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On The Hog

TWO WEEKS SPENT AMONG THE UNIONS

By E. J. FREAM, Secretary R.F.A.

Starting from here on Monday, June 6, the days have sped by with remarkable rapidity and a number of Unions have been visited. It is a great pleasure to meet the members in their own districts and to find in every case the greatest enthusiasm being displayed. Everywhere it is to be found a spirit of unanimity and progress and each member is determined to keep the name of the U. F. A. to the front. All are of the opinion that good work has been done and that we are just at the dawn of our greatest activity. In every union this spirit was found and the members are all determined that no stone shall remain unturned to double the membership. Such encouragement is flattering.

Now for the trip. Having been invited by the live stock commissioner to assist in securing signatures to the pork packing plant agreements it is natural that my work should have been "on the hog." The first meeting was billed for Alix, and owing to a change in the train service was an hour late in starting. The meeting was a most enthusiastic one, and the chairman, Col. Marryat, did the honors in splendid style. We also had the pleasure of a lady in the audience, and more than that she gave a contract in support of the plant. Several guarantees were received, and at the close of the meeting and at the request of the chairman, some time was spent in describing the work now being undertaken by the U. F. A.

Directly after the meeting closed it was necessary to drive to Content, for the meeting of Great Bend Union that evening. Our drive was marred by a heavy thunderstorm, luckily for us the only one on the trip. The members of Great Bend are mostly in the cattle business, but their sympathies are with this scheme and they will get busy and secure further guarantees in their district.

Returning to Content for the night we then secured an early start on Tuesday morning for Cumberland school house, stopping on the way to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. Smith, the president of Cumberland Union, at noon. Cumberland is one of the few Unions which on their own initiative took up the pork packing contract and secured signatures for same. On this account not very many were received at the meeting. Here we also were encouraged by the presence of a lady, who gave a contract to support the plant. The members of Cumberland Union organized themselves and are very energetic. They intend to be heard from at all times, and do not intend to let the grass grow under their feet.

The next meeting was billed for Trenville, which is situated about nineteen miles south and east of Cumberland, and it was in attempting to reach there that our troubles started. While the writer was busy with his talk the driver was receiving instructions on how to cut off about six miles on the length of the journey. The informant stated it would be necessary to open a lumber of gates, but the trail was good and we could not mistake the way. As one of the horses was not in extra good shape the advice was taken and we started off on this short cut. The gates were there and we opened them by the score, but that did not matter as we were cutting down the length of the journey. Shortly after six we reached a ranch which had been described to us

and where we had been informed that we should be able to secure instructions for the balance of the journey. The instructions were secured and on being asked the distance from Trenville our informant said six miles. We followed the trail, recognized the land marks described, saw the grade of the G. T. P. line to Calgary, and at 7.30 arrived at another ranch. The six miles seemed long to us, so we secured further instructions and found that we were on the right trail to Trenville, but still six miles away. We came to the conclusion that six was the limit in that section of the country. Well, we drove, and drove, and the team was getting more and more tired, but still Trenville did not loom on the horizon. The driver said it couldn't for the trees. At 8.30 we were on a better trail and eventually reached a ranch and ascertained that we were still over three miles from our destination. The team was evidently discouraged and it took about forty minutes to make the three miles, and then our dismay could be imagined when we found that the hall was four

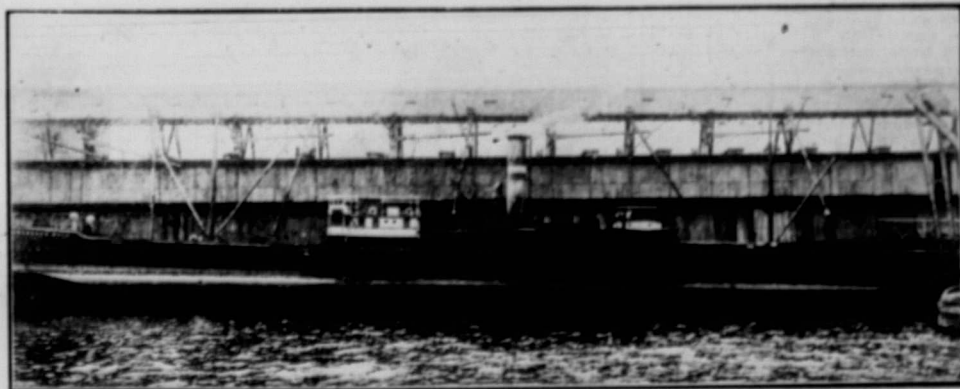
Everyone seemed greatly disappointed at the turn affairs had taken and the result was that arrangements were made for another visit there on June 21, when the members hope for better luck.

