

## The Farmers' Movement in Western Canada

(Continued from page 3.)

Association was established, and from that time to this the farmers' movement has been an important influence in public affairs in Western Canada.

### The First Big Fight.

Those were the days of 30 and 40 cent wheat. The farmers had no way in which to market their grain except through the elevators of capitalistic companies, whose chief aim was to secure the grain for the smallest amount of money the farmer could be made to accept for it. Farmers

who desired to ship their grain direct found it almost impossible to ship over the loading platforms of the elevator companies, and when they did do so still had to pay tribute to the companies. To make the situation worse the railway companies were in close league with the elevator companies, and often refused to furnish the farmers with cars, thus forcing them to ship through the elevators.

The first big fight was with the railway companies to get them to supply the farmers with cars. It resulted in the passing of an act which gave the farmers the right to ship their grain direct. This act, however, was dis-

garded by the railway companies under the plea that they did not have enough cars to supply the farmers. This made it necessary to repeat the fight all over again, but the fighting blood of the farmers had been aroused and they had been cheered by their initial success, and so they went to work again with a will. Their next success came when they succeeded in securing legislation which compelled the railway companies to furnish cars to shippers in the order in which application was made for them. This prevented the railway companies shooting their cars to the elevator companies while refusing to supply

them to the farmers. It has been estimated that this clause alone in the Canada Grain Act has been worth to every farmer selling grain during the past 18 years at least 10 cents per bushel on every bushel of wheat sold and thus has been worth tens of millions of dollars to the farmers of the west.

### Growth of the Movement.

Growing out of the success of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association, the grain growers of Manitoba were led to form the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association in March, 1903. Among the officers of this association was Mr. R. C. Henderson, who was appointed vice-president and who has been active in the movement ever since. Mr. Henderson is the present president of the association. The first secretary of the association was Roderick McKenzie, of Winnipeg, who retained that position till about two years ago, when he resigned in order that he might devote all his time to his duties as secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. Still later there was formed the organization which is now known as the United Farmers of Alberta.

### The Business Companies.

As the number of local organizations in all three provinces increased there became a growing demand that the farmers should find some method of marketing their own grain. In 1905 a committee was appointed to investigate the practicability of the farmers disposing of their grain co-operatively. The committee reported favorably in 1906, with the result that action was taken that led to the establishment that year of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., which is now the most powerful organization of its kind in the world. In spite of strenuous opposition of many of the leading business interests in the west, the company has grown with tremendous strides. It now does a business running into many millions of dollars a year. Its profits last year were \$775,000. Growing out of this success there was established a few years later the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Co., which has been equally successful and last year reported profits of \$750,000. Still later there was formed the Alberta Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Co. This company last year reported profits of almost \$300,000 and is shortly to be amalgamated with the Grain Growers' Grain Co. in a new company to be known as the United Grain Growers' Limited. These companies own and operate hundreds of elevators, as well as large terminal elevators at Port Arthur and Port William.

### Other Accomplishments.

Important as has been the accomplishments of the great business organizations of the western farmers they represent only one phase of the farmers' movement. In 1908 it was recognized that some means was required of giving more definite and ready expression to the desires and ideals of the farmers' movement. The result was that the Grain Growers' Grain Company was induced to establish the Grain Growers' Guide. From that time to this the Grain Growers' Guide has been the official organ of the farmers' movement in western Canada, and has wielded a tremendous influence on public life in the west. To-day it has public life in the west. To-day it has 34,000 subscribers among the farmers in western Canada. Again and again it has exposed efforts to mislead and disorganize the farmers and thus has helped to keep the farmers' movement a live and vital force.

### The Council of Agriculture.

As the various provincial organizations grew in membership and influence, it became apparent that their

objects and aims were so similar that it was deemed advisable to have a body should be some to represent the terms of national some seven or eight formation of the Agriculture, which representatives three provincial the first few years only occasional years ago, but increase its efforts office was opened secretary appointing who was to do the work. To-day the tures represents tions of the thre but the United Revi well.

### Reforms

So many have accomplished by the in western Canada sible in a short even mention the securing of provi woman suffrage i the farmers have enforced the railw due their rates a proved facilities supplies and mar They have indu legislatures to olation to promote operative organiz the telephone lin tness, to pass farmers to borrow tively low rates lish hall insur well as grant m forms.

One of the gr posed on the far grown out of the tion that has tal Hundreds of the land have been bo of use by specul farmers to travel vacant land in o reach their own led the farmers o demand the imp land values insu ments. The resu all the revenue ties in the west land value, there farmers' improve of taxation on the very successful a speculators to let and thus has en hold of the land

### Prominent

Because leader movement have a deal with public that a number o been selected to positions. Mr. M intimated, is now ture for Sask member of the p Saskatchewan, th was an early ag movement in the ident of the Sask Elevator Co. W the manager of Mr. C. A. Duanni provincial treasur True three leader movement in Sa members of the p

In Alberta the shal, Minister of sisted the farm H. W. Wood, U the United Farmers T. A. Crerar, the Grain Growers' Co. easily appointed



## Real Daylight Saving

In the harvest time every hour between daylight and dark is worth money to the busy farmer.

You get an early start in the morning intending to do a big day's work, but the

binder, mower or other implement breaks down and you must go to town for the repairs. If you have a Ford you are soon away and its speed clips two hours off the former three-hour journey there and back.

## Count up the extra half days that a Ford will save you

during the rush of seeding, haying and harvest. You will find that the Ford will save you a week or more of valuable time on your necessary trips alone.

Many times you will want to take some produce along with you. Then your staunch

Ford is ready to carry a load of 1000 pounds. How handy this would be?

Once you own a Ford and find out the many ways you can use it for business and pleasure you will wonder how you managed without it.

*The Ford is an economical investment, and a necessity on every farm.*

# Ford

Touring -- \$495

Runabout -- \$475

F.O.B. FORD, ONT.

**Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited**

FORD . . . ONTARIO.