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THE POLITICAL MEANING OF THE FARMERS' MOVEMENT

Stunts at the Kiwanis Club Were Good—An Interesting Address Was Delivered By J. Courtland Elliott.

The weekly luncheon of the Kingston Kiwanis Club, held in the Frontenac Hotel on Monday was featured by an excellent address by J. Courtland Elliott on "The Political Significance of the Western Farmers' Movement." There were the usual stunts during the rally call when Kiwanians Newman, Ponsford, W. J. Keeley, Jr., "Billy" Mills and "Bill" Moore were fined. The following guests were introduced: R. Chown, Saskatoon; W. G. Cates, House of Commons Press Gallery, Ottawa; and Walter Steacy, Garnet Lockett asked permission to sing a solo and revealed a remarkably fine voice.

Allen Lemmon, of the firm of Lemmon & Sons, dealers in hardware, stoves, tinware, heating engineers and plumbers, put on the boost and was introduced by President Frank Hoag, who gave a glowing testimonial to Kiwanian Lemmon who was well known in business circles, in fraternal organizations and the Board of Education of which he is chairman. Mr. Lemmon's liberality was shown in the very fine prizes provided. The winners were W. J. Keeley, C. C. Folger, Ambrose Shea, James Sowards and H. T. Hughes.

In introducing the speaker, President Frank Hoag said that Mr. Elliott had won honors in the Paris scholarship and referred to the Paris scholar in "Economics" recently awarded to him by the government of Saskatchewan. The speaker was warmly received by the Kiwanians and in rising Mr. Elliott expressed his warm appreciation of the invitation to be present and to address the club upon a subject that had come under his personal observation during the past two years.

Mr. Elliott claimed no special competence to deal with the complexities of western politics but stated that there were some implications which might not be wholly appreciated in Eastern Canada. The most thrilling moment of his stay in the west had been at the great Grain Growers' convention in Saskatoon when two thousand prairie dwellers, representatives of over 80,000 members of the Grain Growers' Association, laid their plans for the day of triumph for the masses who toiled and sweated under the western sun. He recalled the feeling that had crept over him that this was a modern repetition of the day over 700 years ago when the barons of England presented their Magna Charta before the feet of King John and demanded freedom before vassalage.

No longer satisfied with things as they are, no longer adherents of this orthodox party or that the farmers were seeking to lay down the basic principles that should guide the Canadian democracy and asking the endorsement of the sovereign people. In combining for mutual aid and protection the western farmers were bringing about an evolutionary process in our political system.

"Today we are on the brink of great developments," said Mr. Elliott. "We are at the point where radical views are asserting themselves and in my humble estimation the Western farmers are countenancing an idea, good or bad, which must produce vast changes in our political system. Still unperceived in its fundamental aspects a political evolution is surely developing in Canada and, unless circumstances are changed before the next election, the standard bearers of two great systems of democracy will be leading their forces into action. Representative democracy is today on the defense and the forces of functional or direct democracy are the aggressors in a political struggle which ultimately must be fought upon the battleground of the ballot boxes."

Continuing Mr. Elliott remarked that the manifestations of these new tendencies were merely a part of a world-wide trend towards the fuller realization of economic democracy. The 19th century had seen the forces of political democracy achieve their purposes in the granting of the franchise to the people; the 20th century must be the stamping ground for the fulfillment of economic democracy and the Western farmers are in the

vanguard of the movement. Hemmed in by the economic restrictions of their position, tariff levies, high freight rates, losses on the selling prices of their produce, variable climate, unbearable interest rates on borrowed money and so forth, the farmers had rapidly come to the opinion that representative political democracy is more impressive as a term than as a fact and that the mere counting of noses at election time would not in reality satisfy the longings and aspirations of the great mass of men and women who are today actively seeking the improvement of their material surroundings and this latter desire was at the basis of the farmers' movement.

In Canada the conflict is between those who resist change in our system of political representation and those who are seeking to accelerate its development, perhaps unconsciously, into a more modern system attuned to the economic conditions of modern life. Functional government, that is representation based upon occupation rather than upon geographical locality, is merely the next step in political development, and it would follow naturally from the present system which, though ostensibly responsible to the people, had in history sometimes had no connection after a term in office in representing merely itself or the most influential organized class of citizens who dominate the lobby.

Under repressive economic and political conditions therefore the farmers had united with the grain growers' local might give a greater sense of security to an individual, helpless beyond the phantom power of the ballot, than the most capable general representative in parliament who was not a grain grower. The outstanding political development of the day was the formation of groups and it was from these groups arising out of economic conditions that representatives would be chosen.

