

UNITED FARMERS OF CANADA, SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

MEMORANDUM FOR PARLIAMENTARY BANKING AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE,
MAY, 1944

As Bill No. 91 respecting banks and banking is now, after second reading, being discussed by the Banking and Commerce Committee of the Parliament of Canada, we, the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section, herewith submit our views upon this important and very vital subject. As an organization of Farmers, we have for many years consistently held that the money and credit instruments used by the people of a nation have no just or moral right to be owned, controlled or operated by private individuals or corporations.

We contend that a nation's money and credit system is a utility devised to expedite the exchange of goods for goods and goods for service of all the people of the nation, and as such it is the responsibility of the people to own, operate and intelligently control (through elected Governments) their own monetary system for service to all, as a public utility.

When leaders of the Dominion of Canada in 1871, passed the Bank Act, which conferred to private companies, Charters, which allowed them the sole right to issue and control the people's medium of exchange, they did so without any mandate from the people other than that they were elected by Canadian citizens, to administer the affairs of Canada, and we contend by the act of conferring by charter, the banking service of the nation to private corporations, the people's parliamentary representatives of 1871 shirked their own responsibility and transferred their own public duty to others.

The Parliament of Canada is again at or near the time when they will either approve the action of previous parliaments, by passing Bill No. 91 and thereby shirk their own public responsibility and duty by extending the charters of the ten commercial banks now operating in Canada, for another ten years, or parliament will take the steps necessary to assume responsibility of operating the money and credit service of the nation as a public service to Canadian citizens.

It is not enough to merely say that the public would not approve of public operation of bank services. To that we reply, the entire public have never been requested to directly express themselves upon the matter and parliament has never requested a direct mandate from the people, for which negligence we consider parliamentary representatives have been remiss in their duty as servants of the people. Except for the limited sectional education service conducted through organizations vitally interested in the subject of money, credit and banks, the general public has never had an opportunity to thoroughly understand all that should be intelligently known in regard to the subject of public or private operation of banks and banking.

Perhaps the most extensive educational service that has ever been conducted upon the subject, is that which has been performed and dramatized over the air and the widely printed publicity material of the Canadian Chartered Banks, during the past two years particularly. We consider that as the money and credit system of Canada is actually the heart which must regularly and evenly pulsate to keep the economic body properly functioning, it is therefore too important to the very life and well-being of the nation to be entrusted to private corporations.

No government of Canada would dare turn the very important and efficient postal service of this Dominion over to a private corporation without first recognizing that as servants of the people they must first secure the necessary consent from their masters to do so