

for the splendid assistance and cooperation given to the United Farmers of Alberta at all times by the Grain Growers' Grain Company. Carried unanimously.

INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

Moved by Millet Union:

Resolved, that this union recommend that the various unions concerned request that each candidate for either the legislature or the Dominion parliament, irrespective of party affiliations, pledge his support for the Initiative, Referendum and Recall and that said candidate be further requested to hand to the secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta his written resignation dated ahead and beyond the date of election, to be held at the disposal of the executive of this association, and who are hereby instructed to forward the same to the speaker of the house to which such candidate may be elected should twenty-five per cent. of the voters of the constituency concerned so petition.

This resolution resulted in considerable discussion and the opinion was expressed that such a resolution would be placing the U.F.A. in the position of party houses, something which has always been condemned. For this reason the resolution was defeated.

NEXT CONVENTION

Mr. Hughes moved and Mr. Pye seconded, that the place for the next convention be decided by the board of directors. Carried unanimously.

AN ORGANIZATION SCHEME

The following paper, prepared by G. F. Chipman, was then read to the convention:— Now that the Ottawa delegation has become a matter of history and has been placed on the public records as the most important movement of the twentieth century, the leaders among the farmers' organizations in Canada are considering how to strengthen their cause. Though the reply to the farmers by Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not promise the justice which the farmers asked, yet the farmers' demands are the all-absorbing topic in Ottawa to-day. The politicians largely are discussing the best means of satisfying the farmers. Whatever is necessary to keep peace and harmony among the farmers will be given but no attempt will be made to completely eliminate special privilege and give every man an equal opportunity in Canada. Public opinion is not strong enough yet.

Reciprocity negotiations are under way at Washington, and newspaper reports lead us to believe that something will be accomplished before congress automatically expires on March 4th. At any rate, though the farmers may get something, they will not get what they asked for. No one has heard any farmer say yet that he thought that the delegation asked for too much, and in reality their demands were very moderate. Then it would seem fitting for the farmers to lay plans to strengthen their organization and secure their full rights.

It has been estimated and the figures are not greatly exaggerated, that the total cost of sending the eight hundred farmers to Ottawa, was very little, if any, short of \$50,000. That fact alone is evidence that the farmers are very seriously in earnest. They realize that on account of unfair economic conditions, at least 20 per cent. of the legitimate returns of their labor goes annually into the pockets of the special privileged classes. Considering it in that light the \$50,000 was a mere trifle.

The farmers' organizations in Ontario are many but are working separately. In Quebec and in the Maritime Provinces the same applies. In Western Canada each of the Prairie Provinces has a united organization but the membership should be increased by at least 500 per cent. The great work of the next year is to increase the membership of these organizations in every province in Canada and cement them into one under the Canadian Council of Agriculture. The constitution of the Canadian Council of Agriculture is broad and will permit any independent farmers' organization to come in. How is this work to be carried out?

One of the features of the farmers' organizations in the past has been the lack of financial support. This is due largely to lack of information on economic subjects. The farmers will not support a movement unless they are convinced that it is in their own interests. If plans were laid during the next month, a campaign fund of \$50,000 could be raised among the farmers of Canada within the next twelve months. With such a fund it would be possible to maintain a central office at Ottawa, or some other central point, to place in the hands of every farmer in Canada, literature printed in his own language, that would open his eyes to present conditions and would no doubt secure his support in the great campaign being carried out. In addition the same fund would finance a large number of speakers who could be sent as organizers through every province from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. Leading farmers from the East could be sent into the West and leading Westerners could go through the East, simply to strengthen the bonds of union between the provinces and assist in organization work.

How is this money to be raised? The Canadian Council of Agriculture will be holding their annual meeting at the close of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Convention in Regina on February 10th. If the members of that council would approve of a national campaign and endorse a general platform the raising of the money would not be difficult. The council might authorize the Toronto Sun and THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE to open a subscription list and deposit all the money received in the bank to the credit of the council or adopt some other agreeable plan. There are farmers who would subscribe from \$50 to \$100 to such a scheme and hundreds who would give from \$5 to \$25. The money would not be hard to raise. Even if the total secured were only \$25,000, tremendous work could be accomplished with that.

The Free Trade platform laid down at Ottawa by the farmers is growing in popularity among the farmers of Canada every day, and is also receiving support from organized labor and general consumers.

Closely associated with the free trade movement is the principle that the natural resources of Canada should be used for the benefit of the people, and not handed out to favored individuals for private plunder.

The farmers have demanded free trade and have stated that they are ready for direct taxation. Too much emphasis could not be laid upon this last, because it convinces our opponents that the farmers are sincere in their demands for free trade.

If any such scheme is to be undertaken for the coming year it cannot be undertaken too soon. It would be necessary to prepare a great deal of literature during the summer, and have everything ready to open the campaign simultaneously in every province during the months to come. An immense amount of literature could be prepared for \$1,000.

The scheme at the outset looks like a large one but it does not look half as large as the scheme for the Ottawa delegation when it was first suggested. The farmers of Canada have got beyond the day when small things and slow progress will satisfy. They have come to the front and today they realize they are important factors in building up a great nation.

If the farmers are to throw off the yoke of the manufacturers, railways and corporations then it is the time to take action now. Never before in Canada was enthusiasm so wide-spread and if the opportunity is lost to cement together a national organization it may not come again in twenty years.

The scheme outlined above would not interfere in any way with the work planned by the provincial organizations, as both could go hand in hand and each would receive an impetus by co-operation and thus attract new members. Every speaker could discuss provincial as well as national questions. Every farmer would be given clearly to understand that his subscribing to the national fund would not relieve him in any way of his obligations to his provincial organization. When once a Dominion-wide farmers organization was completed a fee of 25 cents per year would support the federal office and could be easily raised. Such a scheme successfully worked ought to, within a year, increase the number of organized farmers in Canada to at least 200,000. There will probably not be a Dominion election till the fall of 1912, and if the farmers' organization by that time is sufficiently strong, both political parties will be compelled to recognize them and give them justice.

Probably it will be possible to secure the support of several other farm journals in Canada and one or two daily journals.

Continued on Page 38

How "Eastlake" Steel Shingles will save you money



Talk No. 3

Economy In Laying

By

The Philosopher of Metal Town

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