

under the following headings: Organization for social betterment, in which the idea was to secure fair treatment for farmers as producers, and to train agriculturists for clear thinking on social, economic and financial questions. Then there was co-operation, in an endeavor to lessen the cost of both production and distribution, to eliminate wastefulness and to establish the highest efficiency in serving both the producer and the consumer. In this regard the speaker stated that co-operation, and not competition, was the life of trade. Owing to lack of sufficient organization and working together, farmers have, to a certain extent, been imposed upon. It was not the primary intention of the organization to go into politics, continued the speaker, but, in spite of organization, co-operation and deputations, agriculture remained stagnant, and delegations to our Government brought a comparatively small measure of redress. It appeared that parliaments and councils were directly under the influence of industrial, financial and transportation companies, and that the streams of legislation were corrupted by campaign funds of protected interests. It was this condition of affairs which led the farmers to endeavor to secure fair representation, in order that election pledges should be kept, and that the public business of the country be transacted honestly and economically. The growth of this movement has been rapid. One year ago the aim was to place a few men in the political arena; to-day the farmers have the government of the Province in their hands, and it is believed that it is in safe hands. It is democracy expressing herself in the political life of the Province. The speaker referred to obstacles which will have to be confronted, stating that while the old order changes, giving place to the new, the old order has no notion of being unceremoniously kicked out by the new. It has always made a fight, and no doubt will do so again. For the electors to break away from the old party and to breathe the free air of independent politics has been a big wrench for many, but in order that the farmers might realize their rights it was necessary for them to break away from party lines. A note of warning was sounded relative to the new movement, and care must be taken that a new game of party politics is not started to perpetuate the very system which has been condemned. Mr. Amos would have the slogan of the new Ontario Legislature "Sincerity." The speaker believed that the members of the U. F. O. realized that the call is on to Ottawa, for it is there that agriculture can secure more equitable trade laws, fiscal policies which will tend to emancipate her people, regenerate her spirit, and rehabilitate our desolate lands.

Progress of the Trading Company.

The interdependence of the U. F. O. and its Co-operative Company was the subject discussed by R. W. E. Burnaby and W. C. Good. Mr. Burnaby dwelt to a considerable extent on the causes of rural depopulation, and gave as one of the chief reasons for this state of affairs the unprofitableness of agriculture as compared with industries in towns and cities. The product of our labor has been exploited unnecessarily by middlemen, said the speaker. There have been wasteful methods of distribution both in our buying and selling, which has helped to increase the cost to the consumer. The Co-operative Company aims at overcoming, so far as possible, wasteful and expensive methods of distribution by bringing the producer and consumer closer together. The speaker outlined the policy of the Company, showing how the trading was divided into three departments—live stock, commission and co-operative trading—each handled separately by men familiar with this particular line of business. The Company is owned, controlled and directed by farmers, and the business has grown in value from \$33,000 to \$8,500,000 in six years. It must be remembered that during this period trade has been greatly upset owing to the war, and in many lines business has been curtailed, owing to the inability to secure material. Mr. Burnaby pointed out some of the difficulties the Company had in securing connection with the wholesale firms. To-day this has been largely overcome, and the Company should show more rapid progress in the future than it has in the past. The object of the Company's existence is to further the interests of farmers in all branches of agriculture.

When Industry Will Be For Service.

Following the above speaker, Mr. Good read a paper on the "Farmers' Movement, its commercial, political and educational sides and their relation to one another." It was a particularly well-thought-out paper, but unfortunately did not receive the hearing which it should have. Mr. Good is a deep thinker, and evidently his ideas were not followed by some of those present. A brief review of the farmers' movement in the United States and Canada was given, and the present organization referred to as a little seed six years ago which has now grown into a great tree, whose branches spread over the whole Province, and wherein the birds of the air—some of them birds of prey—will take shelter. The speaker contended that this has been a work of faith; the seed was sown and already a harvest is being reaped, but in the future an even greater harvest will be garnered if the members of the movement faint not. The aim of the farmer organizations has been fundamentally educational, in the broad sense of the term, and its commercial development was secondary. The entrance into politics was distinctly forbidden in some of the earlier organizations as the Grange. This advanced step has been taken in order that the will of the people might prevail. The immediate aim of the Co-operative Company, said the speaker, was to buy wholesale, to sell wholesale, and to eliminate all unnecessary middlemen; to reduce waste and prevent profiteering; to establish the principle of business for service and

not for profits. These have been the aims of the commercial farmers' organizations of Western Canada. A similar movement in Great Britain was referred to, where the co-operative industry and commerce have grown steadily for seventy-five years, until its aggregate business a year ago amounted to over \$1,124,000,000, with a net surplus profit of over \$90,000,000. It has factories which produce almost every commodity in domestic demand, besides plantations and farming lands for the production of raw materials. It has banking and insurance institutions. In referring to this the speaker believed that there was no vital or permanent difficulty in the way of applying the same principle to Canadian industry with the most salutary results in the elimination of waste and profiteering, provided of course, that the movement is built upon a stable foundation, and that we do not shut our eyes to the lessons which past experiences have taught us. Commenting upon the political end of the subject, politics was defined as the science and practice of government, and as a necessary part of all civilized life. The farmers' movement in politics seeks to bring about a real democracy and to insure that so far as legislation and government is concerned the motto, "Equal Opportunities for all," will be realized.



