

case was then adjourned to enable the company to prepare and present their arguments on this question, and notice has been received that the case will be heard at Montreal on January 23. If the contention of the complainants is upheld in this matter it will mean a great advantage to the farmers of Western Canada as well as to the merchants on the Pacific coast.

Draft for Incorporation

Your directors, in answer to several requests, decided to prepare a draft act of incorporation, and this is presented for your approval. The act is based upon the act incorporating the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.

A question which is every day becoming more prominent is that of Direct Legislation. Numerous requests have been received for a short pamphlet dealing with this subject, and your directors are pleased to state that they have received word that a booklet on this subject is now being prepared and will be ready for distribution at an early date.

Carload Weights

Having noticed reports to the effect that certain public bodies were working to have the minimum carload weights considerably increased, your directors enquired into this matter with the result that a protest has been made against any change in the present minimum weights allowed for carload lots. At the present time it is a very hard matter to get cars of small enough capacity for certain needs, and this is particularly true when farmers or small dealers in British Columbia try to order direct from the Prairie Provinces. It often happens that the capacity for storage is limited and a thirty thousand pound car is required, and if the proposal to raise the minimum weight is successful it will mean that this business will be seriously affected. For this reason and also that it seemed to be a further attempt to benefit the larger dealers at the expense of the small man this protest has been entered.

The Ottawa Delegation

Following the work done by the Western associations at the time of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's visit, the Canadian Council of Agriculture made the suggestion that a delegation of organized farmers should proceed to Ottawa and further present the case. The suggestion was enthusiastically received and the result was that possibly the largest delegation which has ever visited Ottawa waited upon the government and again presented the views of the farmers on the different subjects of moment. The delegation was received on the floor of the House of Commons, and the U.F.A. was honored by having delegates chosen to assist in presenting the elevator case, while the chilled meat, railway and co-operative questions were presented entirely by Alberta delegates. The convention was an inspiring one and those who were privileged to be present will long remember the stirring addresses given and the whole hearted enthusiasm displayed by everyone present. The presentation took place such a short time ago that the subjects dealt with are still being very much discussed throughout the country, so there is not much need to dwell upon this part of the case. It might not be amiss, however, to report on the interviews with the government after the public presentation had been made. The tariff question, the most important case of all, came up at an opportune time and it is hoped that the views propounded by the delegation will have a material result upon the tariff negotiations now in progress between Canada and the United States.

Terminal Elevators

The government requested the executives to wait upon them and discuss the proposed elevator legislation which will be introduced at the present session of parliament. Although this proposed legislation does not give everything asked for at the present time, still it is a step in advance and the machinery is provided whereby the government can acquire the terminal elevators at a later date. It can safely be said that the day of private ownership of terminal elevator facilities will soon be past. The representatives from Alberta held

out strongly for the immediate erection of terminal facilities at the Pacific coast and the absolute and pressing need for relief by supplying the proper facilities for handling grain in this direction. There is no doubt that the only thing which has saved a very serious blockade in Alberta during the past year was the crop shortage, and it is not right that such a serious calamity as faced several districts two and three years ago when no cars could be secured should be allowed to occur again.

On the chilled meat question the representatives were at least able to convince the government of the sincerity of the farmers, and a promise was secured that the whole matter should be investigated at once.

On the railway question, which was presented in a very complete paper, the various questions were taken up in detail and plans were proposed whereby relief could be granted. As far as the cattle guard and fencing questions are concerned the delegation has the sympathy of the Board of Railway Commissioners, who are thoroughly conversant with the present unsatisfactory state of affairs, and for this reason it is hoped that the relief asked for will be granted. A request was also made for a physical valuation of all railways and that density of traffic and competition should not be a factor in determining the rates charged.

Movement Nationalized

More than anything else, however, the great achievement accomplished by this delegation was the nationalization of the farmers' movement in Canada. The far-reaching effects of the delegation cannot be realized at the present time and it may be years before the full significance of this movement is realized. It will be of interest to many to know that a full report of the proceedings of this delegation will be published in pamphlet form at an early date.

Your directors took up with the C.P.R. officials the need of relief being granted to the farmers of Southern Alberta by allowing them to get their grain and feed stuffs from Central and Northern Alberta at as low a rate as possible, and your directors are pleased to be able to state that from the representations made a special tariff on feed stuffs from points from Red Deer north has been published.

Renewal of Notes

Your directors also took up with the machine companies the matter of allowing renewals of machine notes falling due this fall and winter in the districts which were affected by the crop shortage and suggested that instructions be given for the agents to be as lenient as possible in these cases and to allow for renewals whenever it could be arranged. Very favorable replies were received from the companies.

Your directors also took up the matter of securing better accommodation for stock and better facilities for handling same at some of the stock yards and were successful in every instance, the improvements asked for being promised.

Your directors have received several requests for assistance in securing seed grain from the government for next spring. This matter will be presented to the convention for consideration.

Discriminatory Rates

Your directors have entered a complaint against the C.P.R. before the

Board of Railway Commissioners, alleging that the rates charged on certain goods over the railway lines in Western Canada as compared to the rates charged for the same commodities for a like distance in Eastern Canada were strongly discriminatory in favor of the East and they consequently worked greatly to the disadvantage of the Western shippers. In this connection it would be well to refer to a recent decision of the board in the complaints of the Regina and Edmonton Boards of Trade. These complaints were to a certain extent along the same lines as the one made by the U.F.A., although they referred to their own particular localities only, while the U.F.A. complaint is meant to cover all points. The board found in favor of the complainants in these two instances and the decisions should be of material assistance to the U.F.A. in the final hearing of the case. If the contention of the U.F.A. is upheld the result cannot help but be of material advantage to Western Canada.

