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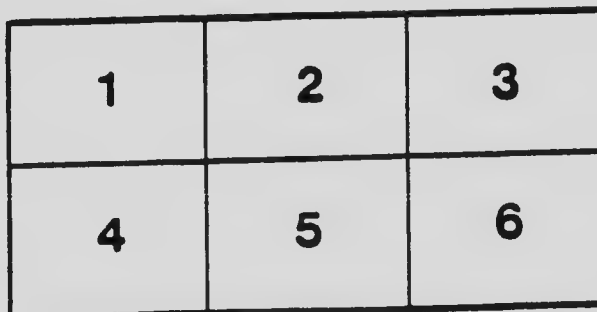
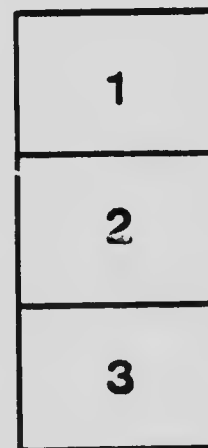
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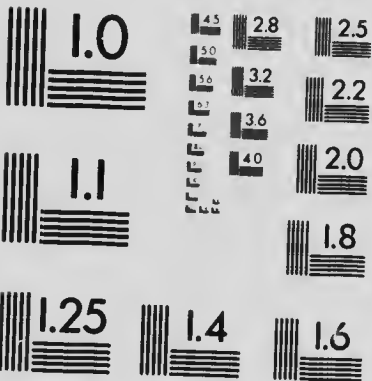
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ONE MAN'S WORK

The Record of

George H. Bradbury

Federal Member for Selkirk

A Story of Public Service

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GEORGE H. BRADBURY, M.P.

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A Story of Public Service

When a man enters public life in the role of a member of Parliament, he soon adjusts to its proper focus the true estimate of his character and worth. It does not take long to classify him as one of two distinct types. Either,

- (1) He considers his constituents are more or less honoured in having him as their representative, or
- (2) He considers himself honoured by the trust his constituents have placed in him, and conscientiously, endeavours to repay this trust with genuine service.

No one will hesitate for an instant to admit that the latter classification admirably fits the present member for Selkirk in the House of Commons, Mr. George H. Bradbury. From the first day when Mr. Bradbury entered the arena of Federal Politics, he has allowed nothing to daunt him in his determination to serve faithfully and well the people of Selkirk, who have always manifested in such unmistakable fashion their trust in him.

During the years he sat in opposition he was equally indefatigable in the interests of the people of Selkirk County as he is to-day with his party in power. There is no man in the House of Commons who in an equal length of time has rendered greater service to his constituents than Mr. Bradbury. But there are men in the Commons who have used their position to enhance their own interests—who entered Parliament poor and to-day are rich. **Mr. Bradbury is not one of these.** Serving his constituents, the people of Selkirk, is for Mr. Bradbury, a gratuitous service, willingly rendered. It is for him in reality a sacrifice for had he remained in commercial life he would to-day be much better off financially.

The appreciation of Mr. Bradbury's efforts on behalf of his county is far more than local or even provincial—it is Dominion-wide. The leading newspapers of Canada have frequently referred to his persistently good work. The following extracts are a few of many which might be given, but they give an excellent idea of the high regard in which Mr. Bradbury is held throughout Canada:

The Ottawa "Evening Journal".

The "Ottawa Evening Journal" in March 1913, commenting upon Mr. Bradbury's work in the House of Commons, said,—

"Mr. George H. Bradbury, M.P., for Selkirk is a delightful man to meet. Tall and well built, as he extends his hand his keen blue eyes, set far beneath shaggy brows, kindle with unaffected pleasure, as though you were the very person he had been wanting to see for weeks.

He is mild and quiet and unassuming, and you would never judge him to be the fighter he has proven himself in the House of Commons."

"Mr. Bradbury belongs to a well-known family. His brothers are prominent brokers here, and probably he also would have been active in business affairs in Ottawa had he not sought another field for the exercise of his many talents.

"Among the many important questions dealt with by Mr. Bradbury in the House of Commons were, the monopolization of the white-fish industry on Lake Winnipeg; the exploitation of the St. Peter's Indians; the proposed Reciprocity Pact with the United States; the Cold Storage Bill; and his own Bill to prohibit the pollution of streams. In all his works, public or private, Mr. Bradbury is painfully thorough. He never does things by halves. This was exemplified in the way he approached the task of these great reforms; especially was that the case when he was exposing the grievance of the St. Peter's Indians and the fishermen of Lake Winnipeg.

