

# Canada's Western Farmers Start A Great Economic Revolution

BY TOM KING.

Ten years ago a scope of farmers met at Brandon, Manitoba, and organized what is now known as the "Grain Growers' Grain Company of Canada." A year later, at their second annual meeting, a very small room in Winnipeg was sufficient to accommodate all the shareholders. Today the company is one of the biggest grain companies in the world; it has ninety million bushels of wheat during the crop year ending Aug. 31, 1917; has just absorbed the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co., and will soon have something like thirty-five thousand shareholders, all of them customers, all of them boosters, and all of them eager to help in bringing about a great economic revolution. They may go into politics.

I remember when the Grain Growers' Grain Co. came to Ottawa for a parliamentary charter—I think about 1911. Some hoped that the farmers would do good; others feared they would do a great deal of harm; and probably the majority of those who thought anything about it believed the new company would be scattered by the speculators on the grain exchange, or wrecked by the signals of its financial inexperience. Even as time went by, and good reports came from the company, men in the east remained skeptical. The old dream of farmers storing, elevating and shipping their own grain from the wheat fields of England, eliminating the middleman and the speculator, and getting for the producer every dollar that his grain was worth, over and above the bare cost of transportation, seemed impossible to realize. We pictured the banks, the grain companies, and the shipping trust, eating up Mr. Farmer in the same old way. More than anything else it was feared that the farmers themselves would not have the business acumen to manage affairs involving millions of dollars. For a long time the company's ability to conduct the affairs of the company, and that they would receive the loyal and united support of the grain growers everywhere in the west.

News of the coming merger, coupled with rumors as to the great profits made by the Farmers' Co-operative Companies in the past year, however, woke many from their lethargy, and unusual interest attended upon the Grain Growers' Grain Company. Yet, even in Winnipeg there was no real grip on the situation. The people knew that something more important than usual was about to transpire, but they did not appreciate its far-reaching significance. Somehow or other the idea seemed to prevail that by weird incantations, or sleight-of-hand methods, the farmers had achieved their wonderful financial success. I was told by local newspapermen that I would not be admitted to the shareholders' meeting.

But I found no difficulty in getting in. Mr. John Kennedy, one of the directors, and a leading farmer of the west, was pleased to learn that The World had sent a man out to Winnipeg for the annual meeting and told me to go right in and speak to the president, Mr. T. A. Cramer, at the noon recess, and he promptly gave me a badge that admitted me to every meeting and a seat at the big banquet. The grain growers had nothing to hide and have nothing to be ashamed of. I certainly came away from that meeting deeply impressed.

The annual meeting was held in a big building belonging to the company, where its repository and showrooms are located. One floor had apparently been cleared of plows and harrows and other implements and fixed up for the gathering of the shareholders. Here they assembled at the appointed day and hour, probably to the number of six hundred. The great majority were men from the farms, but quite a number were women. There were all there to look after their interests and to find out just what their directors had been doing, and to speak their minds freely as occasion required.

They were by no means unanimous in favoring the merger, and perhaps a word or two about the merger may not be out of place. The Grain Growers' Grain Co. was the first in the field, and has members in all three prairie provinces. It was organized on a joint stock company basis, is not in form co-operative, and receives no assistance from any government. In Saskatchewan and Alberta co-operative elevator companies arose which were largely financed by the provincial governments. A year ago all three concerns felt that they ought, if possible, to come together, and form one company. Considerable negotiations ensued, and finally it was agreed that the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. and the Grain Growers' Grain Co. of Canada should join forces and form "The United Grain Growers' Ltd.," with an authorized capital of \$5,000,000. The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. did not join the merger, but I think will do so in the near future. There is every reason why the farmers should unite. The combined companies would constitute the largest grain company in the world, would have 80,000 shareholders, and would be almost irresistible when brought together under one management.

But you may ask me to say what the grain growers by getting together have accomplished up to date, and what more do they expect to accomplish by a still closer union.

