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A MINIATURE COMBINE
A Story in Chapters
Chapter I.

About seven months ago a man who had been a farmer in Alberta for six years, bought the chopping mill at a thriving town in Central Alberta and added a feed store to the business. Shortly afterwards he added to his retail stock coal oil, gasoline, machine oil, axle grease, etc. He set his own prices on these articles, as on all other things which he handled, and based these prices on a reasonable margin of profit. His volume of business increased steadily and all things have gone well with him up to the present. Having been a farmer and recognizing the value of co-operation, and the good work being accomplished by the U. F. A. he gave the local unions in his district and the members thereof a special price, based on spot cash only.

Chapter II.

Within the last few months the travelling agent of an oil combine ascertained that several of the local merchants had made out an order for a carload of oil and were sending it to another company. He made inquiries and was informed that the man who had been a farmer was underselling these merchants. The oil company or combine was informed by the merchants that the man must get no more oil, or they would purchase elsewhere. The agent of the combine was apparently impressed by the statement of the merchants.

Chapter III.

The day following, the facts found in the preceding chapter were made known to the man who had been a farmer, the local agents of the combine being witnesses to same. A spirited discussion ensued, the agent taking the viewpoint of the merchants and the man who had been a farmer contending for his own rights. At last it was agreed by the latter that he would sell coal oil for 35c per gallon as long as he got it from the combine, on condition that he was provided with a written notice to do so, signed by the agent of the combine. This was promised.

Chapter IV.

On the Monday morning following, the agent having apparently thought a great deal about the matter, deemed it unwise to produce the promised letter. Another interview followed but the man who had been a farmer was obdurate. He stood out for his rights. The result was that orders were given for no more oil to be supplied him for retail purposes. He therefore finds that his business is considerably interfered with.

Chapter V.

Having been a farmer and knowing the needs of the farmer, he adopted the policy of "Reasonable profits, quick returns for cash are better than large profits, less business and much credit," and was building up a good business as a result. He now finds a portion of his livelihood taken away from him simply for the reason that he was conscientious in his business, and has been compelled to notify the members of the U. F. A. that he cannot carry out his agreement with them, and all his other customers that he cannot sell oil, as not having sufficient capital it is impossible for him to procure same from other sources.

Chapter VI.

The above facts are absolutely correct, the hold-up happened at an important junction point in Central Alberta within the last few weeks. It is probable that others have had the same experience. What is it that is thus laid down at our feet? Does it not look like a combine in restraint of trade, or is it another new phase of that thing called business?

This is the first story. The moral could be summed up in the words "Co-operation and Organization." Are you going to help us?

WHAT THE UNIONS ARE DOING

Mr. Muhly, of Macleod, in sending in a report of Daily Creek Union, has some very interesting remarks to make. Among many others he gives the experiences of their Union in ordering and distributing a car of flour. He says in part: "To make a long story short, when the car arrived we sold the flour all through town and to a great many outside farmers. It was a great sight to see the farmers drive away from the car with big loads of flour. The dealers tried to spread the report that the flour was no good, but it proved No. 1. Now they have cut the price down to 5 cents below ours. He had about 100 bags left over that day but it is going right along."

