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#### Canadian Farmers Hold Their Own with the Business Interests

Important Meetings Held Last Week in Winnipeg .- Ontario Farmers Represented.-Interests Ask for Closer Union.

nize this. They are now beginning to court the farmers' organizations in an effort to bring about a closer unity of interests.

Last week was a memorable one for the farmers' organizations of Ontario and the prairie provinces. The Canadian Council of Agriculture held several important meetings in Winnipeg. These meetings were attended peg. These meetings were attended by four representatives of the United Farmers of Ontario. These representatives were Messrs, J. J. Morrison, of Arthur, secretary of the United Farmers of Ontario; C. W. Gurney, of Paris, Ont., a cirector of The United Farmers' Company and vice-presentations. ed Farmers' Company and vice-pre-sident of the Cooperative Apple Grow-ers of Ontario; F. M. Chapman, of Tounto, editor of The Farmers' May azine and H. B. Cowan, of Farm

and Dairy, Peterboro, Ont.
In addition to the meetings of the Council of Agriculture, there was also held a conference with the leading business men of the prairie provinces and the annual meeting of the great Grain Growers' Grain Company of

Winnipeg. Free Wheat a Big Issue

In Western Canada the farmers are a unit in their desire for free trade in wheat between Canada and the United wheat between Canada and the United States. For years the price, of wheat has averaged several cents a bushel more each year on the United States side of the line than in Canada. This is the case again this year. It has been stated that if the farmers of the peen stated that if the farmers of the three prairie provinces could sell their wheat duty free in the United States they would realize \$10,000,000 more this year from their crop. Naturally they want to do so. But the trans-portation and milling interests and the grain dealers have then their the grain dealers have been blocking them by restraining the government from granting their request. This has made a sharp, clear cut issue in the west, especially as the govern-ment of the United States is willing to admit Canadian wheat into the United States free if our Canadian govern-ment grants a similar concession ou United States wheat entering Canada. This is something which the Canadian farmers are perfectly willing Canadian government should do, The Council of Agriculture

The Canadian Council of Agricul-ture is composed of five representa-tives of each of the four great provincial organizations of Canada. These include the United Farmers of Ontario, the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the United Farmers of Alberta. All four organizations were well represented at the meetings held last week

in Winnipeg.

Two important resolutions were passed. One reiterated the demand passed. One reiterated the demand of the farmers' organizations that wheat be allowed free entry into the markets of the United States. The other called upon the Dominion Gov-ernment to grant a rate on the Grand Trunk Pacific of not over 10 cents a bushel on wheat from Winniper to tidewater ports, such as Montreal and Quebec. Information was submitted showing that the railway could give showing that the railway could give such a rate profitably. As it was found that Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works in the Do-minion Cabinet, was in the city, he was invited to meet the Council. Hon. Mr. Rogers accepted the invitation. He frankly admitted that the farmers were justified in taking the

The farmers of Canada are coming into their own. The business interests of the country ness interests of Canada recognitive that were preventing the government that were preventing the government from granting the requests of the farmers. He sale that he would again lay the matter before the government. The farmers let him know exactly where they stood in the soatter, and Hon. Mr. Rogers was equally frank in the expression of his views.

most interesting meeting was held Wednesday afternoon, when the farmers held a conference with the representatives of the leading busi-ness enterprises of the West. The farmers had all the best of it.

Several weeks ago a movement was started among the business interests of Western Canada with the object of effecting a closer unity of interests with the farmers and ostensibly of helping the farmers to improve their condition. The business men had held several meetings and conferences to discuss the matter. They were led by Mr. Vere Brown, manager in West-ern Canada of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. As a result of their meet-ings they had prepared a long memorandum, setting forth matters on which it was suggested that the farmers and business men might be able to unite in promoting the interests of agriculture. It was suggested, how-ever, that subjects on which they were not likely to be able to agree (such as ree wheat, wider markets for farm produce, railway rates, etc.) should not be discussed. They were willing to help the farmer to increase his production by the appointment of district representatives, etc., getting larger grants from the improving rural educational facilities and suggested the appointment of a council to be composed one half of farmers and one half of business mea to promote all such movements. It was suggested that at least \$10,000 a year be raised for these purposes. copy of the memorandum was sent the farmers for their approval. The farmers discussed the memo-randum before the conference. They

were much amused over it, and rather resented that the business men should be so anxious to help the poor farmers. They wondered also if a commission, composed one half of farmers, might not be appointed to help the business men to improve their business methods in various ways which were mentioned. They did not like either the precautions which the business interests had taken to preportant matters of marketing and distribution, while encouraging the con-sideration of matters of minor im-portance. However, they decided to portance. However, they decladed to meet the business men and also to let the latter do all the talking at the start off, feeling sure that the more they talked the more they would put their foot in it. This latter was ex-

actly what happened. The conference was held in the offices of the Industrial Bureau Practically all the big business interests of the West were represente These included the banks, railwas companies, loan and mortgage coporations, implement dealers an many other similar institutions. Space does not permit of a full report the gathering being given in thi issue. It proved most interesting The business men felt that they were handling dynamite, but plunge bravely ahead. They told the fam (Continued on page 9)

Trade increas Vol. XXX

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nence than it tawa. It was sense. The be 400 farmers fro both House ar occasion. The tations had co leges, but to a be given a sq they be relieve tective tariff. of Commons, their own. Sp their case and spoke for Ont ability that is turn. No sper present the Q of them called old man steppe in a deep, ric the furthermost As he warmed Gordon Sellar seemed to vil

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