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## Ontario Farmers' Views on Public Issues

**Government Expenditures to Help City Unemployed at High Wages not Favoured. Free Trade with Great Britain Advocated. Public Outlays on Trunk Highways not Approved. Resolutions Passed Last Week by The United Farmers of Ontario.**

**I**MPORTANT resolutions dealing with public issues of the day, from the standpoint of the farmer, were passed last week at the first annual convention of The United Farmers' of Ontario, after they had first been fully discussed in open convention. All the resolutions were passed unanimously. They were as follows:

#### Free Trade with Great Britain

The following resolution is in harmony with the resolutions passed recently by the farmers' organizations in Western Canada and indicates the practical loyalty of the farmers of Canada, as a whole.

"Whereas, in this time of testing of the great Empire of which we form a part, Canada is pouring out its young manhood and millions of dollars in answer to the Empire's need,—

"Be it resolved, that in the opinion of the members of The United Farmers of Ontario every effort should be made to bind up the ties that unite us with the Mother Land, and therefore we would recommend that the time has come when we should have complete free trade with Great Britain."

#### Make the Manufacturers Pay Their Share

During the discussion it was contended that the recent increase in the tariff will enable protected manufacturers to charge more for the goods they sell farmers and others without the Government receiving any revenue from many lines of such goods. This is because they are made in Canada, and little, if any, of the raw material used in them is imported. It was felt that in such cases an excise tax should be placed on these manufacturers, as is done in England, which would ensure the Government receiving the full benefit of the increase in the customs tax. The following resolution was, therefore, passed:

"Whereas, farmers are being urged to increase production from the soil, and whereas the excise tax towards such increase should be the removal of artificial handicaps placed on agriculture,—

"Therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of this convention the recent increase in customs taxation on imported goods, which will increase the profits on protected manufacturers without adding to the national revenue should be accompanied by a corresponding excise tax on the output of domestic factories, equal to the actual protection involved, a policy which will add to the national revenue without further increasing the handicap on agriculture for the benefit of other industries."

#### Toronto-Hamilton Highway Condemned

Delegates claimed that it was unfair to tax the province to build an expensive highway from Toronto to Hamilton. It was claimed that the proposal to pay a minimum of 25¢ an hour, instead of decreasing unemployment in the cities, would tend to increase it by drawing away laborers in other callings such as agriculture to the cities in order that they might obtain work on this highway at the high wages paid. The following resolution was therefore passed:

"Whereas, the whole province is to be taxed for the purpose of building a concrete automobile roadway between Toronto and Hamilton;—

"Whereas, it is proposed that the minimum wage for labor on this highway, shall be 25¢, an hour;

"Whereas, this action will set a standard in wages with which farmers will have to approach if they are to increase the production of their farms,—

"Whereas, this will tend to further burden agriculture, which is sufficiently burdened already by the increase in provincial and federal taxation and at a time, too, when prices of all classes of farm produce and grains are tending towards a lower level;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that in our opinion no arbitrary standard of wages should be fixed in the building of said highway."

#### Government Work For Unemployed

The burden that is placed on farmers as a result of the tendency of both the Dominion and provincial governments to use public money to provide employment on public works for the unemployed, was discussed. It was contended that as the government is required to pay high wages the tendency is to make it increasingly difficult for farmers to obtain farm labor, and also to lay an additional burden on farmers through the increased taxes involved. The following resolution was therefore passed:

"Whereas, pressure is being put upon Dominion and provincial governments to increase the volume of employment in towns and cities even to the extent of prosecuting public works of doubtful utility;

"Whereas, said governments show a disposition to yield to such claims;—

"Whereas, the effect of such yielding must be to add to the drift of labor from the farm, where it is needed, to urban centres, where it is not needed;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of this convention an absolute termination should be put to hot-house forcing of urban centres to the end that labor may naturally flow back to the quarter where it is required and where if agriculture is given a square deal it naturally will flow."

#### The Depressed Horse Market

"Whereas, the Dominion Government has recently placed an embargo on the export to the United States of horses suitable for military purposes, and has prevented purchasers from the British and French military war departments from making purchases in Canada;—

"Whereas, the effect of this action is restricting home producers to one market, and is tending to depress a branch of agriculture sufficiently depressed already;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this convention respectfully urge the Dominion Government to remove the restrictions enforced to the end that production be given its greatest possible stimulus."

#### Direct Taxation Endorsed

While approval was not expressed of expenditures which have forced the Ontario government to raise more revenue by taxation, the action of the

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