federal government on behalf of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, requesting government ownership of terminal elevators. On the first interview two years ago, nothing was accomplished except to lay the matter before the government. Last spring (1909), Mr. Langley and Mr. McKenzie, secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association again interviewed the federal government. The ministers were found to have secured considerable information on the subject by that time. Mr. Langley assured the convention that if the Grain Growers persisted they would accomplish their purpose, and have government owned terminal elevators.

D. W. McCuaig, president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, outlined to the convention briefly, an account of the interview with the Dominion Government on the same subject last month (January, 1909). The delegation comprised representatives from the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Dominion Millers' Association and the Dominion Grange. Mr. McCuaig said it was very probable that another delegation would have to be sent to Ottawa shortly, and asked the association to be ready to act when the call came. On the question being put, the motion was carried unanimously.

Wm. Noble—J. A. Murray—

"That the president appoint a nominating committee to report immediately on the opening of the afternoon session." Carried.

The convention adjourned at 12.00 noon, and opened for the afternoon session at 2.00 p.m.

On the opening of the afternoon session, H. Darrell presented the report of the nominating committee, which was adopted in the following form:—Honorary Life President, E. N. Hopkins; President, F. M. Gates; Vice-President, J. A. Murray;

Directors at large:—Geo. Langley, F. C. Tate, E. A. Partridge, A. G. Hawkes, Wm. Noble, Frank Sheppard, F. W. Green and Dr. Hill;

District Directors

District No. One.—Robert Dunbar, H. L. Hayes, W. Moffat, Jas. Robinson, Jas. Easton, Daniel Muir and George Balfour.

District No. Two.—J. A. Maharg and John Simmons.

District No. Four.—Dr. White, Frederick Kirkham and Chas. A. Dunning.

District No. Five.—John Evans, Albert Eckhardt, E. D. Hoppes, Carl Hetzeer and McBeth Malcolm.

District No. Six.—Dr. Hill, I. W. Henry, and Wm. Tinkus.

District No. Seven.—Thos. Cochrane.

District No. Eight.—Andrew Knox.

District No. Nine.—Geo. Boerma.

When the report of the nominating committee was accepted, thus electing the officers and three of the directors by acclamation, Mr. Hopkins thanked the convention for the honor bestowed upon him. He then introduced Mr. Gates, the new president, who spoke briefly, and urged that Mr. Hopkins retain the chair until the conclusion of the convention, which was agreed to.

It was announced by the president that the ballots would be prepared, and the election of directors held on the following morning.

D. W. McCuaig—E. C. Drury—

"That the draft constitution of the Canadian Council of Agriculture as accepted by the Dominion Grange, Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the United Farmers of Alberta be adopted as follows:—

Name

This association shall be called the Canadian Council of Agriculture.

Articles

The objects of the association shall be:—

(a). To organize the farm population of the Dominion for the study and social of economic problems having a bearing on the happiness and material prosperity of the people.

(b). To collect such material from scientific and literary sources; the annals of class movements; and the records of legislative enactments in our own people, and disseminate the same.

(c). To formulate our demands for legislation and present them through the officers of the association to the notice of parliament and our different legislative bodies.

(d). To encourage the entry of our farmers into active membership in one or other of the political associations according to individual predisposition as a means to make the political parties without distinction responsive to and representative of the demands of the people who form the bulk of the population.

(e). To urge the adoption of co-operative methods by our members (but outside our association), in the purchase and sale of commodities that equity may be established in the business of exchange.

(2). Any association of farmers entirely independent of government control in the Dominion of Canada organized to give effect to any or all of the purposes set forth in the preamble of this constitution shall be eligible for membership in this association.

(3). The membership of the council shall consist of the executives of each of the affiliated associations provided that no affiliated associations shall be represented by more than five members.

(4). The officers of the council shall consist of a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer, to be elected from the members of the council at each annual meeting.

(5). Five members to be drawn from not less than three associations, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual or special meeting. The council shall hold a meeting at least once a year.

(6). The time and place of meeting shall be fixed by the president, provided that a meeting must be held when demanded by any three associations, having membership in the council. One month's notice of meeting must, however, be given, except a majority of associations declare for an emergency meeting, when one week's notice shall suffice.

(7). The expenses incurred in the conduct of the business of the council shall be provided for by a pro rate levy on the membership of the affiliated association, as shown in the last annual report of each.

(8). Travelling expenses of delegates to the council shall be pooled, and the flat rate borne by the association which they represent in proportion to the number of delegates sent.

(9). Living expenses of delegates when in session shall be borne by the association they represent.

NOTE.—It is recommended that all associations seeking affiliation under the council shall prefix their respective constitutions with a preamble setting forth the objects for which they are associated in the general terms of the preamble to the constitution of the council.

In presenting this resolution, the mover and seconder each addressed the convention, after which the resolution was carried unanimously.

W. Noble—H. Darrell—

"That this convention endorse the action of our executive re the provincial ownership of elevators, and re-affirm our stand taken at the last convention at Weyburn, pledging ourselves to show united front until our ends are attained."

