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WHEN WRITING TO ADVENTIGERS PLEASE

Manitoba

A PLEA FOR CO-OPERATIVE BUY-ING BY FARMERS

Farmers Should Buy Co-operatively

One of the live topics of discussion nong commercial and agricultural in One of the live topics of discussion among commercial and agricultural interests is business co-operation among farmers. Farmers are great producers of wealth. Farmers' power of holding wealth is feeble. The retention of wealth, not the production of wealth, is his greatest problem. He devotes his whole thought and energy to production and leaves the business end of the industry to others. His neglect of the business side of his industry, has produced a huge crop of middlemen between the producers and the consumers out of proportion to the number of producers. Those who are in a position to know assert that there are upwards of 17,000 retail businesses in the three prairie provinces. There are less than 200,000 farmers in these three provinces. So it works out that there is one retail business for every twelve farmers, an economic drain that must be faced and a remedy provided, unless our farmers are to continue in the "Slough of Despondency" they have been floundering in and the business of farmers continue in bondage to other business.

Solving the Problem

The solution of the problem that seems to offer the most reasonable hope of success is for the farmers to buy of success is for the farmers to buy and sell co-operatively of working together to do their own business and secure to themselves the profit in the operation of the husiness of handling crops and securing supplies necessary in the production of craps. There are three elements that enter into husiness—capital, service and patronage. Capital and service accomplish nothing without patronage or customers. Without customers there is no profit. The distinctive feature of co-operative business is that the profits go to the patrons, while in other business it goes to the owners of the business. Consequently, when profits on the farmer's to the owners of the business. Consequently, when profits on the farmer's business go to the farmer under the cooperative principle, wealth is diffused among the many. When profits go to stockholders under the corporation principle, wealth is cqueentrated into a few hands. The immediate results of the latter method of distributing the profits of the business of farming in the prairie provinces is that not one farmer in three lives in va home to which no landlord or mortgagee may lay claim.

The Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba for several years have been in a limited way buying their commodities co-operatively with a considerable degree of success. They have been acquiring experience, learning to work together by buying a few things collectively, they were fitting themselves for accomplishing greater things. The weakness of their methods has been that thru lack of incorporation the president and secretary usually become responsible for the payment of the goods. To overcome this defect in the system the Manitoba legislature passed a Co-operative Act at its last session which now emables the associations to become incorporated at comparatively small expense. The teaching of our experience is that, due to the sparsely settled farm districts, it is safer and more likely to produce satisfactory results, to develop into co-operative buying of farm commodities rather than co-operative merch andizing. The Grain Growers' Association of g of farm commodities rather than operative merchandizing.

Incorporate Associations
In other words, the trend of thought is in the direction of incorporating our associations under the Manitoba Coassociations under the Manitoba Co-operative Act, secure capital by the sale of shares, the members at their regular monthly meetings—or, oftener make up orders for their requirements and buy co-operatively such goods as agricultural implements, twine, fenc-ing, fence posts, flour, salt, canned goods, apples, fruit and such staple articles as admit of bulk shipment and can be distributed at small cost and without the necessity of engaging a manager to devote his whole time to that phase of the business of the association. It may be necessary to secure a warehouse for storing parts of carload shipments and appoint certain days to have the warehouse open for giving out supplies, with the expectation that the warehouse will ultimately develop into the dignity of a co-operative store, "grow" into a co-operative store rather than "go" into a co-operative store. The associations are also to discharge the functions of livestock shipping associations, assembling and shipping associations, assembling and shipping farmers' stock in carload lots to terminal markets. They will also assemble and ship farmers' produce of all kinds, including butter, poultry, eggs, etc.

Standardize Farm Produce

One of the results that is expected to follow will be standardizing of farm produce, converting farmers' products into more finished form. All these ex-terprises are distinctly a part of the farmers' business which cannot be confarmers' business which cannot be conducted by individuals, but can be made profitable when conducted on a strictly co-operative basis. In other words, I maintain, that it is the farmers' duty to give the world its food and raw material for clothing, and that he should conduct and receive profit from all the business operations of delivering the food to the consumer and the wool to the factories. The principle has its limitations, nevertheless it is because the farmer has hitherto lost the profits on all such operations and on all the business of handling his crop and the commodities he needs to produce crops with that he is poor. with that he is poor.

R. McKENZIE,

SUNDAY SCHOOL DONATES

The Sunday school picnic of Culro Presbyterian Church, Shoal Lake, too place last week, and at it the sum o \$25 was collected for the starving babies of Belgium, and the amount for warded thru the secretary to the Cer tral office, to be passed on to t treasurer of the Belgian Relief fund

SOMERSET ASSOCIATION

Secretary Allen Howarth forward the association's check for membersh dues for their recently re-organized branch at this point. We hope this branch may become a good live organi-zation with the good start made.

