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PROPOSED EXTENDED JURISDICTION AND POWER FOR THE BOARD OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS

The following suggestions and the principles expressed therein were submitted to the Board of Railway Commissioners at Nelson, B.C., on December 9, by A. E. Watts, of Wattsburg, B.C.:

1.—Notice is given to the Board and all railway companies in Western Canada that a petition will be presented to the Board at Nelson for approval, and after that to Parliament, asking for extended powers and jurisdiction for the Railway Commissioners suggesting that they shall have power to enforce their orders by the infliction of fines, and to recompense those who suffer loss by the injustices perpetrated by railway corporations whether they be their employees or the general public.

2.—That measures be taken to restrain railway companies from attracting new settlers until such time as the companies can satisfactorily handle the traffic.

3.—That the rulings of the Board shall be final and no appeal allowed without the special permission of the Premier of Canada.

4.—That the Board shall have power to fully investigate the financial methods adopted by the manipulators of railway corporations, with a view of ascertaining how some individuals became premature millionaires, and to recommend legislation to moderate it in the future.

And further, to consider various complaints of which notices dated November 11, 15 and 21 have been served on the railway companies:—

1.—The illegal discrimination in the distribution of cars to shippers and to adopt measures to prevent the same.

2.—Application for the appointment of an official or officials with power to subpoena railway officials and examine them under oath, on the above subject.

3.—That all railway companies operating in Canada shall be compelled to supply small box cars of from 6 to 10 tons capacity for the convenience of the public, thus striking at the root of one of the principal causes of exorbitant prices for the necessities of life, and to lessen the extraordinary difference between the prices paid by the consumer and the prices obtained by the producer.

4.—To compel railway companies to restore the public roads destroyed by them during and after the construction of railways.

5.—For advice as to the most effective method to restrain the government of the province of British Columbia from paying one million six hundred thousand dollars or any other sum to the Canadian Pacific Railway company for the return of a portion of four million acres of land granted to the said company, the latter never having earned the grant of land nor any portion thereof.

6.—That the Board use its influence to prevent the C.P.R. Co. from obtaining from Parliament a further extension of time for the completion of the Crow's Nest Pass railway.

7.—An order to compel the C.P.R. Co. to restore a steamer landing and buildings destroyed by them.

8.—Whether the jurisdiction of the Board extends over traffic on inland waters, that is the lake and river service operated by railway companies.

9.—An order to compel railway companies to fence their right of ways through all settled districts, and more especially those mentioned in notices served on the C.P.R. Co. November 7.

10.—To compel railway companies to provide proper cattle guards and crossings, suitable for the purpose they are intended.

11.—To compel railway companies to more effectively clear their right of ways of inflammable material for the prevention of fires and damage done to property.

12.—To order the C.P.R. Co. to produce witnesses who were shipped to

Italy and whose evidence was necessary and material in a suit or suits against that company.

13.—That the Board use its influence in investigating and making known to the public the amount of watered stock disposed of by the various railway corporations, and ascertain who received the proceeds.

14.—That in the mountainous regions where cliffs of rock endanger the lives of the employees of railway companies and the travelling public, by falling on the railway track and wrecking trains, officials shall be appointed by the Board with full power to examine and to direct the railway companies to take proper precaution for the prevention of accidents.

15.—I shall call attention to the fact that the C.P.R. Co. ignored the order of the Board and did not fulfil promises of the chief officers of the C.P.R. Co. made to me and to the late chairman of the Board, Mr. Justice Mabee, in the matter of restoring certain public roads the company had destroyed during and after the construction of their railway.

16.—That the Board order an investigation as to why railway officials are permitted to persecute persons who dare to criticise railway corporations.

A SUCCESSFUL TRIP

P. S. Austin, of Ranfurly, a director of the U. F. A., has undertaken a very extensive trip through his district, and as a result thereof, there is a large increase in membership and several new unions added to the roll, while the members are considerably encouraged to carry on their work in the future. Mr. Austin undertook this trip at considerable inconvenience to himself and all the more credit is due to him on that account, as without this help it would have been impossible to undertake this work at present. Starting at Wainwright Mr. Austin worked east and north between the G. T. P. and C. N. R. lines and ended his tour at Lloydminster, after a trip which lasted over two weeks.

To take up the trip in detail, an interesting meeting was held at Chauvin on the afternoon of Nov. 22. There was a good attendance of members from all over the district and the unions throughout report themselves as in a thriving condition. Now that the harvesting and threshing is over they will get busy. A good meeting was held at Bloomington Valley, when a new union was organized with a membership of 15, and with Thos. Bayley, of Edgerton, as president, and Chas. Von Valger, of Edgerton, as secretary-treasurer. At Edgerton Mr. Austin was unlucky enough to be billed there for the same day and time as the provincial demonstration train, and this proved too great an attraction, but in spite of this a new union was organized with 12 members, the officers being: H. Spencer, president and J. Milne, secretary. At Saddle Hill on Monday, Nov. 25, the farmers were still busy threshing, but enough turned out to enable another good union to be organized, the officers being: President, A. Redmond; secretary, J. H. Compton, both of Edgerton. As far as Saddle Hill Mr. Austin was accompanied by J. C. McLeod, a very enthusiastic U. F. A. worker, who, in spite of exceedingly heavy business engagements at the time, spent the first week in seeing that the farmers got a chance to find out about the U. F. A. Gilt Edge was the next point visited, and it lived up to its name, with another good union, the officers being: President, Edward Goddard; secretary, A. Flaxton, both of Wainwright. At Hope Valley there was another splendid meeting, 15 members joining the union at that point, the officers being: President, F. Bailey; vice-president, M. C. Rubley, both of Hope Valley; secretary, J. Taylor, of Edgerton.

