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JOTTINGS ON AN ORGANIZING TOUR

In a recent issue of The Guide you may have read the harrowing details of the trip undertaken by T. L. Swift and myself on the Castor branch of the C. P. R. There is nothing that a railway hates to do, however, more than to part with any money so when some of us casually discussed the possibility of getting damages if they detained us more than 24 hours. Someone woke up and we reached Coronation only one day late. Evidently it was a mean plot on the part of the railway officials to deprive the Castor and surrounding locals of the opportunity to listen to the concentrated wisdom which periodically breaks loose from Mr. Swift and the assistant secretary. However, at Coronation we were not disappointed for though the attendance was small, we were pleased to meet some very enthusiastic U.F.A. men in the members of federal unions with a sprinkling from other districts. While the C.P.R. were apparently not on the job here, yet we met some individual opposition, though in spite of the courteous invitation to do so, our friend the enemy could not be persuaded to stay for the meeting. I may say that through the whole tour with one or two exceptions, I was delighted to meet individuals who felt that this new and promising country should be left as their own particular closed lease or happy hunting ground. The landlords of old England were never more excited when they found some poor tenant engaged in snaring pheasants than are these people, when poor homesteaders start to organize. And that anyone should feel sufficiently interested to go in and endeavor to enlighten such people, is really nothing more or less than an outrage. At Coronation, Mr. Swift went south and succeeded in adding many new members at Sounding Creek and other places, while his addresses on the grain business were greatly appreciated. At Veteran, my next stop, some two dozen members were on hand and a meeting of considerable length resulted. All through the tour we were greatly handicapped in point of numbers, for which, no one can be blamed, except in a few instances. Nor did I feel greatly disappointed as the circumstances were exceptional. The weather was still open and many were rushing the stacking of their grain; others were threshing. Some were hauling their grain and others away on a long trip to the mines for coal. Everyone was very busy making the most of the open weather. I think they were wise.

Ladies' Auxiliary Formed

From Veteran, my next stop was at Consort. Here the ladies were out in force and, in addition to the regular proceedings, we were able to organize a ladies' auxiliary; in fact, I don't think you could have stopped them, anyway. This auxiliary should certainly tend to keep Harmony Union strictly up to its name. The intention of the ladies is to get their work going in preparation for the time when our regular Homemakers' clubs become facts. From Consort there was a long drive to Wiste, where an afternoon meeting was to be held. With three threshing outfits all within sight, very few were out and after a short stay and lunch at the secretary's home, as Mr. Baldwin had come over from Carlton to take me to the evening meeting, I climbed on board and once more got under weigh. That same evening I had the pleasure of speaking in the famous "sod hall." This hall was built by the members of Carlton Union, after the style of many a homesteader's dwelling, namely, of sods fresh from Mother Earth. It has now almost an international reputation, and is used not only for U.F.A. meetings, but for lantern lectures, Sunday school and church services, etc. Will some of our friends, facing similar difficulties, take heart at the example set by Carlton Union of the U.F.A.

From Carlton, the next trip was to

Sedalia. Here the union have a most pretentious building of all lumber and some 40 feet by 25 feet or thereabouts. A good crowd turned out and, as there was a program as well, it was late, or rather early, before the meeting broke up. Sedalia Union have, I understand, already cleared the cost of labor on their hall and soon hope to have the rest cleared. As the union is not yet 12 months old, this is good work.

An Automobile That "Wasn't"

Here was experienced the second hitch in the tour. No C.P.R. this time, but an automobile which failed to materialize. I never have learned what became of that automobile. Anyway, it was not. As a result I failed to make Cereal and Buffalo Plains. However, by rustling around I was able to commandeer a wagon and team next morning, and by a forced march of 35 miles reached Youngstown in time to catch up with my schedule. At this place a good meeting was held and considerable interest shown. It was no wonder. Youngstown was at that time the Western terminus of the C.N.R. line coming into Calgary. An elevator had been erected at this point by one of our budding financiers (or is it philanthropists?). This gentleman was buying up all grain in sight for cash, making his own grades, likewise his own price. So far as I was able to make out he was strictly on the safe side in the matter of grades and only from 12



FARM BUILDINGS OF HERMAN PENZLOFF, CLARESHOLM, ALTA.

to 15 cents below the market quotation as based on Winnipeg prices.

Good Meeting at Youngstown

From Youngstown I journeyed to Sheerness, the coal town, with a farmer from Cereal, who was hauling coal. Our secretary here was taking a holiday and my various letters preparing for the tour were still in the hands of the postmaster. As a result the members of other unions in the district were disappointed, not knowing what time the meeting was to be. However, some of the Berry Creek members were on hand in the afternoon, and thanks to P. Hobzworth, who sent a team and democrat down, others were able to be on hand in the evening. Many teams were also in for coal and the result was a really good meeting in the evening.

