

tried to develop the idea that the detail work of formulating the actual terms of any capital levy bill should come out of the findings of a committee of financial (and other) experts and that "nothing rash" should be contemplated that might further upset commerce within the country. In point of fact a Committee is sitting now, appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Snowden), considering the national debt and trying to find a way out. The substance of our footnote to Comrade Inglis' article was simply cautionary. By which we mean that when you denounce the other fellow for not having done a particular thing, be sure to show wherein he promised to do that thing, thus meriting your denunciation in that respect.

Editor Clarion:

During my twelve years sojourn in Alberta I have noticed propaganda carried on by the capitalist press designed to keep the farm slave in good spirits so that he shall hop to his work with vigor and produce commodities abundantly. Every spring I have noticed innocent little articles something like this: "Prof. Highbrow of Encouragement University, has just completed a series of experiments extending over a period of twelve years, wherein he has established very important facts relative to the climate of Western Canada. The Prof. has discovered by a study of sun spots and by examining the medullary rays of the redwood trees of Calif., that the next ten years are to be wet and in every way satisfactory to agriculture."

And in the same paper we usually notice something like this: "Babson, the noted economist and statistician, has stated in a recent interview that farm commodity prices have reached bottom and are due for a sharp rise; all farm commodities will rise rapidly during next few months especially wheat; the last named commodity will reach \$3 per bushel before next harvest."

It is surprising how this forms the main topic at the local U.F.A. meetings. U.F.A. and wheat pool speakers pass the information on as they shake hands with their worshippers. The farm slave, after hearing or reading the news, goes home and next morning we find him up and at work one hour before his usual time; and the way he hops to it must be a pleasing sight to those who live from his toil.

Each year the farmer is stung. Either the climate professor miscalculates or the fairy prices fail to materialize, or both. This year (although the papers say it is raining) the wheat crop is bound to be only a fraction of what it was last year. And the farmers are the grouchiest bunch you ever saw. They didn't quite make it last year, but if they would only get a bumper crop this year when prices are to be so high, why, they would be "jake." Their necks are getting crooked as a cranes watching the skies for the clouds that the professor told them about.

When one of these grouchy gents begins wailing and weeping, and is wondering how to pull through the coming winter, we are justified in asking what became of the enormous wheat crop of last year, and the fat cattle, hogs and sheep, of the butter and eggs, and other food stuff. I have before me the annual report of the Dept. of Agriculture for 1923. Alberta produced 167,265,084 bu. of wheat and 114,977,300 of oats, besides millions and millions of bushels of barley, rye and flax.

The farmers of Alberta raised enough wheat last year to feed a population of 10 million people, and yet those poor slaves are \$9,000 in debt each, and are wondering how they are going to keep body and soul together.

The farmers produced last year 17,750,000 pounds of creamery butter besides millions of pounds of dairy, also 28,400,000 dozen of eggs and 3,500,000 pounds of dressed poultry. Also 55,000,000 pounds of dressed beef, 10,000 head of horses, millions of pounds of pork and mutton; other foodstuffs were produced in like proportion. No need to give figures. We know the problem of production has been solved.

The farmers of Western Canada, according to the Dominion Dept., of Agriculture, produce more per capita than can be produced in any part of the world, this is due to large scale machinery and large acreage handled by one man in the country. Why should we worry because of a little dry spell? No need to worry, but we do. And the reason we worry about next winter's grub is due to the fact that what the Alberta farmer produces, does not belong to him. By a hokos pocus skin game process his wealth has been taken from him. The Alberta farmer could live in contentment and ease, have all the necessities and comforts of life and a reasonable amount of luxuries. All these things are his by right of producer, but the poor fool doesn't know enough to take what is his. And what are you going to do with him?

I must confess that question "has got my goat."

Yours in the struggle,

S. V. VALISCO.

Stanmore, Alta., July 5, 1924.

PROPAGANDA IN ALBERTA.

Editor Clarion:

In the past, the workers of this part of the masters' domain have always had gentlemen who either told them that it was better to be poor than rich, because, in their reference book called the word of God, it said so; or some other gentleman on the business end of the scheme shouted to the high heavens that he had just discovered a new panacea that would in due course have the effect of producing a Heaven here as well as the one hereafter.

This past week we have been treated with a change of

psychology. Com. Charles Lester has been with us for a few days, and he gave a number of lectures throughout the district, causing many of the paleolithic nut crackers around here something to argue about. In fact, many of them are not quite sure whether they belong in heaven or here. This is the kind of dope we need, and lots of it, if we are to alter the psychology of the children who are being taught with great care all the scientific methods of destruction pertaining to the capitalist system. The recruiting of Boy Scouts will soon be in effect, and all the panderers of the master class will be diligently working preparing them for future cannon fodder. There is work to do; let's do it.

A. B. HENLEY.

Foremost, Alta., June 29, 1924.

NANAIMO ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

W. A. Pritchard's Campaign BALANCE SHEET

Income.	
By collections at meetings	\$181.40
By subscriptions to campaign fund	176.05
	\$357.45
Expenditure.	
Rent of halls	\$ 85.00
Advertising	31.38
Voters' Lists	12.00
Stamps and stationery	4.79
Sign for committee rooms	5.55
Typing	5.00
Election and Coal Mines Act	1.00
Telephone and installment	9.45
Long distance calls	6.30
W. A. Pritchard's expenses	13.00
Other speakers	5.00
Car expenses	14.35
Total expenses	\$192.82
Balance (cash on hand)	\$164.63
	\$357.45

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Jordan, Sec'y.

