

Official Minutes of U.F.A. Convention

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the country schools, churches, roads and the things that lead to a higher and better life, thus increasing the population, wealth and natural advantages of Alberta; and

"Whereas, the sale of ~~WREB~~ lands and all other government lands without restriction as to residence is working a hardship to present settlers and creates a condition favorable to capital at the expense of labor that is not in keeping with the western spirit of equality and justice;

"Therefore, be it resolved that this Farmers' Union most respectfully petition the government to require the purchasers of school and all other government lands to make reasonable development within a reasonable time, that the country's population, wealth and standard of life may increase as rapidly as it richly deserves." Carried.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Moved by Wheatland Centre Union:

"Whereas, there is urgent need of improved methods for cultivating the farms in a scientific and profitable manner; and

"Whereas, the Alberta government has appropriated \$50,000 for the establishment of an Agricultural College;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that we request and urge the minister of agriculture to proceed and establish the said college, preferably in connection with a training farm, where the students can get a practical as well as a theoretical education in the proper and scientific treatment of the soil." Carried.

FREE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

Moved by Conjur Creek Union:

"That all farmers who have government telephones in their houses be given free exchange in the market town with all who have telephones in their houses in the said town." Carried.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that this be referred to the executive committee for their consideration and action.

On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the resolution was therefore referred to the executive.

SELF-DENIAL FUNDS

Moved by Blackfoot Union:

"That seeing that the work of the U.F.A. is crippled for want of funds to cover cost of educating the farmer to the need of co-operation and organization, it is desirable to create a Self Denial fund, the money derived from same to be invested and the interest only used."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that this resolution be laid on the table.

On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the resolution was therefore tabled.

INTEREST ON FARM LOANS

Moved by Streamstown Union:

"That the rate of interest which the farmers at present are compelled to pay is exorbitant and is retarding the development of the country. The provincial government is therefore strongly urged to procure the cheap money which is awaiting use in Europe and Great Britain and use same for farmers' loans at five or six per cent."

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that this resolution be referred to the executive to take action upon.

On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the resolution was therefore referred to the executive.

REPRESENTATIVE AT EDMONTON

Moved by the Resolution committee:

Resolved that a representative of the U.F.A. be appointed to attend the House at Edmonton, when in session, to watch legislation." Carried.

FARMERS' COMMISSION HOUSE

Moved by Millet Union:

Resolved, that the president or executive committee be authorized to appoint a committee to form a Co-operative Farmers' Commission House. Said committee to report as soon as possible, and from time to time the progress made in such organization to the secretary of the U.F.A., and he to the various unions of the province.

This resolution was laid on the table.

INDIAN RESERVE SALE

Moved by Queenstown Union:

Whereas, the proposed sale of the Blackfoot Indian Reserve by the government without restriction as to quantity to each person or to residence is working a hardship to present settlers and encourages land speculation by capitalists to the detriment of actual settlers, therefore be it

Resolved, that our Farmers' Union most respectfully petition the government to limit the amount purchasable by one person to 640 acres and to require purchasers to make reasonable development within reasonable time, that the country's population, wealth and standard of life may increase as rapidly as it richly deserves." Carried.

FARMERS' MEMBERS

Moved by Vermilion Union:

Resolved, that ten farmers, as members of parliament with votes would have more weight in shaping the laws and influencing the government than one thousand delegates as petitioners.

Therefore be it further resolved that the farmers, to secure this end, should vote for farmers only to represent them in parliament and vote as a unit and cease dividing their voting power. Carried.

