

needs, a permanent farmers' organization. This is why, and only why, I have attempted to serve you as well as ability would permit. I have planned for a permanent institution, and that is why we introduced the life membership plan. I am not altogether satisfied with the way this has been taken hold of, although we have doubled our life membership this year. I have always wanted to make sure of this fund, which is really nothing but advance fees. That it shall be absolutely safeguarded and preserved in its integrity. That by no means can it be molested or seized by any ruthless hand, but will be a life fund in deed and truth. I have thought that the man who could be instrumental in laying the foundation of a permanent farmers' organizational structure, something with life in it, that would grow and grow, would do a work of which one might well be proud, though it took a life time. It is admittedly a large task, for most people say that it cannot be done. Still we are doing it. I believe in it, and I think there are many farmers who could afford at once to put back into this association \$12.00 at least of the money it has already earned for them. They owe it to the institution, and there are others who should do it for the increased force and stability it would give to the continuance of the good work thus far so splendidly carried on. The extent and proportions which the association will in future assume will depend on you.

Many have thought that we need an increased staff. That we are ready now for extensive operations. Last year I suggested that we should have a trade agent to study and secure reliable data regarding matters of trade, freights, cost of goods, effect on us of the tariff, etc. Also that we should have a man at the sittings of our legislators and keep tab on what is going on. That we should have a solicitor for our organization, to give us advice on the many matters we have now to deal with. To provide for these things several have offered to give sums of money varying from \$5.00 to \$50.00 per year. Personally I wanted to see the fund in sight before going in deep into anything that takes money. That is why I wanted to get a fund ahead. We have now opened a separate account and have \$750 in it. We call it the "Emergency Fund," and the association is now prepared to receive special donations to be used for special purposes as your executive may direct. We may at any time want to engage in some work which would be a serious drain on our regular funds. Our rivals also will respect us just as well when we have a good bank account. So that those who do not care so much for providing continuity and permanence as per the life membership, or who want to do more than that by way of finance, and those who want to do things more rapidly now, may donate or bequeath to this emergency fund, and it is one which I heartily recommend to your kind consideration. There is work for all. Those who can only pay little can do so by the annual fee. Those who can do much have an opening in this emergency fund. There can, however, be no real permanent progress without a strong permanent progressive body of control, and centre of activity, and those who think so should do all possible for the life fund. A central body is like the engine to the boiler. A large aggregation of locals without a powerful and intelligent central is like a boiler without an engine, and a central without locals, or dull inactive locals, is like an engine without a boiler. Either of these apart, disconnected and disorganized are useless. There is a necessity for our getting out of the begging, cringing attitude regarding finance. We must have a good fund on hand.

Should be Independent

Let our members also get stripped of party political affiliation. Clean, independent, ready without prejudice to deal with all questions on their merits. Such an organization well equipped with funds, with this dominant spirit of independence will compel the changes needed. This kind of organizing and political stripping is simply getting ready to do business. Nothing kills our influence quicker than to have a few old party politicians trying to use this association as a stepping stone for party advantage or personal ends. They are continually either trying to work a game themselves or squinting around for fear the other side will.

We have already acquired considerable prestige. We cannot afford to lose this

reckless, inconsiderate action. Such a course would be more disastrous to us and to others now, and less easily pardoned than when in our infancy. Individuals may use flying machines and do a soaring, gliding evolution, but the association will do well to keep close to mother Earth, and avoid a wrecking, somersaulting finish in a final plunge like many recent daring aviators. We cannot afford risky stunts. Much has been spent in reaching our present eminence, and much depends on a continuance of our success. Just now several different powerful bodies seem ready to open their doors to us. Showing signs of being ready to consult with us. Our opportunity is broadening. Other organizations and powers as well as ourselves are realizing that something is really wrong with basic principles in our institutional construction, and there are men with minds everywhere trying to find a solution, meanwhile keeping up the competitive conflict until a halt may be safely called and an armistice declared. They know this armed conflict cannot be indefinitely continued. This is true from our national armament down to our church, class and association rivalries. There are good men in all classes, and some good in every individual. If we have to fight to a finish, our class need not fear once organized and educated to act in concert. However, we are ready for a conference when our rivals are. We require a trained staff of officers to meet them and present our case fairly, not bitterly. We must confer with our rivals, or fight until one or the other is conquered. To do this an association must hang together or be hung separately. It is good to know and to have others know that we farmers consider our calling worthy of equal consideration with others. That we only want a fair deal, and will