J. J. Morrison.
Secretary of U. F. O.

Education in the widest sense is the great aim of the farmers' movement. Too often education is associated entirely with book learning, said the speaker. Mr. Good gave the following quotation, from an address by Huxley, to define a liberal education: "That man I think has a liberal education who has been so trained in youth that his body is the ready servant of his will, and does with ease and pleasure all the work that as a mechanism it is capable of; whose intellect is a clear, cold, logic engine with all its parts of equal strength, and in smooth, working order, ready like a steam engine to be turned to any kind of work and spin the gossamers as well as forge the anchors of the mind; whose mind is stored with a knowledge of the great and fundamental truths of nature, and of the laws of her operation; one who is full of life and fire, but whose passions are trained to come to heel by a vigorous will, the servant of a tender conscience; who has learned to love all beauty, whether of nature or of art, to hate all villainy and to respect others as himself." Speaking broadly, said Mr. Good, education consists in bringing the individual into

At the evening meeting of the U. F. O. the people present were given an opportunity to contribute to the aid of the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto. In announcing the collection, J. J. Morrison said, "We are going to use old-fashioned tin pans for collection plates, and remember that bills won't rattle." There was very little rattle, and \$748 were donated.

harmony with his environment—physical, mental and spiritual. The aims have been previously outlined, now what of the plans for the future? Under this heading Mr. Good dwelt on the possibilities of the co-operative movement, and pointed out how it might extend to creameries, cheese factories, egg circles, breeders' clubs, grain growers' companies, etc. Along political lines the farmers have already gone beyond past action, and are taking the lead in political movements along broad, democratic lines. Referring to the future educational system, Mr. Good believed that the Provincial farmers' organizations ought to link up with other institutions for community betterment and for the elevation of rural life. In a word, the organization may commercially help to establish the co-operative commonwealth where industry will be for service and not for gain. Politically, it may help on the great movement for real democracy and abolish profiteering and exploitation. Educationally, it may help to develop

a higher and better standard of manhood and womanhood.

No Class Legislation.

A pleasing event and one of great significance to the Province was the formal endorsement of the Drury Government by the United Farmers of Ontario. Before an audience of some 3,500, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

"Be it resolved, that we, the members of the United Farmers of Ontario, here assembled in our sixth annual convention, endorse the action of the Joint Political Committee of the U. F. O. in taking steps to select a leader to establish a Government in the Province of Ontario, as necessitated by the result of the recent Provincial election;

"And also reaffirm our position in the matter of the Government of this Province as expressed in the Provincial platform of this organization;

"And finally desire to urge upon the present Administration the seriousness of responsibility involved in the fulfillment of the great trust which has been placed in its hands."

The resolution was introduced by Col. J. Z. Fraser, who pointed out to the Premier and his Ministers that with victory comes responsibility, and with success renewed obligations. The Premier and his Cabinet were reminded that they were not merely representatives of the United Farmers of Ontario, but that their acceptance of the call as head of the Government had transferred their allegiance to men and women of all classes, creeds and parties in the Province. Colonel Fraser warned them to be careful in utterance, as words once said cannot be recalled, and a promise given is a mortgage that will be hard to liquidate. All questions should be dealt with wisely, and the aim should be to work for the good of all. Turning to the audience, the speaker reminded the men and women before him that their individual responsibility to the new Government did not end with their selection of a Premier and Cabinet. Premier Drury arose amidst a storm of applause and thanked the meeting for its expression of confidence, and promised that he would honestly, fearlessly and humbly endeavor to make real their expectations of himself and colleagues. Most of the Cabinet Ministers were on the platform and gave short addresses, explaining some of the plans which they had formulated for their departments.

Attorney-General.

Honorable Mr. Raney, who is the Attorney-General, was the first Minister called upon to speak. In his opening remarks he stated that the old idea that some people were born to govern and all the rest to be governed had been protested against by the people of Ontario. The people have said to the members of the Government, "Go ahead, not right or wrong we're behind you, but while you're right we're behind you." One of the first things which the Attorney-General claimed he would try to do was to simplify the laws of Ontario and to make the courts as independent and as autonomous as our Legislature already is. The fact that our common laws are being continually changed and adopted by the courts was referred to, and it was pointed out that much of this was done outside of the Province and even beyond the Dominion. The speaker looked forward to the day when shelves a few feet high and three or four feet long will contain the common law of the Province, instead of the present condition of it being contained in thousands of volumes. The Hon. Mr. Raney reviewed the work which he had done for temperance legislation, and his fight against the race-track betting house. He paid a tribute to Sir William Hearst for his courage in putting on the statute books such legislation as the Temperance Act and the Act providing for women's suffrage.

Minister of Education.

Honorable R. H. Grant, the newly-appointed Minister of Education, voiced the opinion of his colleagues that there was much to learn in attendance at the U. F. O. Convention. The discussions broadened one's viewpoint. As ninety per cent. of the people of the Province get practically all their education in the common school, the Honorable Mr. Grant stated that "we are prepared to give you everything that is in the interests of education, no matter from what section of the Province you happen to come." The Department is for the service of all the people. At the beginning of the new year, the Minister expects to commence a campaign throughout the Province to ascertain from the people the educational wants of their particular section.

Provincial Secretary.

In a brief address, Honorable H. C. Nixon, the Provincial Secretary, told of some of the work which came under his jurisdiction. Among the duties were the administration of the Ontario Temperance Act, and the housing administration, and he stated they would continue this good work. The charitable institutions of the Province come under this head, and a broad-minded policy will be instituted. The demands of the Great War Veterans' Association for investigation into the work or management of some of these institutions will be attended to. The Minister stated that there was a shortage of nurses in the Government institutions, and stated that they were prepared to pay the highest salaries and to make living conditions for the nurses as congenial as possible.

Minister of Public Works.

Undoubtedly the people of both urban and rural Ontario have been waiting for the announcement of a road policy by the new Minister of Public Works, the Honorable Mr. Biggs. The Minister believed in assisting the township roads as well as building trunk highways. He suggested a twenty per cent. grant to the