Organization Funds Needed

In regard to the organization work it might be said that this has proceeded rapidly, but not so fast as it would have if your directors had not been handicapped by lack of funds. It is hoped that steps will be taken to place this most important part of the work on a thorough basis by which every part of Canada can be reached.

It would be impossible to state all that had been accomplished or taken up during the past year in one general report, and this is given to show that the association has not been idle. It is only necessary to state that the U.F.A. is recognized as one of the leading organizations in Western Canada.

The following report was made to the Calgary convention by E. J. Fream, secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta:

In presenting my second annual report to the delegates of the United Farmers of Alberta it is gratifying to be able to state that the affairs of the Association are in a very flourishing condition. It can safely be said that the membership has doubled during the past year and the number of unions upon the books is now 216 as compared with 122 last year. Not only is there this gratifying increase in the number of unions but the membership of many of the older ones has increased two and three fold. This is gratifying indeed and shows that the farmers are realizing the need and the value of an efficient farmers' organization.

The number of enquiries received and the applications on file at the present time for organizers is great and this shows rather conclusively that the country is now ripe for further progressive organization work and the need at the present time is more money and assistance to enable this organization work to be pushed to the fullest extent. It is possible, and this statement is made in all seriousness after a careful study of the situation, to effect an organization in Alberta during the next twelve months with a membership of at least 25,000 and with nearly 500 active local unions. The country is ready for the association and the association must become ready to fill all the gaps which are still left unorganized throughout the country. We cannot afford to lag behind at the present time, but must be prepared to be right at the

and that your officers are shown every courtesy and consideration on all occasions.

It might be well to remind you that Alberta is differently situated to the other provinces in Western Canada. The agricultural pursuits followed are varied and it is therefore necessary to keep many subjects of importance to the front at all times. For this reason it may be said that the U.F.A. is not gaining many points, but it must not be forgotten no point is being overlooked and every opportunity is being grasped to further the interests of the organized farmers. One of the greatest needs at the present time is that of education and it is hoped that many opportunities will be presented during this year along this line.

It is with the greatest regret that I have to report to you the fact that one of the oldest friends and workers in the cause of farmers' organizations, one who was an officer in the Alberta Farmers' Association who assisted in the amalgamation of the two old societies and who was in 1909 a director of the United Farmers of Alberta, has passed away to the great beyond. We refer to the late Mr. George McDonald of Olds, and are sure that every delegate present, especially those who met and knew him at former conventions, will realize from the bare mention of his name that a hard worker indeed has passed from our midst, and that all will sympathize with his sorrowing wife and family.

Your directors wish to thank all for their co-operation during the past year and commend to you the many serious and important questions which will be presented for your consideration at this, the largest convention in the history of the organized farmers of Alberta.

Secretary's Report

front and to be the leaders on all the questions of moment, also to take up the work whenever and wherever required.

Circular Letters

Dealing with the work of the secretary's office it might be mentioned that during the past year fifteen circular letters have been sent out to the local unions, fourteen from the secretary's office and one, dealing with the co-operative petitions, from the office of our official organ, THE GRAIN GROWER'S GUIDE. These circulars have taken up the various matters which have been before the association during the year and have to a large extent been the means of keeping the central association more closely in touch with the local unions and the individual members. These circulars seem to find general favor and numerous requests have been made that a sufficient quantity should be printed to enable every member to be supplied with a copy. This would entail an enormous expense at the present time and is therefore out of the question. It might be mentioned, however, that each circular as it is issued appears in the Alberta section of THE GUIDE and the members who are subscribers to the official organ will secure a copy of the circular in that manner.

With the rapid growth of the association it is only to be expected that the work of the secretary's office will become more arduous. That this expectation has been realized may be gathered from the fact that the postage account for 1910 was \$218.56, as compared with \$121.90 in the year previous. The number of letters, circulars and parcels sent out have increased enormously and in round figures have approximated 5,500 letters, 3,500 circulars and 300 parcels.

As far as possible it has been our aim to attend to everything as soon as it is received. This, of course, is sometimes found to be impossible as the information required may not be on hand or the secretary may be away from home attending to some other work in connection with the association.

Many Enquiries Received

The number of questions and enquiries received are many and varied and the central office is at the convenience of every member on any subject whatever, and the policy has been that if we have not got what you want we will keep on hustling till we get it for you. This portion of the work is rapidly growing, but there is always room for a little more. In this connection it might be as well to

THE TARIFF:

or How the Protected Manufacturers Rob the People

Every man, woman and child in Canada should be most deeply interested in this subject. "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada," by Edward Porritt, is the story of the tariff in Canada since 1846 when England adopted Free Trade. Many regard the Tariff as a very dry and uninteresting subject. But Mr. Porritt takes out the dryness and makes it most interesting. Every farmer could spend a number of pleasant evenings with this book and at the same time have his eyes opened to the iniquity of the tariff laws of Canada. Every farmer would then understand why he has to pay out \$200 a year to support the manufacturers. The book contains 478 pages and is fully indexed. It will be sent to any address for \$1.50, postpaid.

BOOK DEPARTMENT - - GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, WINNIPEG