The Grain Growers' Grain Co. of Canada has leased, purchased and built a number of elevators. It has successfully organized and operated an export company. It has greatly increased the net earnings of the farmers, while at the same time doing a profitable business for itself as a corporation. A company just ten years old, which has \$500,000 lying idle in the bank after paying a 10 per cent. dividend, and a \$100,000 tax, is not doing so bad. When it takes in, as I believe it soon will, the Saskatchewan and Alberta companies, it will control a line of interior elevators from the foot of the mountains to the

head of the lakes, and several big terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur, as well. It is buying cheaply and selling at low prices to the farmers all kinds of farm implements and machinery, including automobiles, as well as many other commodities, such as lumber, wire, salt, apples, sewing machines, and so forth. It has acquired vast timber lands in British Columbia, and will soon be sawing lumber for sale to prairie farmers. It will probably own and operate flour mills in the near future, and even manufacture agricultural implements. The New company, when it gets all the Saskatchewan people in line, and sets well under way, proposes to lead the western farmers of the middleman, once and forever.

The big merger, and the bigger merger that is yet to come, will be free from every objection that can be urged against a monopoly. It will have no watered stock. It will not unduly enhance prices, but on the contrary will reduce them. It will aim to serve, not to exploit the public. No one can become rich by joining this association, for no one person can hold more than two thousand dollars of stock, and the authorized capital is \$5,000,000. No group of men can seize the company and run it for their own advantage, because proxy voting is done away with. Groups of shareholders will elect delegates to the annual meeting, and the expenses of these delegates will be paid. Thus, the government of the concern will be in the most democratic hands, and no individual or set of individuals can speculate with its assets for their personal aggrandizement.

Already remarkable men have come to the front in these organizations who will no doubt continue to hold the confidence of the shareholders. T. A. Cramer, president and general manager of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., has proved himself to be one of the ablest financiers and business men in Canada. Hon. Chas. Dunning, who recently resigned as general manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. to become provincial treasurer of Saskatchewan, is one of the five wires of the west, and Mr. Cecil Rice Jones, head of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co., is reckoned one of the best business men in the country. All these have accomplished such wonderful results, that comment is superfluous. What their combined talents may produce in the future for uplifting the farmers of western Canada, no one can predict.

These companies, in a way, are commercial enterprises, but they aim to educate and serve the public. They are taking an active part in politics, not in the narrowest sense of that term, and their wishes are all but supreme in the provincial governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. No government in any one of these three provinces could live for an hour if the grain-growers determined upon its destruction.

In the federal field they intend to march in the middle of the road. They will not divide between the two parties, much less become an adjunct to either. Quite apart from their low tariff views they have a broad platform upon national issues to which every candidate must subscribe. Some of the old line party politicians are quite willing to get on that platform, and become independents. At the shareholders' meeting the other day Robert Cruise, Liberal M.P. for Dauphin, said to me:

W. F. Maclean ought to be here. These people like an independent man, and they are a mighty independent lot themselves.

Many in the east are inclined to look upon the grain growers as impracticable because they are demanding free trade. Of course, by free trade, they do not mean the immediate abolition of the custom house, but they do mean a radical reduction of the present tariff. Our people here should not make any mistake about the temper of the west at this point. Just now with prices high and money plentiful the west may be saying less than formerly, but it has not changed its mind. It is going to get a radical revision of the tariff downwards, or know the reason why. They own the "Grain Growers' Guide," a self-sustaining weekly magazine, ably edited by Mr. G. F. Chipman, and they may establish a paper in Ontario hereafter for the purpose of carrying on their educational propaganda. Rural credits, national currency, a national bank, which will give the government the leadership of the banking business, public ownership of public utilities, and a truly national policy on the nickel question are some of the reforms they are demanding, and as they are likely to hold the balance of power in the next house of commons, their demands are reasonably certain to meet with recognition, however reluctant, from the politicians everywhere.

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**REDUCE FOOD COURSES IN BRITISH RESTAURANTS**

London, Dec. 5.—The board of trade, under the defence of the realm act, has issued an order to the effect that after Dec. 18 no meal exceeding three courses between 6 p.m. and 9.30 p.m., or two courses at any other time, may be served in any hotel, restaurant or public place.

The announcement adds that it is proposed to issue another order at an early date forbidding both in public places and private houses the consumption on certain days of meat, poultry and game.



## What Position Will You Be In?

Here's what happens to every 100 young men at age 25, starting out in life.

When they are 65 years of age:

- 5 will be well-to-do or wealthy.
- 6 will be self-supporting, but with no other resources.
- 53 will be dependent on their children or other charity.
- 36 will be dead.

100

In the face of such overwhelming evidence, why not ensure an independent old age by carrying an Endowment Policy in the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company?

### The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company

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P.S.—Let us send you our leaflet, "Somebody Must Carry Your Risk."