On presentation of this resolution, F. W. Green gave a verbal report of his interview with the government and the agricultural committee of the legislature last December, (1909). Upon the vote being taken, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Thos. Conlan—Geo. Boerma—

"That whereas the rate of interest charged by loan companies and banks is excessive,

"Therefore be it resolved that this convention request the Dominion Government to establish a State Agricultural Bank."

The following amendment to the above resolution was introduced by Frederick Kirkham:—

"Whereas the decennial revision of the Bank Act takes place during the present session of the Dominion Parliament,

"Therefore be it resolved that this convention authorize its executive committee to investigate the system of Chartered Banks in Canada, and urge upon the proper authority the necessary amendments to the Bank Act."

The amendment was accepted as the original motion by the mover and seconder and was carried.

The convention adjourned at 5.00 p.m., and opened again for the evening session at 7.00 p.m.

On the opening of the session, the president introduced the newly elected vice-president, who spoke a few words to the convention.

Hon. W. R. Motherwell was called on by the president to address the convention. Mr. Motherwell gave a brief history of the origin of the Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan, and the causes which lead up to its organization. In speaking of the elevator question as it had been dealt with by the government, Mr. Motherwell assured the convention that the government was wasting no time, but was already using every endeavor to appoint the commission as soon as possible. The commission would be comprised of representatives of the farmers, an elevator man, and a man versed in transportation and economics. He suggested that the commission after thoroughly investigating might find that government control or supervision of elevators would be found to be better than Dominion ownership, so long as the farmers got what they wanted. He was glad that the Grain Growers in their representations to the government had left the question quite open in this respect.

At the conclusion of Mr. Motherwell's address, F. M. Gates expressed disappointment that something more definite re the question of appointing the commission on elevator enquiry had not been mentioned by Mr. Motherwell. The interests of the Grain Growers demanded immediate action on the part of the government in order that relief might be ready by the time it was necessary to handle the crop of 1910.

Mr. Motherwell in reply said that the government was "already doing everything in its power. Within a week after the legislature had prorogued, Premier Scott had started correspondence for the purpose of securing a commission. In order to give effect to the findings of this commission, Mr. Motherwell said it would be necessary to call a special session of the legislature. He also considered that it would be necessary to have a special convention of the Grain Growers' Association, to whom the government could submit plans for the solution of the elevator problem. Mr. Motherwell assured the convention that the government was making all possible haste, and was fully as anxious as the association to have the matter made right. He declared that no government would dare trifle with the question.

F. W. Green read some extractions from his (Mr. Green's) address before the agricultural committee of the legislature in December 1909, to correct some misapprehension arising out of Mr. Motherwell's address.

F. C. Tate read the resolution of the agricultural committee, which was adopted by the legislature on December 14, 1909.

"Your committee on agriculture and municipal law, having heard the representations presented on behalf of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, in support of provincial action in the direction of providing a system of grain elevators in the province, and being convinced that the existing conditions respecting the handling of grain justifies action on the part of the government and the legislature towards realizing the objects set forth by the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; and having regard to the admittedly numerous and intricate details involved in the solution of a problem of such magnitude, begs to report to the house that a commission be appointed by the government for the purpose of making a searching enquiry into the proposals, looking to the creation and operation of a system of elevators to effect the objects outlined by the Grain Growers' Association, and to report its findings with all convenient speed, so that action may be taken to give relief to the coming grain season."

Mr. Tate said that the vote on this resolution had been unanimous and was a direct mandate to the government to take action.

J. E. Paynter—Wm. Noble—

"That the interests of the Grain Growers demand that the government system of elevators be in operation in time to handle the crop of 1910, and that therefore the premier of the province be requested to call a special session of the legislature in the coming Spring for the purpose of dealing with the matter."

The following amendment to the above resolution was moved by David Ross:—

"That the executive of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and any other members of the association they wish to include, shall wait on the Saskatchewan government at as early a date as possible after this convention, to ask for complete relief from the present grain marketing conditions, as follows, before the crop of 1910 is on the market:—

(1). That a permanent commission to be called the Saskatchewan Grain Commission, be created by the Saskatchewan Government, to consist of three members nominated by the executive of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association from among actual farmers of the province, and appointed by the government. The members of the said commission to retire in rotation, one at the end of each grain year, the grain year to be considered as ending on June 30. No member of the commission to be obliged to retire until June 30, 1911. An actual farmer of the province to be nominated by the executive of the said association, and appointed by the government to fill the vacancy as each occurs. The right to re-nominate a retiring member to rest with the executive of the said association.

(2). That the said commission be given full powers to enable it to acquire by purchase or construction, such storage facilities as it shall deem advisable from time to time, in Saskatchewan or elsewhere, operate the same, buy grain at country points in Saskatchewan, such grain to have been grown in Saskatchewan, or within ten miles of it, store and sell such grain, when and where, and by such means and agents as it shall deem advisable.

"Further, that the executive ask the government to call a special session of the