ROAD MAKING

It was moved and seconded:

That the minister of public works be requested to give such directions in road making as will do away with the narrow and very rounded road beds now made, which are very unsatisfactory to farmers hauling hay or grain, etc., two hay racks being unable to pass in safety, and when the ground is frozen, still more dangerous for wagons and sleighs, and that in future we recommend wherever it can be done that a moderately rounded road bed be made on the left hand side of the road for wheeling, and a flat road bed be made on the right hand side for sleighing and winter use.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that this resolution be tabled. On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the motion was therefore tabled.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

Moved by Edmonton Union:

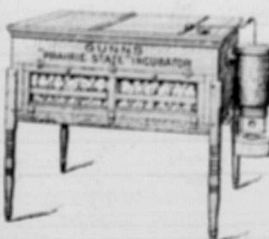
That owing to the fact that the ~~and~~ seconders of resolutions are generally personally interested and fully cognizant of the subject in question, we, the Edmonton local union of the U.F.A., would ask at the annual convention

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that where this is the case and the subjects have to come before any authority, the mover and seconders be ex-officio members of any delegation of directors or committees who are appointed to ask information or press a request.

This resolution was by leave withdrawn.

PUBLISHING LIST OF SECRETARIES

Moved by Rocky Coulee Union:

Resolved, that the provincial secretary be required to publish in the official organ a list of the names, P.O. and station of each secretary of the local Unions in Alberta at least once a year. Carried.

LAND TAX

Moved by Streamstown Union:

That wherever a land tax is imposed there shall be imposed on unoccupied or unutilized lands a surtax of 50 per cent. of the amount of the ordinary assessment. Carried.

ENDORSING CANADIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

Moved by the Resolution committee:

That this convention do heartily endorse the resolutions adopted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture and presented to the Dominion government on December 16, 1910, and the delegates here assembled do further reaffirm all the principles laid down at that conference. Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN OF CONVENTION

It was moved and seconded:

That this convention is of the opinion that under the present conditions of controlling and regulating our conventions our president and officers are often deprived of the opportunity of expressing their views, therefore be it resolved that at all future conventions a chairman of convention be elected by the convention to act in much the same independent capacity as a speaker in a legislature.

This resolution was declared out of order as it referred to the constitution and was therefore defeated.

OPEN MEETING

Moved by the Strathcona Union:

Resolved, that at a convenient time during the second day of the convention, not later than 3 o'clock p.m. if possible, the convention shall be held in abeyance and two hours shall be devoted as an open meeting for a discussion of political questions as they appear to the farmer.

This resolution was declared out of order and was therefore defeated.

LUMBER SUPPLY

Moved by Tan Y. Bryn Union:

Resolved, that the U.F.A. executive be asked to consider whether the government can be induced to establish a commission to control the lumber industry of the province and to prevent exorbitant prices being charged, or whether the U.F.A. should establish lumber mills of its own.

Moved by Summerview Union:

Be it resolved that we, the U.F.A., each and all subscribe one dollar each to a fund to be called "The U.F.A. Co-operative Timber and Sawmill Fund," the same fund to be applied for the purpose of erecting a sawmill or mills and of acquiring a timber limit or limits only; the name sawmill to signify a mill or manufactory of lumber, planks, boards and other dimension lumber and to dress the same on one or all sides as may be required, and to work or fashion the said timber, planks, boards or dimension lumber in any required condition wanted for building purposes;

And be it also resolved that the said mill or mills be placed in a central position most convenient for all the members of the U.F.A., and that the industry shall be under the direct and sole control of the U.F.A., the same to elect directors and auditors for one year at their annual convention, said directors to tender their services gratis, with the exception of expense paid when living at a distance necessitating railway travelling, and that the said mill or mills be run on the co-operative plan at a reasonable profit and that the said profit on the said industry shall go to the funds of the U.F.A.

These resolutions were, by consent, laid upon the table.

CATTLE SHIPMENTS

Moved by Tan Y. Bryn Union:

That the executive confer with the government re the shipping of cattle. The treatment of cattle in transit is not only inadequate, but also a cruelty to animals and a disgrace to a civilized country, and it is helping to drive the farmers of the West out of the cattle business altogether. Carried.

VOTE OF THANKS TO G.G.G. CO.

It was moved and seconded:

That this convention place on record a hearty vote of thanks and appreciation