**MARKHAM Township Council Grants Two Thousand to Red Cross**

The Markham Township Council at its meeting held yesterday in the Village of Unionville, voted to levy a rate on the township sufficiently large to return a net amount of \$2000 for the British Red Cross. The money will be borrowed from a local bank, and the rate spread over next year. This was supplemented by a cheque from Rev. Mr. Rae, of Unionville, for \$1000. Some progress was made toward a settlement of the claim preferred by William Goodyear, treasurer of Markham Township, whose engine went through a bridge over the Rouge River in the latter part of September. Mr. Goodyear was present at yesterday's meeting and an offer was made, but so far has not been accepted.

**ISLINGTON RECRUITING RALLY.**

British Navy Saves Canada From Hun, Says Speaker.

There was a crowded meeting at Islington last night for the 220th York Battalion recruiting rally. "Britain Freed" was shown in moving pictures. Speeches were made by E. J. Hearn, K.C., and Captain C. F. Mills, Captain H. R. Pickup was chairman. E. J. Hearn emphasized how much England had done for Canada, and declared if it were not for the British navy Canada would now be at the mercy of Germany.

**St. John's Orange Lodge Chooses New Officers**

St. John's L.O.L. met in the parish house last night and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: W.M., T. C. Thompson; D.M., Peter Goldthorpe; chaplain, Harry Bell; recording secretary, A. V. Wilson; financial secretary, R. G. Birkett; treasurer, D. Cross; director of ceremonies, A. H. Richardson; lecturers, W. W. Morton, H. Wagner; poet, E. Mann. The election was directed by Grand Officers J. H. Beamish, I. C. Woolner and Ivan Andrews.

**MOUNT DENNIS Second Anniversary of Church is Celebrated**

The second anniversary of the Mount Dennis Presbyterian Church, held last night, was very successful, more than 300 people being in attendance. The chair was occupied by Rev. Dr. McKeerrell, pastor of Victoria Church, and the concert was largely given by the choir of that church. Some of those who contributed were: Miss Gerlie Dean and Leonora Hipwell, in a piano duet; Miss Dorothy McDermott, in a recitation; Mrs. J. R. Taylor, treasurer; T. Bages and Miss D. Clarke also contributed. A clever two-act sketch given by Miss Ruby Grant, Vera Fiches, Edith and Mabel Marshall, Joan Campbell, Mary McCullough, Joan Kay, Gladys McFadden, Dorothy Howett and Elva Lillie took part.

**WESTON Council Meeting Decides to Hold Elections on Friday**

A special meeting of the Weston Town Council was held last night for the discussion of a bylaw naming Friday instead of Saturday as the date for the holding of the municipal elections for the town of Weston. The council, after a long and power discussion, adopted the following resolution: "That the bylaw giving effect to the change was adopted."

**FARM FOR SALE.**

Auction sale of farm stock, implements, hay, grain, etc., the property of Stanley Oldham, Wexford, on Dec. 7th, 1916. Let No. 8, Con. 4, East York, John Prentice, Auctioneer.

**SANITARY WASHED WIPING RAGS AND CHEESE CLOTH.**

**E. PULLAN**  
20 Maud St. Ad. 760

## ATHENS IS QUIET AFTER CONFLICT

Royalists Call Clash "Attempted Insurrection by Rowdies."

### ASPECT NOW NORMAL

Government Boasts Rebellion Has Been Checked With Great Rapidity.

Washington, Dec. 5.—A foreign office despatch received tonight from Athens by the Greek legation here says normal conditions have been restored in the capital. It describes the fighting between the Venizelists and royalists incident to the clash between Greek and allied troops Saturday as an attempted insurrection by rowdies who were quickly suppressed.

A paraphrase of the despatch given out by the legation follows: "As you have already been informed, rowdies attempted Saturday to take advantage of the deplorable encounters which occurred between the detachments of the allies and the Greek troops to create a sudden insurrection. They killed and injured several civilians and military men."

Quiet Restored.

"The government took immediately the necessary steps and order was completely re-established. The capital now has its normal aspect. I am informed, however, that several press cables have described the repression of the rowdies in the most whimsical manner."

"No rebellion has been checked with more rapidity. If any excesses have been committed, they must be imputed to the madness of the moment and to the exasperation due to seeing pain-bringing, which cost blood of the army, and to a sedition which had been promoted against civilians and military men and which had been prepared long ago and kept quiet."

"Nevertheless the royal government will not fail to make an effort to show its severity against any person accused of having committed criminal acts."

