

United Farmers of Ontario Convention

Marked Progress Reported—Clear Indication that Ontario Farmers Realize Importance of Co-operating for Economic Freedom—Company Doing a Million Dollar Business.

Between 500 and 600 delegates were in attendance at the convention of the United Farmers of Ontario, held in Toronto two weeks ago. An increase for the year of 4,000 members and 115 clubs were reported. The convention throughout was characterized by a bold, courageous, self-reliant and zealous spirit such as was not in evidence to the same extent in former conventions. The president's address, containing sentiments and giving expression to suggestions that would not be tolerated in any recent farmers' gatherings in the east, was received with the strongest marks of approval, while other addresses having the same spirit of self-confidence and the desire for action received similar sympathetic endorsement from the convention. The report of the United Farmers' Co-operative Co. revealed that during the year over \$1,000,000 worth of business was transacted. The key-note of the organization was: "Farmers, organize. Get together and do your own business. Your business is to take your place in the public affairs of the nation."

R. H. Halbert, in his presidential address, stated that he misjudged the intelligence and motive power of his

audience if the dawn of a brighter day was not in sight for agriculturists, the day when agriculturists representing not only the back-bone but also the brains of the Empire would sit in greater numbers in our legislative halls, and the farmers through them would have a say in getting a square deal in making the laws that are placed upon the statute books.

Mr. Halbert strongly objected to the farmers of Ontario not being taken into the confidence of the government in regard to the hog production campaign.

"Our organization has, during the past year, been most outrageously ignored by the powers that be," he said. "As your president I have felt very keenly, and no doubt you all have, some of the slaps in the face which our organization has received, especially when we are told by some of the men who are enjoying a fat living on our money that we, 12,000 members of our organization, are too small and insignificant to be recognized. Still a few millionaires in this city can name the men and have them appointed to the cabinet. Government by the people has become a myth. The real rulers of Canada and

the Canadian parliaments are the lorded and the knighted members of combines, manufacturers, associations and transportation companies. Through their system of ruling there has grown up a band of autocrats who bend parliaments and legislations to their own despotic will and in their own selfish interests. The result is that today we are loaded down with a whole menagerie of white elephants causing a loss of millions annually in the operation of our basic industry of agriculture for the benefit of the combines. The farmers are the only class that will not break the chains of party bondage for their own benefit and they compose the only class whose industry is taxed for the benefit of the special privileged interests. So long as we remain so the interests will control."

Later in the convention President Halbert charged that detectives had been at the previous day's convention and that they had thought to injure the new movement and particularly to prevent the organized farmers and the labor organizations from coming together.

Secretary J. J. Morrison reported that while a year ago the association had had 200 subordinate organizations and 8,000 members affiliated with the central body, this year he had to report 313 subordinate bodies with 12,000 members. This increase was effected in 10 months, and these the poorest of

the year for propaganda work. Referring to the possibility of an increase in freight rates, Mr. Morrison said that the increase would be nearly \$40,000,000 a year in transportation charges, and most of that increase would fall on farmers. The question of increasing the membership fee to \$1.00 was also discussed by Mr. Morrison.

Western Representatives

Roderick McKenzie and John Kennedy brought fraternal greetings from the organized farmers of the prairies. Mr. Kennedy said that the most cheering news that he could take back to the west was that the United Farmers of Ontario had increased their membership by 50 per cent. in a year. "We realize," he said, "that we need the help of the organized farmers of Ontario in fighting for the common interests of east and west. Our united strength will be necessary if we are to hold our own in the struggle that is just ahead. The great corporations have already united for the purpose of seeing that neither during or after the war are conditions so changed as to prevent the chief financial burden of the war from falling on the farmers and wage earners of this country."

Production Falling Off

"Farmers are working 14 hours a day and yet production is falling off. Why? Because the rural population has declined by 30, 50, and in some cases to the extent of 70 per cent," said E. H. Stonehouse, president of the Toronto Milk Producers' Association. "As farmers we feel the serious nature of the situation, because we understand that situation as others do not understand it. We are not asking for exemption from military service as a class. We realize that our blood is no more sacred than that of others. But we do feel that food production in Canada is as necessary to the winning of the war as service in the trenches in France. To take one skilled laborer from the farm means adding one more to the body of consumers. It does more. It removes from the land one who is in a position to provide food for six or eight others as well as himself."

"If we are to produce food to the limit, not only must we be allowed to retain skilled labor on the farm, but we must have a system of registration under which labor can be placed where needed—under which non-essential industries will be closed and more labor provided for industries which are essential."

