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THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED
WINNIPEG CANADA

MANITOBA DIRECT LEGISLATION LEAGUE

Extracts from Annual Report

In Manitoba we have maintained our campaign of education. Our speakers have addressed a large number of meetings in different parts of the province. We have sent speakers by request to explain Direct Legislation to Grain Growers' Associations, Church Clubs, Literary Societies, Epworth Leagues, Sunday School Pienies, Brotherhood Meetings, Temperance Organizations, Trades Unions and similar bodies. We have distributed a large amount of free literature and answered numerous enquiries. The requests we get for information indicate that this is one of the most widely discussed questions before the people of this province.

A petition for a Referendum on Direct Legislation was presented to the Legislature of Manitoba on January 31, 1913. This petition was signed by 8,600 electors and was supported by a deputation composed of delegates from the various organizations affiliated with our league. Our president has written to the premier and members of the government urging action on this petition, but nothing has been done.

A resolution in favor of Direct Legislation was introduced at the last session of legislature by members of the opposition. A very interesting debate followed, with the opposition forces supporting Direct Legislation and the government opposed. It is a matter of deep regret that this much needed reform should be made a party question when it might easily be settled by a direct vote of the people of Manitoba.

Since we presented our last annual report the Political Equality League of Manitoba and the Independent Order of Good Templars have become affiliated with our League and appointed

delegates to our executive. We welcome this valuable support, and hope for more of a similar nature.

The withdrawal of the generous offer of Joseph Fels to duplicate the amount of money raised in this province for propaganda purposes threw us upon our own resources, and it is with genuine pleasure that we record our appreciation of the way in which our members have responded to our appeals for funds to carry on the work. We finish the financial year with a small balance to our credit (contributions, \$3,620.48; expenditure, \$3,612.28), and look forward to another year of progress in 1914.

THE FARMER AND PARCEL POST

There is much of good sense in some recent comments on Parcel Post made by Postmaster Campbell of Chicago, and all who are anxious for the extension of the service will gladly heed his statements regarding the farmer's end of the Parcel Post business.

Mr. Campbell calls attention to the failure of the Parcel Post to establish the desired link between the farmer and the city man, asserting that the amount of foodstuffs shipped by Parcel Post into that city is scarcely worth considering. He goes further, pointing out changes that he thinks will have to be effected before the Parcel Post can be made an important factor of exchange between farm and city. These improvements he specifies as follows: "Further increase of the weight limit; greater dispatch in handling perishable goods; special facilities at post offices for loading and unloading farm products; special facilities, such as icing, for protecting perishable goods; increased rates of special delivery of perishable goods as demanded; co-operation among farmers in establishing shipping facilities and in creating a demand for

their products in the homes, thereby insuring a permanent market for the producer, and a campaign of education among farmers in scientific packing.

"These are points eminently worth considering. They go to explain why the Parcel Post is developing very slowly along the lines mentioned, and why the express companies will continue to do business despite the Parcel Post—that is to say, unless the latter shall be elaborated and improved far beyond its present state.

Will Bring New System

"This is specially important, because the Parcel Post, in so far as it becomes an important medium for the disposal of farm products, must do away with the sale of products in large bulk lots and create in its place a system of sales in small units, properly prepared for transmission through the mails. In place of disposing of his products to a single jobber, or to a few concerns, the farmer would deal with a large number of customers, and if this trade were transient or fluctuating, an element of uncertainty and insecurity would arise which might easily cause the farmer to revert to the older and safer system."

All this may be said without in the slightest degree detracting from all the benefits that have already resulted from Parcel Post enactment, but is simply calling attention to one side of its possibilities in which the Grange must take an active interest in trying to work it out, for the good of the farmers of the country. This is well stated by one of the large newspapers of the country, which commented editorially upon Postmaster Campbell's statements as follows:

"It is well to take account of these matters, not by way of disparaging the Parcel Post or discouraging this medium

of exchange, but in order that the problem may be studied intelligently in its various bearings, and no false expectations fostered by an imperfect estimate of its advantages. That the Parcel Post can be made an important factor in our distributive system is already assured; that it has its limits, as it is run at the present time, is equally apparent. If its promoters expect to serve the public equally as well as the express companies in all respects, while blazing new paths by which fresh foods can be carried to the city consumer at small cost, provision must be made accordingly, and the requisite facilities, whatever they may be, will have to be paid for."

Postal Express

All of which looks forward clearly enough to exactly the ultimate consummation which has long been the Grange ideal—Postal Express. If this was the dream of ten years ago it is as certainly the expectancy of today and bound to be realized in the very near future. Meanwhile all these discussions are valuable and will serve to develop more rapidly the Parcel Post possibilities. In fact, there is no more timely topic to introduce into the thought of Grange meetings this winter than just what is suggested above, which might be phrased this way: "In what ways should Parcel Post be helping the farmers more than it has so far done?" Put it on the program and see how much interest it will awaken among all the members.—From The National American Grange Monthly.

We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success. We often discover what will do by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.—Smiles.