

weakness lay in the fact that only 10,000 organized farmers of the United Farmers of Ontario were seeking what should have been demanded by 250,000 who look on and neither assist nor contribute to the cause.

The greatest need in the opinion of Mr. Morrison was a direct line of communication with the members. He believed that no great organization without an official organ could hope for success. Unity of purpose is the propelling factor in organization, and in his opinion without an official organ the organization becomes a mob driven by the cross winds of ignorance and bigotry. A new era in agricultural organization is becoming established and the dream of the optimist is sure to be verified, according to the Secretary.

Organization of Young Men.

Joseph A. Snider, Provincial Secretary of the Junior Farmers' Improvement Association, gave a short address on "organization of the young men of our industry", in which he eulogized the work of the District Representatives and explained the method of organizing the Junior Farmers. Having benefited from the Short Course work as carried on by the District Representatives of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Mr. Snider was more willing to give due credit to departmental organizations instituted for the prime purpose of helping to improve conditions in the rural districts than were some of the older speakers who were particularly bitter against all officials of agricultural colleges and Departments of Agriculture. There seemed to be in the meeting a feeling that all men appointed by the Government, Provincial or Dominion, were attempting in some way or other to undermine the work of the farmers' organization. Mr. Snider's address, followed by a paper by Percy Mulholland on the "Dignity of Our Calling," should have some effect in depicting the views of younger men.

Increased Production and Labor.

W. A. Amos was assigned the subject of increased production and labor, and while many good things were brought out in his excellent address he had no solution to offer for the labor problem. Our vast armies, as well as the civilians of the Allied countries, must be fed. Early in the war no special attention was paid to production. At that time Lloyd-George contended that the silver bullet would win the war. Then the call was suddenly changed and munitions were speeded up. Soon after another change was made and every influence possible was brought to bear to exhort the producers to greater efforts. In the mud of the last three springs and particularly the last, every man on a hundred acres tried to put in at least ten acres more crop. Farmers have done their utmost but still if we are to have liberty, truth and righteousness on the earth we must have food. We have been living too high and if the Government is sincere in asking for increased production, then they should demonstrate that they are going to make the proper use of what is produced. We must have conservation and elimination of waste, and the producer must be protected by a price for his product commensurate with the cost of production. "No farmer," said Mr. Amos, "is foolish enough to produce for mere patriotism." He asked that everyone should do his bit. "Our kinsmen and our Allies are fighting for us and the least we can do is to fight famine for them. Some customs must be set aside, and the efforts of the soldiers and the women of Europe must be supplemented. We must make a patriotic endeavor even if the profiteer does exploit." Mr. Amos gave some very interesting figures showing the waste of barley, still being made into beer, which barley should be used to feed hogs for the armies and the civilian population of the Allied countries. Referring to the labor question, these were his words: "We haven't got any labor". Efforts made by citizens of our towns and cities demonstrate that they do not know very much about the labor situation. Farming is a hazardous occupation and requires competent men. We must do all we can alone or in co-operation with our neighbors, rather than usher in inexperienced help. Mr. Amos had no solution for the labor problem, but believed that the farmer should lift his business out of other men's hands and control it himself.

Development of Rural Opinion.

W. L. Smith gave a short address on the formation and development of rural opinion. Farmers are more numerous than those engaged in other work, according to Mr. Smith, and should have more influence than any other class. But the urban population has increased rapidly and the rural population decreased, and in the larger centres there is a maximum of organization, while in the rural districts the lack of organization is apparent. He believed that farmers possessed more knowledge and ability for clear thinking than could be found in the cities, but they lack the power to control public affairs. He deplored the passing out of the debating societies of years ago, which enabled people to think on their feet, to debate in public and bring proper influence to bear. He believed also that the principal hope was in the Junior Farmers' Improvement Association, but advised his hearers to avoid as they would a pestilence the influence of any departmental official in the running of their organization work. Government officials pauperize the people in Mr. Smith's opinion, and do the work farmers should do for themselves. He suggested that the Secretary and Directors should prepare a program for winter meetings so that all Clubs would be discussing the same things at the same time. We are living in strenuous and dangerous times. The nation is borrowing heavily. The time is coming when borrowed money must be paid back, and the burden will fall upon the farmers and their children unless organization secures for the farmer his just rights. In Mr.

Smith's opinion farmers are the great steadying influence in this country.