"It is doubtful if any private member in the Commons has ever evoked so much favourable newspaper comment in so short a time as has the member for Selkirk. He is one of the strong men of his party and he will some day surely occupy a much higher position in its ranks than he does at the present time."

The same newspaper later referring to the St. Peter's Indian Reserve scandal, said,—

"Mr. George H. Bradbury, M.P. for Selkirk, brought this matter before Parliament in one of the most telling speeches made in the House during the Session."

"The St. Peter's Indian Reserve adjoins the growing town of Selkirk. While the late Government was in power, the Indians were persuaded by officials of the Department of Interior, to surrender their valuable reserves. This was done by methods that, to say the least, were very dishonourable on the part of the Government of the day."

"He is a poor Canadian who would debauch and cheat the Indians, but when a Department of the Canadian Government which is supposed to protect the red man, stoops to such disgraceful tactics in order to fill the pockets of a few party friends, a serious blow has been struck at our National Life. To repair this injury, should be the endeavour of every decent man. This is the task that the fighting member from Selkirk has set himself to do, and with bull-dog tenacity he is pressing this matter to a conclusion and deserves the support of every self-respecting man in Canada."

The Ottawa "Citizen".

The "Ottawa Citizen" had the following editorial on Mr. Bradbury's efforts for his constituency,—

"Mr. George H. Bradbury, M.P. for Selkirk, was the author of a masterly exposure of the Government's dealings with the Indians of St. Peter's Reserve, near Selkirk. It will be recalled that last session Mr. Bradbury dealt in a particularly effective manner with the maladministration of the fisheries in Manitoba. In both cases the strength of the indictment lay largely in the careful and complete manner in which he had collected and formulated his evidence, backed by the production of documents. The robbing of the unfortunate Indians was a scandalous affair. They had an eligible reserve not far from Winnipeg, which certain real estate sharks desired to obtain control of. Mr. Bradbury charges that these men apparently connived with

the officials of the Indian Department and succeeded in securing land, some of which was worth—under the admission of the Minister himself—fifty dollars an acre, for one tenth of that sum.”

“The Minister of the Interior responsible for the administration of the Indian Department, Mr. Oliver, made a remarkably weak defence. In some respects it removed a certain amount of obliquity from his shoulders, for the simple reason that he appeared to be so ignorant of the transaction that he could not have been personally cognizant of the details. **However, it does not remove the stigma which rests upon the head of the department, so loosely administered that such a scandalous transaction could be put through.** Hon. Mr. Oliver, took refuge in abuse of the member for Selkirk, and repeatedly made assertions that the latter didn't know what he was talking about. But before the Minister got through his three and a half hours' speech, it was quite evident to everyone in the house, that the shoe was on the other foot, and that he knew so little about the transaction that he constantly blundered over the facts in endeavouring to make a defence.”

The Winnipeg “Telegram”.

The “Winnipeg Telegram” commenting upon the St. Peter's Indian Reserve scandal, said,—

“In rejecting the Bradbury resolution, condemning the Government's course in the sale of the land of the St. Peter's Indians, the majority of the Commons at Ottawa acted in a manner to be expected, and **gave its approval to the contemptible swindle perpetrated upon the poor Indians.**”

“The Minister of Interior replied to charges backed by positive evidence, by declaring that these charges were an attack upon the intelligence of the Parliament. Absolutely nothing to controvert Mr. Bradbury's accusation was brought out by Mr. Oliver. The documentary evidence offered by Mr. Bradbury, was dismissed with the superheated statement that it was a part and parcel of the persistent tirade of unwarranted assertion. The Minister of Interior made no effort whatever to answer affidavits proving that this robbery of the St. Peter's Indians had taken place under the eyes of his agents.

“**Robbing a blind man, a widow, or an orphan, or stealing copers from the poor-box, is a species of meanness to which class this thievery of the lands of the helpless Indians of St. Peter's Reserve seems to belong.**”

“**Mr. Bradbury has performed a public service in uncovering the record of such a swindle.** The people of Manitoba have been acquainted with the facts of this outrageous robbery, but one looks in vain for any symptoms of disapproval on the part of the local opposition or its organ. To them it is a trifle that the Indians should be wronged so long as the Government heeled in this province profit.