employ of powerful magnates are powerless and are held firmly by their grasp. Deliverance for them or by them is most unlikely. Most rich people are at ease and are satisfied with present conditions. A solution from these is equally hopeless. Who then is to be the deliverer? Plainly in some form or other the independent men on the land. How shall they register their united voice except through an association such as this?

I am sometimes asked whether our work is ended. I think there is only one answer to that. No, it is only just beginning. To me the call to organize, educate and co-operate is more clear, the duty more urgent, the object more grandly in view. We have it in our power to bring about a unification of Canadian yeomen, equipped with an intelligence and independence which shall be made so effective as to give to Canada greater blessings than her people have hitherto enjoyed, and so set an example for others. Let no man of us admit the craven feat that we are incapable of carrying on the unfinished task of our fathers, whose work was lasting and righteous. Ours also to endure. Our work as a race and nation is cut out for us. Carved in the rock of doom, and we are an important part of it. The duty call rings out in clarion tones to lead the world in a higher form of civilization than has heretofore prevailed. We have inherited liberty and with it we must establish justice, pure and undefiled, until it encircles the globe.

Organize, Educate, Act

Now the road to this is to organize, educate, think, plan and act in concert; and towards the accomplishment of these ends during the past year several different methods have been tried and

of men. Two meetings were arranged at each point, one intended to be a conference with the delegates and one a mass meeting, and were held at the points below mentioned.

Meetings Held

Robinson, Fletcher and Moffat at Strassburg, Hazelcliffe and Nokomis Green; Maharg and Lanning at Jassim, Atwater, Saltcoats, Springdale, Poon Lake, Lannigan, Dorrill and Noble at Zealandia, Outlook and Tugsaska. Green, Hawkes, Durrill and Maharg at Bethans and Craik. Hawkes and Brown at Hanley, Lunnsides, Tregarva and Grippen Colley. Dr. Hill and Evans at Phippen and Perdue. Tate, Partridge, Cockrell and Knox at Lashburn, North Battleford, Radisson, Melfort, Prince Albert. Green, Hawkes and Robinson at Milestone, Estevan, Carduff, Wawota and Moose Jaw.

This was not the success I expected it to be. I believe this plan has in it much to recommend it if properly taken hold of. Altogether much good work has been done by hundreds of large-hearted men throughout our ranks. Many mistakes have been made and much learned as previously mentioned. Since our last convention we have made the greatest progress in numerical strength of any one year in our history.

Compared with Manitoba's membership of 4408 in 1908 to our 3136 of that year 5574 in 1909 " " " 3616 " " " 7550 in 1910 " " 10326 " " " " This shows that we at last compare favourably in numbers and have not so very much to learn in organization work from our sister province. Our membership has almost doubled, as we are only giving you the figures until the 31st of December. We have formed over one hundred new associations during the year, but I am sorry to say that about thirty-eight have died or failed to respond. You are aware that directors have been elected in previous years from each crop district, of which there are nine. This year several proposals have been talked over for improvement of organization work, and for the sake of convenience and to assist you, I have set forth the names of the associations in the following divisions:

- 1st—Organization districts.
- 2nd—Crop districts.
- 3rd—Federal constituencies.
- 4th—Provincial constituencies.