A report from Minister Droppers at Athens reaching the state department today said there was much excitement in the Greek capital, but gave few particulars about the situation. It was the first time the minister had been heard from in weeks.

### BRINGS DOWN TWENTY FOES.

Paris, Dec. 5.—It was announced by the French war office today that yesterday, Flight Sub-Lieut. Nungesser brought down in succession two German aeroplanes on the Somme front. These two successes raise the number of machines brought down by this officer to twenty.

### EARLS COURT

Business Men's Association Discuss Police Protection

Several important matters affecting the Earlscourt district will be discussed at the next meeting of the Earlscourt Business Men's Association, amongst the most important being the Avenue road car shelter, cluster lights for St. Clair avenue, and Dufferin street corner, and more police protection. All local matters have been allowed to stand over until after the case of the citizens' express and night campaign has been disposed of at the sitting of the Dominion Railway Board at the city hall on Tuesday night," said Secretary C. H. Ralph, "many members of our committee being actively engaged for some time past in working up the case for the citizens."

## WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED  
(Continued From Page 1.)

effects of a retreat are cumulative and the farther back the foe is driven the faster will become the rate of his retrograde.

Neither the Germans nor the Bulgarians tell the truth about their setbacks in Macedonia. The German official communication last night concerning the Macedonian front said only that there had been artillery duels, and the one issued yesterday said that east of the Cerna River new engagements developed. Serbian advances near Rahovo, and Monte, on the Moglenca front, failed, it added by way of elaboration.

Concerning the situation in Rumania, a study of the official claims of the Germans and Russians establishes the fact that south of Bucharest the Germans, Bulgarians and Turks are being generally held and that the Russian troops have now extended their front as far as the Danube, for Berlin says the German people have been mightily disappointed owing to the repulsed Russian attacks. While matters thus continue so comparatively satisfactory south of the Rumanian capital, with the allies still having a chance of smashing the enemy, the position north of Bucharest is not nearly so good, for the enemy is advancing on Ploesti to the northeast, and from Titu Junction to the southwards to attack Bucharest from the north. In order to save the situation, Russian aid will have to arrive quickly before Ploesti. It is probable that already an assembly of the defence of Bucharest in the north unless it is intended to spare the city a bombardment and therefore to evacuate it and retire to a front further east.

The German official communications read yesterday to the casual reader as if the Teuton armies had taken 12,500 prisoners the day before, but more careful scrutiny showed that the foe really claimed that he took 2000 north of Bucharest by his 9th army, and that he took 2500 men by his Danube army. German official versions of prisoners taken are usually grossly exaggerated. For instance, the Germans claimed that they took three million prisoners in the campaign against Russia last year. The other day they issued what purported to be an official return of the prisoners of war in their power and this return gave the number as little more than half the original number given out to the credulous German public. As the German people have been mightily disappointed owing to the duration of the war and its exceeding all previous predictions of officialdom and kaiserdom, it is deemed necessary by the war chiefs to give out flamboyant reports of the number of prisoners and magnitude of victories, and it is also necessary to lie exceedingly. In the case of Rumania the Teutons have won already a political success, and the only way for the allies to do is to drive them out of Rumania as speedily as possible, as soon as the preparations of the Russian are adequate, and the Rumanian troops have had to retreat a considerable distance in the north and they are certain to be discouraged, so speedy help, direct and indirect, is needed more than ever. Their first army requires to be reorganized.

In England the political crisis is apparently to be settled by the formation of a new coalition government under A. Bonar Law as prime minister. Mr. Asquith has resigned. Owing to the disorganized state of the voters' lists caused by the heavy enrolment in the army and by the great movements of voters from their former residence to munitions factories, it is improbable that an election will be held. Hints are also given of a solution of the Irish problem by an agreement between Sir Edward Carson and John Redmond. Everything points to the creation of a ministry bound to make more vigorous prosecution of the war. Military opinion has no doubt that the war can be won on the western front. The allies, when the weather permits infantry fighting, can advance with losses less than the number of Germans they take prisoners. The persons who favor a defensive in the west and an offensive at vasty greater expense in the east are followers of the Winston Churchill school. His notion was given a trial at the Dardanelles and it fell thru, partly because the government refused to make it a principal theatre of the war.

The war on the western front remains practically at a standstill. The Germans launched a small attack against the French in Vaux Village and they were speedily repulsed. Moderate artillery activity marks the condition at various sections of the front.

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