“No one can read the letters addressed to Mr. Bradbury by the three St. Peter's Indians, one of them an ex-chief, without feeling that a gross injustice was done this people in the sale of their reservation lands. **No manlier service** was ever done on behalf of the deceived community than that performed by Mr. Bradbury, the member for Selkirk, when he called the attention of the House of Commons, to the thievery practiced by agents and servants of the Ottawa Government in connection with this surrender. Especially is this so when one realizes that the Indians have no votes, consequently Mr. Bradbury could gain no political advantage by the manly defence he put up on their behalf.”

The Winnipeg "Tribune".

The "Winnipeg Tribune" in 1910 reviewing Mr. Bradbury's record, said,—

"For years Mr. Bradbury has protested in the press, from the platform, and recently in Parliament against the wanton depletion of the western lakes, particularly the lakes of Manitoba."

"For many years shrewd Americans, through Canadian agents have operated most extensively. Their chief concern was to get the fish. They had no regard for the preservation of the fisheries for the Canadian people of present or of future generations. Mr. Bradbury presented an apparently unanswerable argument in the House of Commons in favour of restrictions. The Ottawa Government appointed a Royal Commission to investigate the condition of the Fisheries, but in its deliberations, its method of receiving evidence, and its findings, Mr. Bradbury was not a factor. Every appointee was on the opposite side of politics, but the commission decided that Mr. Bradbury's alarms were well founded, and restrictions were recommended accordingly. If those interested in the wholesale exploitation and depletion of our waters have any right on their side, the place to look to is Ottawa. Mr. Bradbury may lose the support of such men who profit while the destruction of the fisheries goes on, but for one vote he may lose in Selkirk he will gain a score in other places, by reason of the great service he has rendered the public interest. It would have been easier for Mr. Bradbury to drift with the tide and get into the spirit of the time. He has chosen the other course. All honour to him."

The Toronto "News".

The "Toronto News," of which Sir John Willison is the editor, spoke of Mr. Bradbury as follows,—

"Another chapter has been written in the exciting story of George H. Bradbury's war on the fish trust. Mr. Bradbury, last election, emerged from Selkirk to Parliament over S. J. Jackson, who had for some time represented the constituency to the satisfaction of the Laurier Government. Mr. Bradbury's participation in public life has been one long war against this trust. He lives in Selkirk, which is at the headquarters of Lake Winnipeg, the home of the whitefish and the sturgeon. He took the part of the individual fisherman against the monopoly. Long and bitter was the fight. In 1896 he was the chosen candidate for the Conservatives of Selkirk. But the American fish trust operated to have a second convention where he was defeated through its influence, but in 1908 he was tendered the unanimous nomination of his party and elected to Parliament, and things began to look bad for the fish combine. He agitated, he asked questions, he moved for returns, and he made one of the fiercest attacks in a speech replete with facts ever made against the Fisheries Department of Canada, regarding its maladministration and practically forced the Government to name a Royal Commission to investigate the serious charges made regarding the depletion of the fisheries."

"The story of the Commission is as follows: Three Commissioners were appointed, Professor Prince, as the technical man, and two Winnipeg men, Mr. T. H. Metcalfe and Mr. D. F. Reid, who, by the way, was one of the pioneer fishermen on Lake Winnipeg. Some evidence was taken and then Mr. Metcalfe, one of the Commissioners,

was elevated to the bench, thereupon vacating his place on the Commission. Mr. J. L. Hugg, Barrister of Winnipeg, Liberal, was appointed to replace him. The reconstructed Commission heard evidence and considered the case, and came to a conclusion which they embodied in a report. As we now know these conclusions were very drastic, and supported every contention that Mr. Bradbury had made in and out of the House during the last fourteen years. The report is a triumph for Mr. Bradbury after his persistent campaign for many years."

The Stonewall "Gazette".

The "Stonewall Gazette" in 1913 referred to Mr. Bradbury as follows,—

"Mr. George H. Bradbury, M.P., has the valuable faculty of compelling public attention to public wrongs. His career in Parliament has been marked by his devotion to the interests of his constituents. That has always enlisted the sympathy of the people in the **righting of their wrongs**. In the matter of the St. Peter's Indian Reserve, and the fisheries of Lake Winnipeg, he has forced action and relief. And he has now once again compelled the busy Parliament to attend to another great public need. His bill to prevent pollution of navigable streams has been given prominence by order of the Government, and amid the thanks of members on both sides of the House, it has been referred to a select special committee to make a full investigation."

"As Mr. Bradbury well pointed out the subject is of paramount importance to the health and lives of the people of Canada. Mr. Bradbury is acting in the real interests of those he represents when he seeks a remedy for these conditions and his action should enlist the sympathy and support of all public patriots regardless of party affiliation."