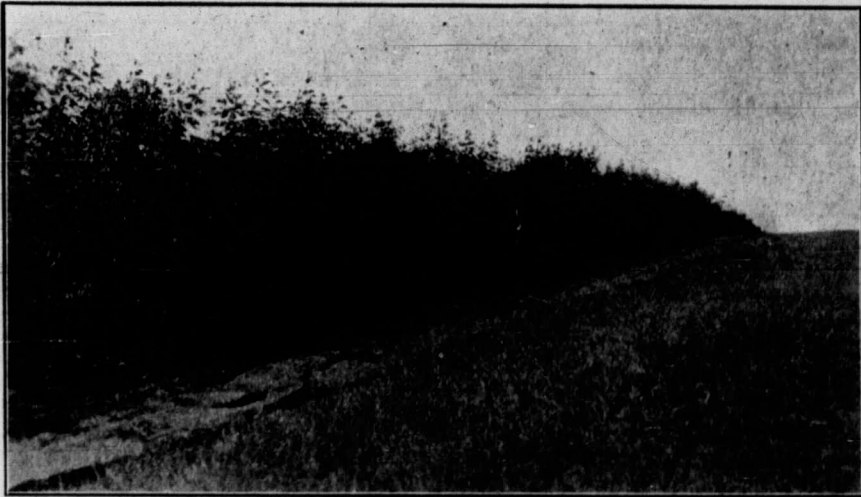
The semi-monthly meeting of the Lakeview Branch of the U. F. A. was held at Lakeview on Saturday, November 23, and was fairly well attended. It was unanimously agreed that the resolutions recently passed re parcels post and binder twine, be submitted to the annual convention. A resolution was also unanimously passed that we, the members of the Lakeview Branch of

was decided to organize another local at that point. As not many farmers were on hand it was decided to hold another meeting on Saturday, Dec. 7. Eleven members signed at the first meeting and several more have promised for the next meeting, to be held on Dec. 21. The following are the officers elected: President, Francis Ebborn, vice-president, A. McDougall; sec.-treas., J. H. Clipstone. A Board of Directors was also appointed, and in this district there are hearty workers for the U. F. A. There is a good prospect of a very live branch in the near future.

J. H. CLIPSTONE, Sec.-Treas.

The annual meeting of Harmony Union No. 276 was held Saturday, Dec. 7, and a large membership was present. Thirteen new names were introduced, swelling our membership to 68. With the interest which is now being taken, our roll should reach the hundred mark in a short time. Considerable business was discussed and resolutions were passed as follows:

Moved by L. M. Des Chauney, seconded by C. H. Brown: That the Harmony Union wishes to see a parcel post



THE RESULT OF TREE PLANTING AT HOWELL, ALTA.
Fifteen miles west of Medicine Hat—Four years' growth

the U. F. A., do hereby request the members of the Provincial Legislature to have a measure passed at the next session whereby a system of government by Direct Legislation will be put on the statutes of this province.

Mr. L. McComb submitted his financial report re car of wire.

The secretary-treasurer reported that a car of flour under special U. F. A. brand would be shipped Nov. 25.

DONALD CAMERON, Sec.-Treas.

From Holden comes the following: "The meeting addressed by your Mr. Swift could not be better. He is certainly a good one. A man travelling from town to town like that will do more good than millions of tons of literature. The average farmer has not the time. The townspeople, for some reason or other, are doing all they can to discourage the farmers from joining, but I hope to land 25 more before the winter is over. Our Union would like to present a resolution to the next convention re the slipshod method of the present government on taking the vote on municipalities, only two notices over nine miles, stuck up wherever the deputy could most easily get rid of them, also taking in all hamlets into the municipality. What chance has the farmer of electing a councillor in any division where there is a hamlet connected? I fear the executive board of the U. F. A. gave their endorsement to this scheme too quickly.

AUSTIN DRONEY, Sec.-Treas."

The report from Wainwright states that on the recent visit of Mr. Austin, of Ranfurly, to Greenshields, where a number of farmers were addressed it

system (after the pattern of other countries) established in Canada and heartily endorses the stand taken by the U. F. A. and the editor of The Grain Growers' Guide on the question.—Unanimously carried.

In the matter of the naval issue it was decided to circulate petitions praying the government to give the citizens of Canada a vote on the question.

