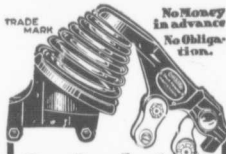


The United Farmers of British Columbia

The Youngest Independent Farmers Organization in Canada



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It is the most natural condition conceivable that farmers in one part of Canada should be interested in the affairs of their brother farmers in other parts. One of the reasons for the preparing annually of this Western Canada Number is that we may help to satisfy and encourage this natural tendency of interest between the East and the West; that the Western farmers may understand the problems of Eastern farmers, and that the farmers of the East may understand the problems of those in the West. With this object in view, it is possible that a few words regarding the newest Canadian Farmers' Organization may be of interest to those of other parts of the country. We refer to the United Farmers of British Columbia.

Although this organization has been in existence but a little over a year, it has already a membership of over one thousand, and has over 40 local branches. At the last annual meeting held on February 21st, at Victoria, the following officers were elected: President, George Clark, Sidney B.C.; J. L. Fridham, of Coloma; 1st Vice-President; Mr. R. A. Copeland, of Lundy, 2nd Vice-President; Mr. W. Patterson, of Koksilika, 3rd Vice-President.

While this organization is as yet only in its infancy, already they have made themselves felt in the affairs of the Province. While it is possible that either the extreme Eastern or the extreme Western parts of Canada may find it difficult to have a complete organization on the part of the farmers as have the three prairie Provinces, yet there are always sufficient points of interest among the farmers of each province to allow them to stand together for their mutual benefit. On the prairies there is one great interest, and that is grain growing; consequently the farmers have found it easier to stand together; in fact, in their case it has been an absolute necessity that they should stand together, as without thorough organization they would be entirely at the mercy of those handling their products. In the case of British Columbia, as is somewhat the case in Ontario, farmers' interests are more divided. There is some danger one with the other as to the platform which they should adopt in regard to political and economic questions. It is not so easy for the leading men of the organization to come out flat-footed on subjects of importance and

feel that they have the undivided support of the organization behind them. However there are many questions of common interest among all farmers and strengthened by this fact, the United Farmers of B. C. are making themselves felt as a force to be reckoned with.

It is possible that in no way better could this be described than to give a synopsis of the resolutions that were passed at the last annual meeting. One of the resolutions brought forward was that in view of the shortage of labor, the local Government should be asked not to interfere with the farmers in their farming operations in drawing upon them for loan labor in the making of the Provincial Highways, which are being built through the Province. A resolution was also passed that improvements of farm lands should be exempt from taxation. Another resolution was passed urging the Provincial Government to prevent orientals and aliens from acquiring control of agricultural land in the province, as a slight difference of opinion was shown when a resolution was brought forward asking for the introduction of oriental labor, as was proposed some time ago in Ontario. This latter resolution, however, was not passed.

It was decided that the executive be asked to adopt a platform policy free of party ties, but the convention were not quite agreed on the support of candidates. A resolution was passed offering prizes to boys and girls by way of a bounty in destruction of the gopher pest. A discussion of the advisability of asking the Government to establish a system of District Representatives along agricultural lines such as is now in force in Ontario. No final decision was arrived at on this question. Discussions were engaged in regarding eye-glazing contests in the province, and regarding the holding of land by lumber companies which necessitated the farmers settling back from the main roads near wooded land, which shut them off from their neighbors.

These are but a few of the questions which were brought up for discussion which were brought up for discussion, as the influence becomes stronger, as the influence becomes more united, these questions will be handled not merely as discussions, but as strong protests and in such a way that they will be recognized by the other industries of the province. (Continued on page 19.)

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