The same paper on October 29th, 1914, referring to the opening of the Marine Railway at Selkirk, stated,—

"The opening of the new Selkirk Dry Dock 1st Thursday by Mr. George H. Bradbury, M.P., is another indication of the interest exhibited by the representative of Selkirk for the welfare of his constituency. Few members, if any, of the Dominion Parliament **spent more time investigating and working out the problems of the county they represent**, and none have accomplished more tangible results. To Mr. Bradbury's initiative must be attributed in no small measure the drainage policy of this province which has reclaimed so much of the otherwise swamp land."

"Hundreds of homesteaders all over the county testify to the personal and sympathetic interest that he has always shown to the problems confronting them. Stonewall in particular, has to thank him for the fine new Post Office just being completed. Political foes, like Dr. Ross and the Hon. E. H. G. Hay of Rockwood, join in these tributes to Mr. Bradbury's energy in this connection."

"The following extract from an editorial in The "Winnipeg Telegram," will be read with deep interest:

"The completion of the Marine Railway at Selkirk by the Dominion Government marks a new phase of the transportation development in Northern Manitoba. The tremendous significance of this work is strikingly illustrated in the remark of Mayor Deacon, of Winnipeg: 'It will take several years for the whole significance of

this work of the development of Lake Winnipeg navigation, which your energetic member, Mr. Bradbury, has so long advocated and championed to become entirely apparent, but sooner or later I firmly believe that the lower end of Lake Winnipeg will be connected by rail with the Hudson's Bay Railway." "

"Credit for this splendid project must be given to Mr. George H. Bradbury, M.P., for Selkirk constituency. To his tireless efforts in conceiving, championing and at all times urging the enterprise, its construction is due. Having endured the hardships of the pioneer, Mr. Bradbury was specially equipped to serve the constituency of Selkirk. Probably no man in Parliament has done so much to help the homesteaders since 1908 as Mr. Bradbury. Among his notable achievements on the floor of the House was his able exposition of the Reciprocity Pact, when he exposed that measure in one of the most brilliant and useful speeches made on the subject. Mr. Bradbury is looked upon as one of the coming men in public life to-day." "

Some of the Services which Mr. Bradbury has rendered the people of Selkirk County and of Canada.

The foregoing newspaper commendations are in themselves sufficient to satisfy and confound the most exacting critic, but it is just as well here to enumerate a few of the many services which Mr. Bradbury has rendered the people of Selkirk County.

The Channel at the Mouth of the Red River.

For years tens of thousands of dollars have been wasted annually endeavouring to keep a channel open from the river into the Lake. Through Mr. Bradbury's energetic and practical efforts there is to-day a channel ten feet deep and three hundred feet wide, piled on both sides with a double row of piling filled in between with stone and extending from the shore into the Lake some twelve hundred yards. There are also two up-to-date lighthouses on the shore which makes this channel absolutely safe day or night. This fine work has cost in the neighborhood of one hundred thousand dollars, but all will admit it is money well spent. MR. BRADBURY DID IT.

The Marine Railway at Selkirk.

This much-needed improvement would never have been secured had it not been for the powerful influence of Mr. Bradbury. The work cost one hundred thousand dollars and it is one of the finest on the continent. To the shipping trade developing on Lake Winnipeg and the Red River it is of immense importance and will prove a lasting benefit to the town of Selkirk, where in the future, repairs to all boats plying on the river or lake will have to be made. When this Railway was opened on the 20th of October last, Liberals and Conservatives alike acknowledged this great service of the member for Selkirk.

The Extension of the C. P. R. Gimli Branch.

This is a particularly striking example of Mr. Bradbury's influence at Ottawa. Some years ago a deputation headed by no less a person than Sir Rodmond Roblin, Premier of Manitoba, was told by the late Sir William White, at that time president of the C.P.R., and Mr. George Bury, now General Manager of the C.P.R., that there was nothing to justify this extension and that consequently, they

would not recommend it to the Board. Mr. Bradbury was then appealed to by the then local member, Mr. Baldwinson and by the present local member, Mr. Thorlvsen, who was then Reeve of Bifrost municipality, to assist them in getting this extension. Mr. Bradbury took the matter up in his usual energetic manner. He went to Montreal and laid the matter before Sir Thomas Shanghnessy, and after considerable trouble secured the promise that this extension would be built. The result of this visit is apparent. To-day the road is in operation and is proving a great convenience to the whole district. Again, MR. BRADBURY DID IT.