From this point my trip took me to Hanna for an afternoon meeting, with the object of organizing there, but to my surprise, absolutely no arrangements had been made and no one knew anything of it. As Hanna had been especially included at the request of the secretary of Earlton Union it did not look very promising for the evening meeting, which was to be held at Earlton schoolhouse. However, I drove on there and was rewarded by a crowd of four, of which the secretary was not one. These two points were the only ones where no meeting could be held. However, those gentlemen who had been able to get wind of the meeting proved very enthusiastic members and we had a very interesting conversation.

From there a visit was made to Lillico and a really good meeting was held at

Surprise schoolhouse. A number of the members of Victor Union were present, though the distance had evidently proved too much for our friends from Delia. Geo. Sargeant was on hand from Harts-horn, but it was next morning before our journey was continued. We are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stevenson for their kindness and hospitality in putting us up over night.

Social Evening at Wolf Hill

The next evening a very pleasant time was spent with the members of Wolf Hill Union, at the home of Walter Taylor. A number of ladies were present and a large program consisting of speeches, songs, recitations and pianoforte solos and duets was successfully carried out. Last, but not least, the ladies, besides taking part in the program, helped out with a grand supper. I believe though that the bachelors played their part in this. If Wolf Hill can bring off social evenings in this style from time to time, there surely should be no bachelors left in that district soon.

Next morning Cornucopia was in evidence and in the evening I had the pleasure of meeting the members of this union once more. The trip was beginning to tell a little by this time, but, as usual, our friends were kindness itself.

The next day, the meeting, the last of the tour, was at Gadsby. This town was just reached in time for the afternoon meeting. There was not a large turnout, but, judging from those who were

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.

will our unions realize that the Farmers' Union should be in the hands of farmers? When will our unions realize that sooner or later their interests will bring them into conflict with some business corporation and that even if that officer does not take the Initiative on his own behalf, he will be forced possibly against his own will to do the bidding of those behind him and betray the union. The worst of it is that farmers, instead of getting busy after an experience of this kind and looking after themselves, invariably take it lying down and growl that the U.F.A. is no good or something of that kind. Presumably because the Central office did not protect them from their own folly. Farmers! quit yourselves like men. Let us have more of the backbone and less of the wishbone. Study your constitution and this next year, which bids fair to open up a new era of our history, see that your officers are men whose interests are your interests, whose wishes are your wishes, whose every effort in all circumstances will be for you. That man can only be one of yourselves—a farmer—and to tell you the whole truth, even he needs watching. My message is this—if you would be successful, hand-pick your men.

P. P. WOODBRIDGE.

MacLEOD SEED FAIR RESULTS

The following is a report of the Seed Fair held by the MacLeod Agricultural association at MacLeod, January 6, 1913.

Alberta Red: 1, W. J. Glass; 2, Forster and Jackson; 3, R. E. Patterson.

White Fife: 1, R. E. Patterson.

Preston: 1, R. E. Patterson.

Red Fife: 1, W. J. Glass; 2, Shield Bros.; 3, H. McIntosh.

Marquis: 1, H. McIntosh; 2, W. J. Glass; 3, Stewart Bros.

Oats—Gartons: 1, H. G. Long; 2, R. E. Patterson; 3, James Beattie.

Abundance: 1, W. J. Glass; 2, H. McIntosh.

Flax: 1, R. E. Patterson.

Potatoes—Lord Allendale: 1, R. J. Hetherington.

The exhibits of grain were of an excellent quality, being commented on by the judges as being the best shown so far this season at any place where they had judged. The entries were not large owing to the very severe weather. A number of purchasers from other districts attended the fair and purchased considerable seed. Messrs Campbell and McComb were the judges. This is of particular interest as several of the winners are prominent U.F.A. men and supporters of the Grain Growers' Grain company.

LAKE VIEW'S NEW OFFICERS

Lake View Union, No. 71 U.F.A. The semi-monthly meeting of the above union was held at Lake View on Saturday, December 28, 1912. The committee appointed to make arrangements for the Box Social, Concert and Dance to be held on January 24 reported that arrangements for same were well under way, that a program to include vocal and instrumental music, recitations and a minstrel troupe was arranged for. The election of officers for 1913 resulted as follows: President, J. R. Quinlan; Vice-President, F. Hogg; Directors, Messrs. J. M. Hay, J. McNiece, H. McRae, D. S. Milne and P. C. Hepburn; Secretary-Treasurer, Donald Cameron. Messrs. J. R. Quinlan, J. M. Hay, J. McNiece and D. Cameron were unanimously appointed to represent the branch as delegates to the annual convention to be held in Calgary, January 21, 22 and 23, 1913.

DONALD CAMERON, Sec.-Treas.

FARMS FOR SALE

You may wish to dispose of your farm. If so, tell your brother farmers about it. Your farm may be just what he wants. Save the Real Estate dealers' commission by advertising it in The Guide and doing your business direct. A small ad. on our Farmers' Market Place page will get you a buyer.