

In Union There is Strength

A Progressive Young Club

THE Elma Branch of the U. F. O. in Perth Co., Ont., has set a pace in cooperative business which marks it out as one of the most progressive clubs in Ontario. This branch was organized the last of December, 1916, with 37 members. Their first purchase was a car of mixed feed, on January 17, 1917.

"In the first three months of our existence, we handled \$20,000 worth of goods," said W. S. Shearer, the President, when chatting with an editor of Farm and Dairy in Stratford recently. "We have purchased a great deal of grain. By cooperating with neighboring clubs, we bought a carload of sugar. Recently we have been shipping hogs, and more lately we have shipped calves, selling direct to the packing plant. With a couple of recent shipments, the club paid members the same as the local dealers were giving for hogs, and when finally returns were in, we found we could net the members 40 cents more. This will be rebated back to the shipper."

"We now have \$400 in the treasury. We are going to build a storehouse at the track, and for this purpose we will use the accumulated profits."

The members of the Elma Farmers' Club fully appreciate the benefit of a strong central organization. They know that before the Central can be of maximum usefulness to the local clubs, it must have a good working capital. Already the Elma branch has taken a dozen or more shares in the United Farmers' Cooperative Company, Limited, and if at all possible, every member of the club will be induced eventually to purchase at least one share in the Central Company. This too is a record to be proud of.

A Conference on Production

AT the time of the recent meeting of the directors of The United Farmers' Cooperative Company, Limited, in Toronto, an invitation was received from officers of the Organization of Resources Committee for Ontario, through its Secretary, Mr. Abbott, to have lunch with them to discuss matters relating to increased production. Although the directors were very busy, arrangements were made to devote the noon hour to this luncheon.

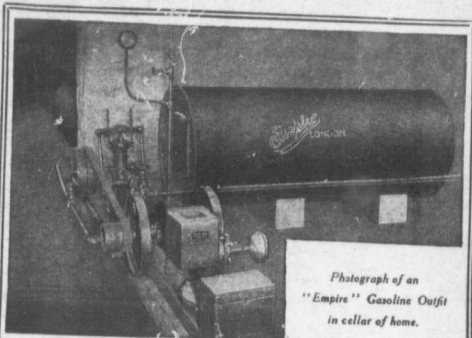
In explaining the object of the meeting, Mr. W. E. Rundle, of Toronto, a member of the Organization of Resources Committee, made it clear that there was no thought on the part of city men to give advice to the farmers, but simply a desire to cooperate with them in every way possible to increase production in this time of the country's need. He assured the representatives of the farmers in the plainest possible way that there is a deep and sincere desire on the part of the people of the towns and cities, as well as of the Government, to give the farmers every assistance within their power in increasing production. Efforts would be made to see that this assistance was practical and valuable in character and such as would be likely to be of the greatest possible benefit to the farmers.

Mr. B. C. Tucker, of Harold, Ontario, the President of The United Farmers' Company, said that the club members were doing everything they could to produce a maximum of food products on their farms. The great scarcity of labor in the rural districts made it impossible for farmers to produce so much as they otherwise could, while the high wages paid in munition factories prevented farmers

engaging help at the prevailing rate of wages. Seeing the trend of the times farmers have been reducing the areas of their cultivated land to fit their supply of labor, and it is impossible for them on short notice to change their whole system of farm management. They would be glad of all the help they can secure, especially in harvesting time, and could be depended upon to do their part towards increased production.

Mr. R. H. Halbert, President of The United Farmers of Ontario, stated that the Government was late in starting its campaign. The farmers long ago saw what was going to happen if the help was all taken from the farmers, and warned the Government of the dangers that were ahead. Instead of being listened to, however, they were laughed at and called unpatriotic and even insulted, with the result that such a large number of men have now left the farms that the work of production has been seriously interfered with, and it is now impossible for farmers to produce as much as they could were there a sufficient supply of experienced help available.

Mr. J. J. Morrison, Secretary of The United Farmers of Ontario, pointed out that it takes several years for farmers to change their system of farm management. A dairy cow, for instance, cannot be produced in



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The President of the Farmers' Company.

Mr. B. C. Tucker, Harold, Ont., President of the United Farmers' Cooperative Co. Ltd., has a name for himself in connection with the United Farmers' Club, Hastings County, before he was called upon for greater services in the Central Company.

less than three years. There is no use urging farmers to keep more cows or hogs, as these cows or hogs are not available, and nothing will be accomplished by one farmer buying these animals from another farmer, as to do so would be transplanting animals from one farm to another. For years business men in the cities have been reducing the output of their factories, in order that they might obtain higher prices for their goods, and have taken advantage of the protective tariff to do this. Now they cry to the farmers to increase their production, although the inevitable consequence of such action in ordinary years would be to decrease prices. However, farmers realize the need of the Empire, and are anxious to do all that they can to respond to it. They are handicapped, however, by the shortage of help, the high wages paid by munition factories prevented farmers

(Continued on page 11.)

When You Write---Mention Farm and Dairy