The Friend of the Homesteader.

Mr. Bradbury, since his first election in 1908, has taken a deep interest in the Homesteader and in providing these pioneers on the land with good roads and proper drainage. Hundreds of people in different parts of the county are able to-day to testify to his splendid efforts in this respect. Through the Gimli and Komarno districts especially, where the country was unfit for human habitation, to-day largely through Mr. Bradbury's efforts this territory has been drained and good roads run through the greater portion of it. No representative has ever devoted half so much time or energy in the interests of the Homesteader as has Mr. Bradbury. The Homesteader never appeals to him in vain for assistance, if it is in his power to render it.

The Laurier Reciprocity Pact.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced in 1911 his determination to enter into a Reciprocity Pact with United States, Mr. Bradbury was the first Western member to denounce this proposal in the House of Commons. As the "Winnipeg Telegram" fittingly observed at the time, "Mr. Bradbury, in one of the most brilliant speeches made on this question, opposed the proposed Pact, claiming and proving by figures and facts, that if adopted it would ruin the market gardeners and farmers of Canada and destroy the great work that had been accomplished by Canada during forty years of struggle and sacrifice. This speech made a good impression on the House and in the country and demonstrated that the member from Selkirk was one of the strong men in Canadian public life."

On his return to Winnipeg after that memorable session, Mr. Bradbury's constituents tendered him one of the finest and most largely attended banquets ever held in the Royal Alexandra Hotel. At this complimentary gathering his work in the House of Commons was eulogized by a number of prominent speakers, among them the Hon. Dr. Montague, who said, that he had never witnessed a greater tribute paid to any private member than the one that was being paid to Mr. Bradbury on that occasion. At this banquet Mr. Bradbury received from his constituents a beautiful illuminated address and a magnificent gold watch in recognition of the great service he had rendered to the country.

The Fisheries of Manitoba.

This is a question in which Mr. Bradbury had taken a deep interest many years before he entered Parliament, but it was his illuminating speech in the House of Commons and his untiring efforts to protect the Manitoba fisheries that finally bore fruit. That the fisheries of the province are to-day in a prosperous condition is entirely due to Mr. Bradbury, and it is owing to his efforts that they are now controlled and managed entirely by British subjects and

that the profits go into the pockets of Canadians instead of Americans as was the case for many years heretofore.

The St. Peter's Indian Reserve.

It is in connection with this question that Mr. Bradbury's name will probably be most permanently associated in Canadian political history. The St. Peter's Indian Reserve scandal was one of the worst of the many which disgraced the regime of the late Liberal Administration. Mr. Bradbury, immediately he entered Parliament, became the champion of these poor ignorant and defenceless Indians who had neither money or votes to give him in their turn. In a speech that is acknowledged by members of the House of Commons to have been one of the best argumentative speeches ever delivered in that chamber mercilessly exposed this disgraceful transaction and proving beyond all possibility of refutation that the Indian Department under the late Government had, through bribery and deceit secured the surrender of the valuable land comprising the St. Peter's Indian Reserve adjoining the town of Selkirk. Through the connivance of Government officials and Liberal party heelers real estate sharks were permitted to fleece the Indians out of their private holdings. Lands worth immense sums were by these methods secured for a few paltry dollars. The men who engineered this surrender were powerful financially and made the most strenuous efforts to head off Mr. Bradbury's exposure. Inducements, which to most men, would have been exceedingly attractive were offered him and when these failed threats were indulged in. Both, however, failed to deter Mr. Bradbury from his determination that justice must be done these Indians. The member for Selkirk chose to defend the weak though in so doing he knew he was making bitter enemies of powerful individuals and interests who, so long as they live or exist will seek at any cost to defeat him. Mr. Bradbury is confident that these efforts will be unavailing for he has entire faith in his constituents that they will recognize in the future as in the past the great service he has rendered his country.

An agitation has been going on recently for the apparent purpose of injuring Mr. Bradbury, politically. It is just as well that people who are not directly interested in these Reserves Lands should be made aware of the fact. The speculators involved in this notorious transaction are evidently attempting to deceive the people of the country. Their chestnuts are in the fire and they want the people to pull them out, thereby assisting to make hundreds of thousands of dollars out of these Indian lands and incidentally, out of the people, who, after all, would have to foot the bill by paying taxes to feed and care for the Indians who have been robbed of their valuable reserve.

Approaches to the St. Andrews Dam.