J. N. Kernighan followed Mr. Smith. He believed that the greatest need was a consolidation of rural opinion. It is necessary to have organization to get the proper expression of this opinion and unless the United Farmers of Ontario can consolidate public opinion they have no reason for existing as a body. Mr. Keringham stated that the city press will not give rural opinion a chance to express itself and cited cases of failure of four Directors of the organization to get letters published in Toronto papers. He favored an official organ, perhaps a daily, for the United Farmers. In discussion it was brought out that one of the greatest needs at the present time is fair representation of the farming industry in Parliament.

The Canadian Council of Agriculture.

R. McKenzie, of Winnipeg, and Secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, outlined the work of that institution tracing its development from the very beginning of association work in the West. The work of the Canadian Council is to gather data and information which has a bearing on agriculture; for instance, this last year pamphlets have been sent out in great numbers, including 75,000 copies of "The Farmers' Platform". The work of the Canadian Council of Agriculture is to crystallize public opinion. Mr. McKenzie quoted figures to show that agriculture in Canada has been decadent and that while in 1881, 154 out of every 1,000 of Canada's population were engaged in agriculture, thirty years later this number had decreased to 130 per thousand; while the numbers per thousand engaged in trade and transportation had doubled and trebled. He deplored the fact that farmers had signified their unwillingness to pay a membership fee of \$1.00 to their organization, pointing out that the boot-blacks of Winnipeg paid \$8.00 per year in support of their organization.

Farmers' Roads.

Ontario farmers and their roads was the subject allotted to E. Elliott, County Clerk of Peterboro. In Mr. Elliott's opinion it is the duty of the Government to build and repair roads most used by farmers. In his opinion not two per cent. of farmers attend the city market and only about one-tenth of the travelling done by farmers is done on the County Road. These special County Roads which come under the County Roads System are used by citizens of the towns and cities and ninety per cent. of their pleasure is derived on these roads without direct financial support. He believed that it is the duty of farmers to go to the Government and insist that the citizens pay their automobile licenses to be used on the main roads which they use. The Country Road System he branded as a yoke on the farmers and a benefit to urbanites and contended that all special effort on country roads should be put on those roads used most by farmers and necessary to get their goods to and from the nearest railway station.

Supporting his argument, A. A. Powers, contended that we should have roads for the people to take stuff to market and not be burdened with concrete roads for tourists' travel.

The farmer's market is his railway station, said James Pearson. He pointed out that in California every dollar collected in automobile licenses goes back on the public highway. Government money should be spent on the farmers' roads and the automobile licenses should get to maintain the thoroughfares which they use.

Producer and Consumer.

E. H. Stonehouse, President of the Milk Producers' Association, in a pithy address dealt with "The Rural Producer and the Urban Consumer". In his opinion farmers are the heart of the country, and while urban people believe that farmers have been unjustly favored, in the interests of both producer and consumer, which are identical, farmers have a right to claim exemption at this time because the armies and the people must be fed and farmers are doing a national service. Labor is the big shortage and even though farmers are working fourteen hours per day production is falling off. They have done their utmost and never asked one undue advantage, but with the rural population falling off from thirty, fifty and even seventy per cent. and immigration cut off, and keeping in mind that those who have come from the Old Land have enlisted and the drain of our own Canadian boys into the army, farmers can scarcely maintain production. As a body they are as loyal as any class in the Dominion and as a body they request and demand as a national service that skilled men be left on the farms. Every skilled producer added to the ranks of the consumers takes away the support of six or eight men in the trenches. "And," said Mr. Stonehouse, "if one man should die in the trenches, another should (figuratively speaking) die in his effort on the farm." He advocated an intelligent system of registration, placing every man where he could do most good. Non-essential industries should be closed. He believed that the consumer did not and would not understand the situation until he was forced. The average consumer first attempts to economize on necessities, while he keeps up his pleasures. We must concentrate on the things worth while. Closing his address in a strong appeal for closer organization, he asked that farmers be loyal to their association, that they cut out party politics which he named the root of all evil, and he hoped that the better spirit which was now manifesting itself among farmers would hasten the day when the farmer would occupy his proper place in the community.