The voter would then have an obligation not only to the state but also to his group.

This development was presaged by the agrarian movement and it had potentialities of good or evil. "Born of the economic conditions under which the Western farmer lives," said Mr. Elliott, "cradled in the indignation of those who saw little improvement achieved under the system of representative government in vogue the political organization of the West is today approaching a sturdy manhood when the path of future progress must be chosen."

On the one hand the movement might degenerate into mere selfishness expressing the class-conscious desires of the agrarian group in the West, a functional organization built upon the shifting sands of greed and gluttony. On the other hand it might become a truly progressive party embracing those who are seeking a fuller expression of Liberal principles than has been promised by the orthodox parties. No one could predict the certain lines of progress. Certainly it was here to stay and as such it must be understood.

In Canada, the speaker thought, there was more to unite us than there was to divide us. Organization for the promotion of common welfare was agreed to be a good thing but every measure and purpose should be justified from the standpoint of general welfare and not petty interests and base desires. Looking at the movement from this point of view the speaker did not believe that the farmers' movement was necessarily incompatible with good government. If it meant merely the division of the house against itself, if it meant the division of society into petty organizations for the purpose of fighting each other it would be condemned and justly so.

However, Mr. Elliott did not think the farmers' party could be claimed yet as a selfish organization and he was of the opinion that the various groups and classes in the country had interests so much in common that the plea of unity would always exercise a powerful influence.

"If the farmers' movement means

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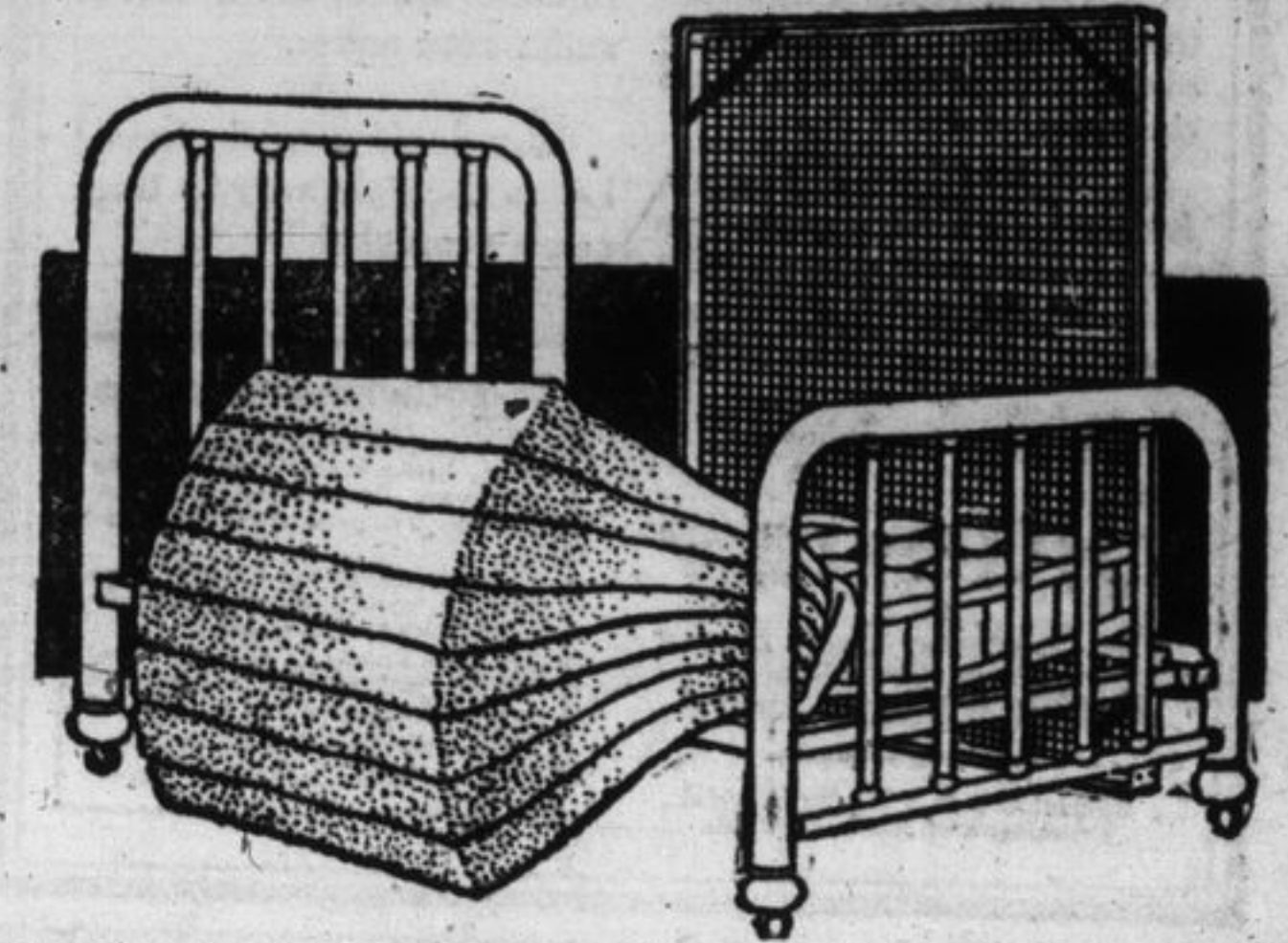
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a better and a fuller life for all the people, if there is really altruism behind it let us consider the professions of leaders for what they are worth, let us try to understand the conditions which have given rise to it and finally let us not forget that it has potentialities for good or evil. Its future depends upon its leaders," concluded Mr. Elliott.