In reviewing the past year's work we have not accomplished much, but enough to convince all that if we push together, we can do much to better our condition. Early in the season we were able to procure squirrel poison at 40c less on the dollar than it is retailed, and by the time the grain was ready to harvest, we had a good grade of twine ready for those who had ordered through us. We were able to deliver at \$9.15 per cwt. for 550 ft. while the dealers sold a 500 ft. twine for \$11.00 per cwt. A motion was carried to the effect that any member engaging in business in the town be debarred from office, which caused some change in the executive. The following officers were elected: President, A. Thompson; vice-president, E. E. Colburne; Sec.-treas., C. A. Fawcett; directors, C. H. Brown, P. J. Bibby, John Flewelling, Wm. J. Conners, L. M. Des Chauney and Thos. McGee. A hearty vote of thanks was given our retiring president, H. A. Murphy, for his efficient work for the U. F. A. while in office, after which the meeting adjourned.

C. A. FAWCETT, Sec.-Treas.

The farmers at Czar decided recently on the completion of their new school house, to organize a branch of the U. F. A. An organizer had been asked to

District Directors:

Victoria—P. S. Austin, Ranfurly; Edmonton—George Bevington, Spruce Grove; Strathcona—J. R. Pointer, Strome; Red Deer—E. Carswell, Penhold; Calgary—H. Sorensen, Strathmore; Macleod—G. W. Buchanan, Cowley; Medicine Hat, W. S. Henry, Bow Island.

undertake the work of assisting them to get going, but he apparently failed to respond, and the farmers decided, very wisely, to organize without his aid. C. W. Richardson, the secretary appointed, sends in a good report of their organization, with a request for further literature and "as we wish to advertise and increase our membership, will you please send me a bundle of Grain Growers' Guides and I will hand them to our members, and get all the subscriptions I can."

Cheap Money in England

The annual meeting of the local union of Pincher Station was held on the 14th inst., with a very fair attendance of members. The following members were elected as officers for the year 1913: President, E. J. Scott; vice-president, Wm. Potter; sec.-treas., N. H. Nathorst; directors, Wm. Barr, A. Ritchie, S. Watson, C. D. Dowling, J. A. Scott, James and Thomas Hammond. Delegates for the coming Calgary convention were also elected, and were: E. J. Scott and N. H. Nathorst.

The resolutions dealt with in your official circular No. 7, dealing with taxation of land values of farm lands inside town municipalities, alteration of dates for notes on farm machinery when to become due, and the creation of flour mills by the U. F. A. were discussed and a resolution endorsing the three in toto.

An interesting letter from A. N. Monat was received and read. Mr. Monat, who is visiting the Old Country, is a U. F. A. member, and one who has always interested himself deeply in the forward movement of the association. Mr. Monat had read in the Alberta section of The Guide the resolution lately passed by our local re cheap money for the farmers, and to show what is being done in that line in aristocrat-ridden England, forwarded a clipping from an Edinburgh newspaper in which it was shown that the government was lending to small landholders, money extending over time of fifty years at 2 1/4 per cent. interest. How about democratic Canada?

N. H. NATHORST, Sec.

Want Naval Referendum

The annual meeting of the Mountain Peak Union No. 125 was held on December 14, a good attendance of members being present. Satisfactory reports were given by the secretary-treasurer, showing the treasury to be in a good healthy condition. A letter was read from the head office telling us of a U. F. A. rally to be held in Staveley towards the end of this month which struck a note of pleasure all round. An interesting discussion took place on the Naval bill brought down just recently by Premier Borden, and every one present expressed himself strongly in favor of a referendum vote on the bill before it passed into law.

PETER HUNTER, Sec.-Treas.

Beaumont Union No. 5 reports: Our Union held the annual meeting on Dec. 15, 1912. A good attendance resulted and we hope to make this branch prosperous. The resolutions adopted by Union No. 147 and the others submitted by Union No. 71, were endorsed after a discussion by all present. In regard to the last resolution about binder twine, this Branch can take about 24,000 lbs. of twine for 1913. Our next meeting will be held on January 12, 1913.

MAURICE ROY, Sec.-Treas.

Note—Here is one Union to the fore on the binder-twine problem. Beaumont is not a large Union, but in the matter of co-operation would seem to be able to give many of us pointers. The binder twine problem would be no "problem" if others would follow the example of this Union.

P. P. WOODBRIDGE.