R. W. E. Burnaby, of Jefferson, dealt briefly with the subject of Price Fixing of Farm Products Only. Mr. Burnaby believed that the Food Controller was

doing the best he could under the circumstances, but complained that sometimes it did appear as if the farmer was not getting a fair deal. It seemed to him like a long time from the date on which the Food Controller set the price on wheat before he fixed the price on bran and shorts. In Mr. Burnaby's opinion the law of supply and demand could be depended upon were it not manipulated by unscrupulous dealers, and then no control would be necessary. He believed that the price of wheat had been set, not to help the farmer but because men between the farmer and the consumer wanted it so. If any price fixing is done he believed that it should be a minimum price that the farmer should get for his product. He accused the Government of hampering rather than encouraging production, and while they would not guarantee the farmers a price they would pay munitions manufacturers at a rate that would enable them to take the farmer's labor away from the land and pay each man ten dollars per day or per night. Prices were assured the pork packers by the British Government and why was it impossible to set a price for the farmer? The Food Controller had taken good care that the middleman, the railroads and the manufacturers do not lose anything by price setting. "Who sets the price on binders?" said Mr. Burnaby. Not the Food Controller but the manufacturers whose agents quote the same price for the different makes. Yet the price of wheat is set to the farmer.

Mr. Burnaby believed the middleman is absolutely necessary but that the United Farmers' Co-operative Company should be that middleman.

If we are ever to get what we desire we must elect proper representatives to Parliament and not be the lot of hide-bound Tories and Grits that farmers of the past have been. Mr. Burnaby showed very clearly how the tariff was a detriment to the producer and consumer as well.

Pitfalls of Farmers' Business Organizations.

John Kennedy, Second Vice-President of the United Grain Growers, Limited, discussed some of the pitfalls of farmers' business organizations. In plain language, he told those present that if they were ever to get anywhere they must not hesitate to give their loyal support to their organization, financially and in every other particular. He believed that the United Farmers of Ontario would do well to have ladies present at their annual meeting and to encourage them to work very closely with the organization.

The first essential to success is executive ability and young men with practical experience in business methods. A man cannot grow up between the plow handles and then launch into commercial business on a large scale and make it an immediate success. The best men must be selected; men who can get contracts and close them. The executive must have confidence in themselves and not stop at a few hundred dollars in hiring the right men to run the business. He urged also greatly increased paid-up capital that will establish a line of credit and advised that only high-class goods be handled.

Resolutions.

Among the resolutions adopted was one urging the Federal Minister of Agriculture to allow the permanent immunization of hogs against cholera by serum treatment. The delegates were also asked to bring to the attention of their Clubs the necessity of increasing the membership fee. The Farmers' Platform was again approved and the Dominion Government was asked, as a means of increasing production to remove the duty from agricultural machinery, implements and clover seed. The Convention also favored the prohibition of the use of any grain in making alcoholic beverages during the war, and the Railway Commission will be asked to have fertilizers in bulk put in the same class as crushed rock for carriage as freight. The Dominion Government was asked to investigate the cost of cheese-making and to take steps with the Imperial Government to have the price arranged in accordance with the cost of production. The Presidents of the U. F. O. and the United Farmers' Co-operative Company, with Secretary Morrison, and two others to be named by them, were appointed a committee to consider the advisability of establishing an official organ.

Officers.

President, R. H. Halbert, Melancthon; Vice-President, E. C. Drury, Barrie. Directors: W. A. Amos, Perth Co.; Peter Porter, Brant Co.; H. V. Hoover, Hastings, Co.; A. J. McRae, Glengarry Co.; T. H. Adams, Essex Co., and R. J. McMillan, Huron Co.

The Company.

In the meeting of the United Farmers' Co-operative Company Limited, President B. C. Tucker's statement showed that when the year was complete the business would pass the million dollar mark. It is interesting to compare this with the first year of the organization in which \$226,000 was the amount of business; the next year this increased to \$410,385; and the past year this latter figure is more than doubled.

L. C. Blachford, Manager of the Company, pointed out that the United Farmers organized for the purpose of bringing farmers together for the promotion of their mutual interests, and that the organization provides the medium through which business is done, while the Company provides in a large part, the sinews of war by which the work of organization is promoted.

The resolution adopted by the U. F. O. in connection with the establishment of an official organ was also adopted by the Company.

Directors of the Company.

R. W. E. Burnaby, Jefferson; E. C. Drury, Barrie; Wm. McRae, Guelph; A. A. Powers, Orono; R. H. Halbert, Melancthon; E. A. Van Allen, Aultsville; B. C. Tucker, Harold; Elmer Lick, Oshawa; C. W. Gurney, Paris.