CONTRIBUTION FROM VISTA

Alex. Macdonald, of the Vista Asso-ciation, sends in his check for \$25.70, being the proceeds of his Patriotic Acre pledge. Owing to the lack of cars a good many have had to delay making their hurns, but the fund is still open for all who have not yet done their "bit."

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Money is not the object of life, nor does money making necessarily imply education. The real struggles of life should not be for food and raiment, but for ideas, for truth and purity. Not that education should stand in the way of properties.

that education should stand in the way of prosperity, nor lesses the ambition to secure a home and provide means against a time of need.

Whether farmers, mechanics, merchants or doctors, education should, if worthy of the name, better fit us for our profession. The farmer with no aspirations in the accumulation of wealth, so particularly that can be attracted except. no patriotism that can be stirred except by mational prosperity, no spirit of neighborly interest or kindness except for that man with whom he can make for that man with whom he can make an advantageous bargain, has not felt the beneficial influence of a general awakening of his powers; his higher nature is dwarfed and withered. They live and labor for self and the present time and their labors perish with them. Their desire for knowledge may not be strong enough to bring them to a gathering, and if they come into po-session of any knowledge which wou

be of value to others, they would self-ishly keep it to themselves.

A community gathering has a value besides that which can be measured in dollars and cents. It deepens interest, opens up new lines of thought, broadens views, and gives birth to the whole-souled feeling of brotherly sympathy and good will. The education gained by community gatherings benefits the farmer, his wife, and his family. Life and our surroundings may not have per-mitted us to a course at college, but with our eyes open minds active.

and our surroundings may not have permitted us to a course at college, but with our eyes open, minds astive to think and hearts quick to feel, life itself can be a school and its lessons can be learned well.

Many of our deep thinking, wholesouled, inspiring men and women, people full of influence and power, have no diploma from an institution of learning, but they have that most uncommon talent of all—common sense. Let us think over and study over and apply intelligently, striving to make every us think over and study over and apply intelligently, striving to make every day's work count for as much, every acre of land to yield as much as possible. Let us strive to be prosperous farmers and thrifty. But withal, let us be men and women of character; let us welcome every thought and circumstance in life which makes our minds more active, our hearts more tender, our feelings more responsive, our character more noble.—Organized Farmer.

GLENHOLM MEETING

GLENHOLM MEETING

The cloudburst that deluged the Neepawa district, July 6, interfered with
the Glenholm Grain Growers' picale
that was to be held that day, and an
impromptu meeting called by telephone
convened in the church is the evening
to listen to an address by Provincial
Secretary R. McKenzie, who was to
speak at the picale in the afternoon.
A feature of the meeting was the number of farmers' wives who were present. The Women Grain Growers are
doing their part in contributing to the
success of the Grain Growers' movement in Glenholm.

ELM CREEK PICNIC

CLM CREEK PICNIC
On Monday afternoon, July 10, the Elm Creek G.G.A. held a picnic in J. M. Kennedy's grove, which was advertised to be held on the 6th, but a downpour of rain on that date necessitated the change to the 10th. A good representation from the surrounding neighborhood gathered to enjoy a sociable time and hear what the speakers had to say.

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It to say.

R. C. Henders, president of the Manitoba G.G.A., acted as chairman, and introduced the speakers.

J. S. Wood, of Oakville, gave an interesting talk on the Halt-Insurance Act, urging the surrounding municipalities to take advantage of this important piece of legislation. A couple of petitions were airculated later and almost every one asked signed.

petitions were circulated later and almost every one asked signed.

The member for Dufferin, E. A. August, was then called on, and gave us an account of some of the measures introduced at the last session of the legislature to assist the farmers and laborers. He also gave an interesting account of experiments on his farm on the destruction of noxious weeds, and recommended a flock of sheep as one of the best.

P. J. Dixon, M.P.P. for Centre Wisnipeg, was the next speaker. His address on the fallacies of a protective tariff was one of the best that an Elm tariff was one of the best that an Elm Creek andience has ever had the privilege of listening to. His arguments were convincing and his manner of putting them so reasonable that everybody felt profited and satisfied. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the speakers for their interesting and profitable addresses, moved by C. I. Baragar, seconded by H. Graham, which was heartily responded to by the crowd. After partaking of the picnic supper provided, which was bountiful, the tables being loaded with the best, the committee in charge of the sports asked the company to witness a game of baseball and ladjes', men's and boys' races, for whigh prizes were given to the successful competitors.

ANOTHER FROM HARROW

Secretary Bromley, of the Harres G.G. Association, Carnegie P.O., sends is a contribution this week of \$25 for our Patriotic Acre fund. This is their third remittance for this fund. Augus

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