Farmers' Platform Again Endorsed

Approval of the Farmers' National Platform was reaffirmed and the Dominion government was asked, as a means of increasing production, to remove the duty from agricultural machinery, implements and clover seed. The convention also appointed a committee to consider the advisability of establishing an official organ. In the election of officers, Mr. Halbert was re-elected president and E. C. Drewery vice-president. The following directors were re-elected out of 16 nominees: W. A. Amos, Palmerston; Peter Porter, Burford; H. V. Hoover, Belleville; A. J. McCrea, Glengarry; T. H. Adams, Essex; Thos. McMillan, Seaford; J. J. Morrison, Toronto, secretary.

Before adjournment the farmers present subscribed to over 125 shares of stock in the co-operative company.

Farmers' Company Expanding

"In the first whole year of our organization our business amounted to \$226,000; the next year to \$410,385; while this year, which is not yet complete, we have passed the \$1,000,000 mark," said B. C. Tucker, president of the United Farmers' Co-operative Company, the trading end of the farmers' movement. L. C. Blatchford, the manager of the company, stated that the united farmers organized for the purpose of bringing the farmers together, providing the medium through which business is done, the company providing in a large part the sinews of war by which the work of organization is promoted and maintained. Mr. Tucker claimed that the market branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture appeared hostile to the farmers' movement. The district representatives, however, showed earnest sympathy, and this feeling of sympathy should be developed.

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for **\$72.00**

LADIES' HUDSON SEAL COAT—42 inches in length, extra full skirt, made from carefully selected skins, beautifully matched, lining of brocade silk or brocade satin, has large storm collar, some have outside pockets and fancy inside pockets. These coats are extra good value. Regular **\$180.00**
\$200.00, for

NATURAL WOLF SET—Animal shaped scarf, extra quality fur, medium size pillow-shaped muff, lined throughout and beautifully finished with soft grey silk. Set complete, Regular \$45.00, for **\$36.00**

RED FOX SET—Made from very choice Australian Red Fox skins. The stole is animal shape, lined throughout, extra quality grey satin, large shape melon muff to match, with head and tail. Set complete, regular **\$42.50**, for **\$35.00**

LADIES' FUR SETS

LADIES' MINK SETS—Made from fine Eastern Mink; stole is shaped style made from six natural skins and trimmed with tails. Muff is six-skin pillow muff, reversible style. Set complete \$125.00, for **\$100.00**

AMERICAN GREY OPPOSSUM SET—Stole is the animal style, trimmed with head, tail and paws, muff to match, melon or pillow style. At regular price \$36.00 set, selling for **\$27.50**

NATURAL WOLF SET—Animal shaped scarf, extra quality fur, medium size pillow shaped muff, lined throughout and beautifully finished with soft grey silk. Set complete, regular \$45.00, for **\$36.00**

NATURAL RACCOON SETS—Includes curved animal scarf with natural trimming and lined with hard-wearing grey satin. Muff comes in melon style. These skins are undyed and give no end of service. Price for set, regular \$45.00, for **\$36.00**

MEN'S NATURAL HAIR BEAVER COATS—Made from extra fine dark skins, lining of Skinner's guaranteed satin, extra large collar. This coat is made from the finest of Beaver skins and in every way a high class garment. Regular \$350.00, for **\$280.00**

MEN'S PLUCKED BEAVER COATS—These garments are made from carefully selected northern beaver skins with extra large collar and lined throughout with best quality Skinner's guaranteed satin, 50 inches in length. Regular \$350.00, for **\$280.00**

MEN'S FUR COATS

MEN'S FUR LINED COAT—Oxford grey melton cloth, lining of finest quality Canadian muskrat, has a beautiful shawl collar of natural otter, dark in color. Price regular **\$150.00**, for **\$120.00**

MEN'S RACCOON COAT—Selected full-furred and nicely matched skins, made with extra large collar, lined throughout with good quality quilted Farmer satins, all sizes 50 ins. long. Regular \$225.00, for **\$180.00**

MEN'S AUSTRALIAN COON COATS—Made from full prime skins and perfectly matched, dark grey in color, with large shawl collar, lined throughout with quilted sateen. Extra good value. Regular **\$85.00**, for **\$68.00**

MEN'S PERSIAN LAMB CAPS \$12.50 to \$22.50 for \$8.40 to \$18.00.

MEN'S OTTER CAPS \$25.00 to \$45.00 for \$20.00 to \$35.00.

MEN'S ALASKA SEAL CAPS \$25.00 to \$40.00 for \$20.00 to \$32.00.

MEN'S HUDSON SEAL CAPS \$10.00 to \$18.00 for \$8.00 to \$14.40.

MEN'S MUSKRAT CAPS \$5.00 to \$10.50 for \$4.00 to \$8.40.

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