At the conclusion President Frank Hoag tendered a warm vote of thanks to the speaker which was heartily applauded.

On motion of Hugh Nickle, seconded by "Bob" Bushnell, the proposals to purchase a Nordheimer piano from "Bob" Rodgers was accepted and the first installment is to be paid by the fees for two luncheons which will be foregone. Elmer Davies read a letter from the Montreal Kiwanis Club inviting the members to a special meeting to be held there on August 25th. George Brownlee announced that the Ottawa club would send its baseball team to Kingston for a game either on July 30th or August 1st. Kiwanian Mills announced that there would be a big convention of the Grand Priory of Knight Templars held in Kingston shortly and asked for assistance in entertaining the delegates.

Cheese Sales.
St. Hyacinthe, Que., 400 at 22 1-2c.
Victoriaville, Que., 1,700 at 22 3-8c.
Belleville, 1,020 at 23 1-16c.
Cornwall, 2,124 at 23 1-2c.
London, 270 boarded, 22 7-8c offered; no sales.
Iroquoia, 755 at 23 3-8c.

Work on New Highway.
Smith's Falls, July 19.—Work has commenced on the Kingston-Ottawa Provincial Highway within the municipality of Smith's Falls, resulting from an interview between Mayor Code and Hon. F. C. Biggs in Toronto recently.

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88 PRINCESS STREET—IN TREADGOLD'S "REAL WORK—That's all we can offer you."

Horse's Kick Fatal.
Pembroke, Ont., July 19.—Gerard Tierney, aged nine, son of W. Tierney, of Allumette Island, who was kicked by a horse last Friday, died in the hospital at Pembroke.

Mary Kane, aged seventeen, of Windsor, was drowned in Detroit River.
The proposed duty on crude oil was struck out of the Fordney tariff bill by a vote of the U.S. congress.

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THE NORDHEIMER PIANO has proved itself worthy of the confidence bestowed upon it by its purchasers. It has brought melody into many of Canada's finest homes—it has afforded highest musical enjoyment to its owners and their friends. Many years have rolled by since the House of Nordheimer conceived the ideal of a piano that would yield the greatest possible tone value, grow richer with right use, resist the changes of atmosphere and the passing of time.

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TWICE TOLD TALES

News of Kingston

TEN YEARS AGO.
D.R.S. Frederick Etherington, C. M. Crawford and John N. M. Gardiner passed their final examinations of the Ontario Medical Council. John J. McDermott passed the primary examination.

Hon. William Harty was elected president of the Canadian Locomotive Company.

Cheese sold at 11 3-4 cents on the Frontenac Cheese Board today. There was boarded 967 boxes of colored cheese and 210 boxes of white.

Rev. Dr. MacTavish will resign the pastorate of Cook's Presbyterian church and accept the position of secretary of the Ontario Temperance Alliance.

There was a wild storm on the lake today. Vessels had to run in for shelter.

Prof. Gummer of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Quebec, has been appointed assistant professor in mathematics at Queen's University.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.
The hay crop will be light in this district.

Robert Miller, carter, was throwing hay into loft when his foot slipped and he fell on the floor. His limb was broken.

Guard George McAuley, of the Portsmouth penitentiary had a narrow escape from being seriously injured. He tried to board a street car near the city park and fell on the ground. His hand was badly cut.

Two Napanee wheelmen astride a tandem arrived here today, to attend the circus.

Major L. W. Shannon, of the 14th P.W.O.R. has resigned his commission in the regiment.

Walter L. Main's circus was in Kingston today and was attended by a record crowd.

A small cyclone swept across Wolfe Island today, uprooting trees and doing considerable damage.