The bridge over the dam which was built at a cost of two hundred thousand dollars, stood for two years useless owing to the fact that no approaches had been constructed. The Laurier Government refused to build them, claiming that it was the municipalities interested who should bear the cost which was estimated at \$90,000. Mr. Bradbury on several occasions pointed out to the then Liberal Government that it was quite impossible for the municipalities concerned to provide this amount of money. After two years of hard fighting he succeeded in inducing the late Administration to authorize the work, but this was only done on the eve of the election of 1911. When the present Government came into power nothing had been

done, but Mr. Bradbury taking the opportunity of having his friends in office soon had the work quickly completed. The bridge is to-day a great accommodation to thousands of people. Mr. Bradbury has also had the banks of the river fronting on the dam graded and the roadway broadened out. The river bank along by St. Andrew's Church has also been rip-rapped, to prevent the banks from washing away.

Other Things Accomplished by Mr. Bradbury.

Two magnificent fish hatcheries have been built on Lake Winnipeg with the capacity of 150,000,000 whitefish and 10,000,000 of pickereel annually.

Docks have been provided at Gull Harbour, Victoria Beach, Dauphin River, Selkirk and Gimli.

Protection work and a refuge harbour have been constructed at Gimli.

A magnificent stone Post Office has been erected at Stonewall.

At Selkirk has been built one of the finest steel cruisers that is to be found in any of the Canadian waters. This boat is to supply the hatcheries with spawn and is to act as fishery patrol boat. This and the marine Railway and other Government works at Selkirk have provided employment for a large number of men during the past summer and winter.

Looking After the Poor Settler.

The following are the closing words of a splendid speech on the War Budget, March 9th, 1915, by Mr. Bradbury:—

“In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me add just a word in regard to the distribution of seed grain in the West. It has been a great boon to the farmers.

“I desire to say to the Government that I believe they could extend their activities along the line of assisting farmers in the northern part of Manitoba, and I suppose the same condition prevails in other provinces. We have a large acreage of very difficult land that is settled by thousands of people. In the northern part of my constituency I suppose I have 15,000 or 20,000 people settled on land that is very difficult to bring under cultivation. I have suggested to my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Roche), and I do it again here from my place in the House, that some active assistance should be given to districts of this kind in the matter of cultivation. I claim that the Government could very well devise some means by which a certain acreage on each of the homesteads where poor people are settled could be cleared and broken up with power machines so that the people might be put in the position of becoming producers in a short time, and I believe it will pay the Government to render assistance in the way of providing stock in some of these districts. The northern part of Manitoba is a dairy proposition. We could make one of the finest dairying districts in Canada if these poor people had a start. I commend it to the serious consideration of the Government and I would ask the minister to see if it is not possible at a very early date to assist the settlers in that district in such a way as will enable them to become self-sustaining producers. Unfortunately, in some of these districts, we are forced to resort to relief work during the winter months. I hold it is a mistake to have to dole out relief, year after year, to the settlers. We ought rather try to make these people self-sustaining by giving them something

they can make a living by. By selling them a few cattle on deferred payments you would enable them to get into a position to make a livelihood and to pay back the advance in a few years. The Government would not lose one dollar on the investment and the farmers would be a great deal better off. I strongly urge this policy on the Government. Take care of the poor man, the rich can care for themselves."

BANQUET AND PRESENTATION.

In January of this year Mr. Bradbury was tendered a complimentary banquet and presentation in the town of Selkirk by his enthusiastic supporters, at which the following address was presented to him:

"We, the Conservatives of Selkirk, desire to acknowledge in some tangible way our confidence in you and our high appreciation of your splendid service, not alone to this town, which has been marked, but to the county which you have so ably represented in Parliament during the last six years. We have watched with pride your conduct in and out of the House of Commons on questions that affected the Dominion and the Empire as a whole. We assure you that your sterling integrity has won you a warm place in the hearts of the people and has left its mark in the public life of this country. Even your political enemies are not slow in acknowledging the great services which you have rendered."

"When the time comes that we are called upon to rally round the party flag, you can count on a splendid support from this district, and among your supporters will be found many life-long Liberals, who recognize your unselfish and patriotic service to the county and to the Dominion."

This address was signed by a large number of prominent residents of Selkirk County.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SELKIRK COUNTY CONSERVATIVE EXECUTIVE.

"We the Conservative Executive, for the County of Selkirk, appeal to the electors regardless of political leaning to support Mr. Bradbury, whose splendid record entitles him to the support of all classes in this great country."

(Sgd.) ALEX. McRAE,
Chairman.