Much Work Needed

This will show you something of the magnitude of the work. I am sometimes told that I should visit each association at least twice a year. To do that I would have to reach two every day in the year, Sundays and holidays included, and travel some two thousand miles on each trip, as we have now on our lists some three hundred and sixty-five associations. You see the impossibility at once. It is no trouble to organize a branch. The difficulty is to keep it organized. To make it be a hive of activity, another regiment for our ranks. The question is not now to get hangers-on, but pushers. Not brawn, but brains. To get each member to realize he is a part of a great army or machine—a working factor. That the association offers him an opportunity to register his individuality in the phonograph of the Canadian nation. The seed is being sown like thistle-down. Would that the seed had the thistle root. But good seed has to be cared for, seemingly, or it will die. There must be a heaven, something to cause a rising life within. The best medium we have is The Guide. The next is a good local secretary. Traveling orators have not proved a success. Many things prevent good meetings. Storms, miscalculations, sickness, accident, different meetings clashing with our dates, difficulty in getting good men, lack of common ideal amongst them, giving too many different breeds of associations. The orator has to get within hearing of the audience or there will be no fire kindled; and sometimes the orator's fire is put out by the non-appearance of the crowd. Neither is a man who has more important business other than ours a good organizer for us. The best speakers are an interchange of local men between associations, and then district conferences to get your local leaders in touch with each other and central leaders. I advise

CANADA'S TARIFF LAWS

or "Where Industry leans on the Politician"

Every man, woman and child in Canada should be most deeply interested in this subject. "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada," by Edward Porritt, is the story of the tariff in Canada since 1846. Many regard the Tariff as a very dry and uninteresting subject. But Mr. Porritt takes out the dryness and makes it most interesting. Every farmer could spend a number of pleasant evenings with this book and at the same time have his eyes opened to the iniquity of the tariff laws of Canada. Every farmer would then understand why he has to pay out \$200 a year to support the manufacturers when he could buy the same articles cheaper elsewhere. The book contains 478 pages and is fully indexed. This book is kept in stock in The Guide office and will be sent promptly by return mail to any address, post paid, for \$1.50.

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stand for nothing less. Wanting no special privilege. Ready to pull on an even doubletree. We know we cannot act as if there were no others. Neither can things be just as they would be if we were not here. This is true of individuals, associations, nations and races. Our view cannot and must not be, and is not a purely mercenary one. We must have personal, associate, national and world vision. We must see the human family. It is this that will cause us to pay attention to others, and others to pay attention to us. Our proposals will be tried at the bar of public opinion of an impartial world. Our objects may be divided into two general classes. The one intended to have immediate visible operations. The other depending on a succession of measures having a gradual operation towards an ultimate goal. The first is self-protection; the goal that is best for all. This will give individuality and character to our institution.

Work for Farmers

Watching the rapid growth of urban population with its extremely rich and extremely poor, the organized evils and turbulent reeking unrest of the classes and masses, as one takes note of the pressure of organized capital on the classes, who in turn extort from the unorganized masses, one realizes there is a situation calling for some countervailing force possessing the ground-work of a sturdy independence, with a high moral purpose and sense of justice, capable of discerning evils and discovering remedies, with the nerve, will, power and determination to apply them. A jury arbitrator, if you will, between these people who are at war with each other; and whose rivalries are also oppressing us, I submit this arbitration devolves on the men on the land. City people who are in the

results watched for reaching the rank and file of our membership in organization and educational work. Last convention I outlined a series of organization districts. As some misunderstanding occurred over it, I will quote from last year's report. "Now I want to take advantage of your presence here to-day to arrange an interchange of men. I want you delegates to meet in the divisions I shall name, and lay out a series of meetings for the territory mentioned. Arrange dates and complete arrangements for the handling of speakers, so that the interchange of speakers may be arranged." I did not intend each division to start out on some plan of its own and run up a big bill of expense and send it in to the central for payment. I did not intend any expense to be charged to the central, but such as should be definitely arranged for. Neither is this now intended. I think I can clearly show you the wisdom of this. This was not given a fair trial because the rush did not permit us to carefully plan it out. This year, perhaps, we can do better, both in plan and accomplishment. This plan has in it much to recommend it.

Mr. Hawkes was sent out for two months attending special summer meetings, and he will report on his work. I also attempted to hold district conferences, thinking that the delegates would come in to them from the surrounding associations and consult with part of our directors who would meet them there, and then go out and do likewise with a number of smaller groups. The directorate and others that I thought could and would help met at Saskatoon, had several meetings, and then separated into groups of two and three and held conferences at some thirty-three points, covered in about ten days by six groups