

On The Hog

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we drove into Stettler that evening Saturday morning brought forth a day of wind, and on that account the meeting at Stettler was not so largely attended as usual, but the members know what they want and are doing good work in their district. It is their aim to have the U. F. A. reach every corner of the district and the way they are working this wish will be fulfilled. In Mr. Adair and Mr. Steele, they have an energetic president and secretary, who leave no stone unturned to keep the union to the front. Stettler took up the matter of the pork agreement some time ago, and has already sent in a large number of signed contracts. They say, however, that the last is not in sight yet, and plenty more will be forthcoming.

The members of the U. F. A. along the branch of the C. P. R. suffer great injustice and are compelled to pay most exorbitant prices for their lumber by the lumber merchants and combines, so much so, in fact, that building is greatly retarded in the district. Stettler Union is to the front with a scheme of buying direct from the mills and cutting out the middle-man entirely. The scheme is taking well and it will be only a short time until the first car of lumber ordered by the members of Stettler Union will have been unloaded. They are also to the front with a suggestion that the executive officers of the U. F. A. arrange for a motor trip through the province some time this fall, something along the lines adopted by the Saskatchewan Grain Growers last year, as they are convinced that such a move would be of great assistance to all the unions and would result in a large increase in the membership of the U. F. A. But of this more anon.

Stettler Union will also, in conjunction with the other unions in the district, hold a monster picnic at Wall Lake on July 15. Already everything is taking shape, and a good time is anticipated. Resting at Stettler on Sunday, our journey was resumed eastward as far as Halkirk on Monday morning. Here a splendid meeting was held at the close of which we journeyed back to Gadsby, holding another good meeting there that evening. Tuesday found us at Botha, and back into Stettler for the night.

The country east of Lacombe is simply magnificent and justifies every word of praise which has been spoken about it. A big portion of it is a "steam plow" country, and the plows are at work in every direction. Before long the grain will be coming out of this district by the millions of bushels. The farmers are enthusiastic. They declare they have the best section of country on the American continent and they are showing their faith by the improvements being made on the farms. The growth of the town has to be seen to be realized, and this is especially so of the towns east of Stettler. The townships were not placed on the market till late last year. The first train was through there in October, and a complete service was not given till this year, but every eight or nine miles a fine little town will be found, and in every place the same faith in the future.

What has been said about the town is also true about the farmers. They are satisfied, and furthermore they are satisfied in their association. No one can meet a member of the U. F. A. without being convinced of this. They are working all the time for the cause, and the members visited during the last two weeks are with the U. F. A. to stay, believing they can and will do good work for the benefit of not only the farmers, but all the residents of Alberta.

Leaving Botha on Tuesday evening, we journeyed to Stettler, a drive of about nine miles, and as it was windy, with the wind in our backs, we were compelled to swallow a little more than our regulation peck of dirt. After a quiet evening at Stettler the monotony of driving was broken on Wednesday morning by a short train ride to Erskine. Getting there before ten o'clock, it afforded ample opportunity to rest up a little before the next meeting, which was called for two o'clock in the hall at Erskine. The meeting was not largely attended, but the lack of numbers was made up by the enthusiasm of those present who were all keenly interested in the pork packing project and also in the general work of the association.

After supper a pleasant half hour's drive brought us to Behrens school

house for a meeting of South Buffalo Lake Union and again the old story was repeated and the various questions of the interested members answered. Returning to Erskine for the night the journey was again resumed on Thursday morning by taking the train to Alis. This part of the journey was the most unpleasant of the whole trip, as some would-be sports who were fonder of the black bottle than of sport, made themselves so obnoxious that the conductor had to take a hand in the business and eject them from the train. Reaching Alis the journey was resumed to North Star where the largest afternoon meeting was held. From there to Hopedale for the evening which completed the trip to the east of the main line of the C. and E. On Friday the journey was resumed to Lacombe, from where a further drive was taken to Milton, and then the last meeting was held at Blindman.

On the whole the meetings were successful and considering the busy time of the year was well attended. The most encouraging sign was the interest taken in the work by the members, no matter where the meeting was held, and the sincere thought that the U. F. A. was doing excellent work, also by the encouraging hand claps and congratulations on achievements accomplished, coupled with the requests to "come again."

While the total number of hogs guaranteed is not as large as can be expected from such a vast district, yet the work is not by any means finished. At every meeting members present volunteered to act as committees to secure further signatures and already they are at work, as several extra contracts have already been secured. The work has only started in these districts, and by the end of the year they will have done their share towards making up the guarantee which has to be forthcoming before work will be started.

In conclusion I wish to convey to all these unions visited my sincere thanks for their great kindness and to assure them that their kind-words will not be forgotten.

E. J. FREEM.

CROPS DAMAGED

A Brandon wire of June 27 said: For the first time this season leading farmers admit today that the scorching heat is working injury on crops in the immediate district. The Sunday temperature was 96½ with a hot wind. Today at noon the thermometer registered 97 with a hotter wind than ever and danger of heat record for season being broken before afternoon heat is over.

Prominent farmers agree that the heat and wind are drying the land right out, and the situation is becoming alarming as there is no indication of immediate relief through rain. Supt. Murray, of the experimental farm, says the crop is coming along altogether too fast, the baking heat drying up the land at a remarkable rate. One field of wheat at the experimental farm is heading out, though only a few days ago there was no sign of such premature result. Growing crops are very badly in need of two days' rain, said Mr. Murray at noon today.

Advices from districts lying West are that the crop is looking fairly well, but that rain is badly needed.

"The heat and wind, almost unparalleled here is surely making its mark on the crop," said Peter Middleton, one of Brandon's pioneer farmers this morning. "Successive days of high temperature and burning wind is wearing down the crop, as evaporation is remarkable and the moisture has been extracted to an alarming depth. Early relief through rains would help, but there are no signs of needed moisture."

DYING BY THOUSANDS

Southern Russia is confronted with a cholera plague which rivals in horror the frightful visitations which periodically decimated Europe centuries ago. Between five and six thousand persons have been stricken, forty per cent. are dying and the scourge is sweeping across the land like wildfire. Frost alone can save the country from semi-depopulation and frost is months away. Even physicians are stricken.

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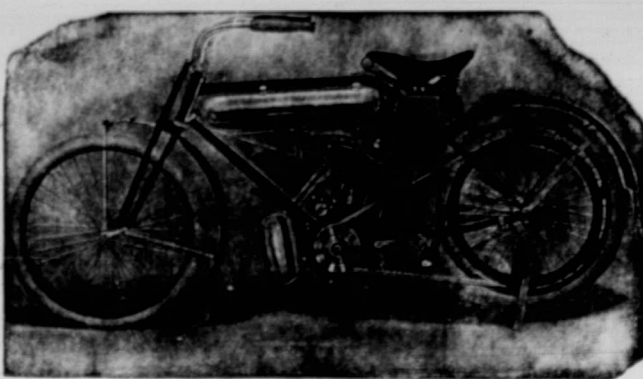
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