The next meeting was held at Ox-

ville, with the assistance of J. Campbell, of Hope Valley, and here a very representative meeting of the various unions in the districts surrounding this point was held. Mr. Austin found many members who were very enthusiastic in the work and who were making considerable sacrifices for its success. Oxville and vicinity has undertaken that the work of that district shall be of a more general nature in the future and the material is there to make this promise good. At Oxville Mr. Austin was met by Mr. McLean, who is the president of Sunny Dale Union. Mr. McLean is an up-to-date U. F. A. man in every respect, and the meeting held in the Sunnydale school house was a good one, although it was not so well attended as was first expected, owing to a counter attraction in the shape of a rural municipality meeting in the Rising Sun district. Considerable interest was taken in this meeting and a jolly good time was spent by all present. In every way Sunnydale appreciates the efforts being made by the Central and is prepared to assist. The secretary, Mr. Woods, is a genius at organization and is a student of the economic questions of considerable ability. With such leaders as these Sunnydale is keeping in the front rank of the U. F. A. and will continue to be very progressive.

On Saturday morning, November 30, A. Clarke, of Uneeda, undertook to drive Mr. Austin to Uneeda, a trip of twelve miles in the teeth of a blinding snowstorm. On account of the bad roads they did not arrive at their destination until two hours after the advertised time, with the result that many of the farmers had gone home. However, those who remained gathered around the stove and a very pleasant time was spent in discussing the questions most affecting the U. F. A. and its members. At this meeting arrangements were made for a talk in the Moyerton school house on Sunday afternoon, where an audience was promised. John Clarke, secretary of Uneeda Union, took charge of Mr. Austin over Sunday, and made him very comfortable, and, to use Mr. Austin's words, "I found Mr. Clark an interesting character, full of the milk of human kindness and, like a diamond, bursting forth here and there in brilliancy on questions concerning mankind."

On Sunday afternoon the members of Moyerton Union were addressed on the doctrine of good will and peace on earth together with the importance of arming ourselves with the knowledge of the requirements of good citizenship. After the address the meeting was turned over to the members and a sort of love

feast was indulged in to the benefit of all. Mr. Hodgson, the president, spoke on the necessity of beginning the winter campaign now that the busy season was over. From the experiences of various members it was quite evident that Moyerton was in the ring to stay. On Monday morning H. Benner, secretary of the Moyerton Union, drove Mr. Austin over to Earlie, where he was taken care of by J. H. Barker. At the meeting that evening all gathered around the stove and discussed the various questions which concern the farmer and why he should become aggressive in creating a successful industry. Here everyone was ready to put his shoulder to the wheel once more and Teepee Lake union is starting off to a new lease of life, and there is no fear of the future when such men as Messrs. Barker, King, Campbell and Christie have decided to take hold. Wm. Prescott, of Blackfoot, safely conveyed Mr. Austin over the Blackfoot Hills to the Blackfoot school house, and on the meeting being called to order, Mr. Austin was informed that every ratepayer in the district except two was in attendance. No apostle of the U. F. A. need have any fear of his welcome in this district, as every man is wrapped up in his work and is trying to assist in solving the economic problems which affect them. James Stone is still the secretary, and is a mountain of strength to Blackfoot.

At Lloydminster John Campbell, of Streamstown, and Mr. James Stone, assisted in the work and made the meeting interesting. A good number of farmers were in attendance and expressed themselves in favor of organization and co-operation, but unfortunately the secretary, Mr. Linton, was not present, having been called away to England, so it is probable that not a great deal will be done in this district until his return.

The outstanding feature of the whole tour was the enthusiasm displayed by those in attendance at the meetings, and the desire expressed to do everything possible to make the U. F. A. a big factor in the affairs of the world. The members see the necessity of remaining well organized and that if ever there was a time when the country needed the co-operation of good citizens it was now. Good and strong citizens were needed in building up this wonderful province of Alberta, and if they threshed out the economic questions and stayed with the work the results were sure and the gain to the community great. This tour has resulted in good work and Mr. Austin is to be congratulated on the very thorough manner in which he has handled it.

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.

Alberta

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by Edward J. Fream, Secretary, Calgary, Alberta.

TRAPPERS!

Grain Growers, do not forget that at this time of the year the grain harvest is over and now commences another harvest.

The Fur Harvest. Many grain growers in isolated parts of the country make more out of the fur harvest than they do out of the grain harvest. It was the furs that first made Winnipeg and Winnipeg to-day enjoys the prestige of the largest raw fur market in the world.

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