A. O. Watson, E. W. Douglas, Auditors.

NINE MEMBERS BOLT PROGRESSIVE PARTY CAUCUS

Letter to Mr. Forke, Party Leader.

Dear Mr. Forke:

With the kindest feelings towards yourself and after very careful and deliberate consideration, we, the undersigned, hereby inform you that we do not propose henceforth to attend the caucus of the Parliamentary group, of which you are the leader, and in order that there may be no misunderstanding, we herein set forth the reasons which have led to our action and to which we propose to give full publicity.

Protest Against Party System.

Our first duty is to our constituents and to the democratic principles of the political movement which they so heroically inaugurated. That new political movement began among the farmers; it was indeed the political expression of various farmer organizations throughout Canada. Negatively it represents a two-fold protest, a protest against the economic burdens that have been piled upon the agricultural industry as the result of forty years of class government; and a protest against a party system organized and dominated from the top, and by means of which the financial and commercial interests have retained power for so long. Positively it represents a noble effort to give effect in the political field to that co-operative philosophy which has not only constituted an outstanding characteristic of farmers' movements, but which is the world's best hope of saving civilization.

Did Not Desire Another Party on Old Model.

There was, we believe, nothing further from the minds of our constituents than the building of another party machine after the model of the old. That this might be made clear the farmers' organizations, owing to whose activities we find ourselves here, formulated their own political program, did their own political organizing and financing, selected and elected us, and commissioned us to co-operate with all parties, groups or individuals, in order to carry our principles into effect.

Two Kinds of Organization.

As we see it there are two species of political organization: one the "political party" that aspires to power, and in so doing inevitably perpetuates that competitive spirit in matter of legislation and government generally which has brought the world well nigh to ruin; the other is the democratically organized group which aims to co-operate with other groups to secure justice rather than to compete with them for power. It is as representatives of this latter type that we take our stand, and in doing so not only remain true to our convictions, but have regard also to the obligations which we undertook to the farmers' organizations in our constituency. Our task is to represent our constituents by co-operating in Parliament with all parties and groups so as to secure the best possible legislation for Canada as a whole.

Principles Departed From.

In our opinion the principles above outlined, to which

we adhere, have been departed from, and in this connection we desire to draw your attention to a few among the many incidents of the past few years. You will undoubtedly recall that as far back as the Saskatoon and Toronto conferences following the 1921 election, and subsequently at the Winnipeg conference, some difference of opinion and viewpoint was apparent as to the purpose, method of action and future of the new political movement then and there represented.

Tends to Perpetuate Partyism.

The divergence of viewpoint then evident has persisted: indeed has been, we believe, accentuated. Moreover, in our opinion the present Parliamentary organization of the Progressive group tends to perpetuate the type of partyism already described and which we were elected to oppose, and to hamper us in the advocacy of those principles to which we adhere. Some of us, have made attempts to secure reorganization of the group on a different basis, but without results.

Bearing in mind the fact that each constituency represented by us is autonomous in the nomination, election, financing and control of its member, it should be evident that it is impossible to secure our support for the formation of a political party organization on the old lines involving majority rule in caucus whip domination, responsibility for leaders statements and action and so forth.

Paralyzed Fight on Bank Act.

The effort—perhaps unconscious—to build a solid political party out of our group has been distressing and paralyzing. As an example, you will recall the situation last year when the Bank Act was under consideration in Parliament. After the caucus had agreed, without objection, to support those of its members who were putting up a strenuous fight in committee for what they considered necessary financial reforms, a sudden change of attitude took place and the majority actually hindered the minority from putting up such a fight on the floor of the house as circumstances demanded. A notice had been given to the Government of our intention to oppose with all our strength the granting of bank charters for a 10-year period, the minority had to accept a defeat or break the majority.

Marked Divergence of Viewpoint.

You will readily recall similar instances of past differences of opinion struggling against old party proprieties and conventions; the question of our immigration policy, this year's budget, and so forth, culminating in the recent action of the majority endorsing a proposal to send a Parliamentary delegation to the British Empire Exhibition at the public expense. The divergence of viewpoint has been so marked that it would seem in the best interests of the movement that we be left free from constraint to work for the cause, independently of the present Parliamentary organization. Such a course, we believe would enable us to co-operate more harmoniously and freely with those who remain in the Progressive group and who are in agreement with us on any particular issues.

To Preserve Virility of Movement.

It is with a full realization of our duty to our constituents and for the purpose of preserving the virility and independence of the political movement of the organized farmers of Canada that we now feel it necessary to take such action as has been indicated. We desire, however, to make it perfectly clear that we are free to co-operate with all others, and invite and welcome the assistance and support of those of all parties who genuinely desire legislation such as will best promote the interests of Canada as a whole.

M. N. Campbell, Mackenzie.

Robt. Gardiner, Medicine Hat.

E. J. Garland, Bow River, Alta.

Donald M. Kennedy, West Edmonton.

Agnes C. Macphail, Southeast Grey.

H. E. Spencer, Battle River.

—The U. F. A. (Calgary)

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