

made a strong appeal to them to listen to the voice of one who was proud to declare that he was one of themselves; that there was no branch of farm work, from barn-raising to using the thrasher, that he was not familiar with, and he particularly prided himself on his ability to handle a plow in a workmanlike fashion.

It is scarcely necessary to add that this style of speech took immensely with his audience. He very adroitly raised a prejudice against me in the minds of many present by incidentally mentioning that I was a newspaper man brought up in the city, knowing nothing about country life and therefore not competent to tender advice to practical men like Canadian farmers.

Now all this, told in a friendly manner, was, I could easily perceive, making a strong impression on the crowd and this was plainly evidenced by the slimness of the applause which greeted me when I stepped forward to speak on behalf of the Conservative candidate. I had at one or two previous meetings had something of a similar character rubbed into me by Mr. McKellar and I determined there and then to make a bold bluff which I thought might put a stop to future similar attacks.

Addressing myself with considerable energy to the chairman, I asked his special attention while I made a proposition which I thought would meet the approbation especially of the large number of young men who were present in the hall. I said I was weary of hearing Mr. McKellar boast so often of his ability as a plowman and I proposed at this meeting to suggest a practical test which would once and for all settle the matter. I remarked that I had myself some years before the commencement of my city career enjoyed the reputation of being one of the best plowmen in my township. I then suggested that Mr. McKellar and myself should each hand over \$50 to the chairman, who should select a field in which we should give a practical illustration of our ability at the plow-handle, and as Mr. McKellar was an older man than myself I accorded him the privilege of being the first to use the team selected for the purpose.