The program called for the fording of the river near Trenville and then going to Ewing. This was found impossible, however, as the Red Deer River did not seem to be in a very good humor, so we left Trenville store at six a.m. on Wednesday for the bridge at Content. We were back at Content in time for breakfast and securing a fresh horse started again south and east for Ewing. At 4 p.m. we were informed that we were just two miles from Ewing, and we reached that spot at four, only to find we had still three miles south to travel. It may seem peculiar that we were over two hours in travelling two miles but the answer is, we were given the wrong trail, and after considerable driving arrived at a house in the hills which is without doubt the largest farm house in Alberta. It stands three stories high and covers a large tract of ground. Here we asked the way again.

him for the night, as the day had been both long and strenuous. Bidding farewell to Mr. Clays on Thursday morning we were at Mr. Kinnear's in plenty of time, and after accepting his invitation we went to the school house and had a very good meeting. From Maple Leaf, Mr. G. W. Lohr, secretary of Prairie Centre Union, drove us home, and entertained us in royal style, taking us to the school house for the meeting and back again at the close. In spite of the fact that a large new barn was being "warmed" with a good old time dance, the attendance was splendid, being the largest at any meeting on the trip, and the members were just filled up with the biggest and best kind of enthusiasm. Of course several signatures were received and the president laid special emphasis on the need of the co-operation and assistance of all members.

The members of Prairie Centre Union are exceedingly energetic. They are now completing arrangements for the erection of a farmers' telephone line, which will connect them with Erskine and will also place themselves in connection with each

GRAIN GROWERS AS EXPORTERS



E.S.S. "Tredgair Hall," capacity 275,000 bushels, chartered by the Grain Growers' Grain Company, with Oats from Montreal to Avonmouth, England.

miles from the post office and store. The team was done and it was useless for us to try and reach our destination with them, so we unhitched, fed and watered. The postmaster kindly gave us some supper and in the meantime a young man who had come after his mail kindly volunteered to ride to the hall and inform the members of our plight, and get the president to drive up for us. We waited till ten and then no one being in sight the writer picked up his satchel and started in the good old fashioned way to reach the school house. At eleven a team was recognized and more than this the voice of the president could be heard speaking to his horses. The members had waited at the hall till nearly eleven and then decided to pull home. Explanations were in order and it was ascertained that the young man went to the meeting but never delivered the message, stating instead that the speaker was on the road and would be there in a very short time. The members waited and when the speaker was not in sight adjourned the meeting.

We found our host was a Frenchman, who could not understand English, and we could not understand French. He was going to Ewing, however, and we followed him for awhile, only to find that we had to go right back to our starting place at two o'clock. This made us late, however, and when we reached the school house everyone had gone. We had about come to the conclusion that our evil star was following us with a vengeance, but the splendid hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Ewing put us in better trim once more, and as Mr. Clays, secretary of Union Hall Union, met us there, we had no further trouble in finding our way.

We were on time for Union Hall meeting and had a splendid one, the members being greatly interested in the project and several signatures to the contracts were secured. Mr. Kinnear, secretary of Maple Leaf Union, was also at the meeting to pilot us to his residence. We found however, that it was eleven miles there, and as it was after midnight we accepted Mr. Clays' kind offer and stayed with

other. They had requested assistance from the government in the shape of a rural line, and although the district is well settled with the best class of settlers the line was not forthcoming. Growing tired of continual delays they decided to proceed themselves at the preliminary details as now carried out. In fact, the energetic secretary of the Prairie Centre Farmers' Telephone Co., K. J. Lincoln, one of the most enthusiastic U. F. A. men in the province was kept busy at the close of the meeting taking subscriptions for the company and giving receipts for the first payment on the shares. Mr. Lincoln expects to order the first carload of poles at once, and it will not be long before the members will be able to "hello" at each other over the line.

Leaving Mr. Lohr's on Friday morning we journeyed to Lowden Lake, reaching there at noon and staying with J. H. Bradley, secretary of the union. This meeting was a very good one, and at its close, resisting the pressing offers received

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