

## The United Farmers of Ontario

(Continued from page 19)

a comparatively few landowners are seizing for their own benefit all the wealth thus created. During the past four years land values in Toronto alone had increased \$3,000,000, or by an average of \$40,000,000 a year. This money did not drop out of heaven, but was taken out of the farmers of the country and the consumers in the cities through the enormous rents charged by city landowners. Mr. Cowan was asked what would prevent landowners from adding a tax on land values to the cost of goods just as they do their rent. He replied that they would be prevented from doing this by the fact that in all cities there is a large amount of vacant land, there being some 2,000 acres in Toronto alone. A tax on land values would force this land into use, and by encouraging the erection of buildings would tend to decrease instead of increasing rents. Those present saw that the subject was a big one, and were impressed by the hearty endorsement given it by Mr. J. S. Woodworth, of Winnipeg, who spoke on behalf of the western farmers. It was felt, however, that it was a matter that required further consideration, and therefore no resolution dealing with it was passed.

### The Duty on Fencing

Mr. H. J. Pettypiece, of Forest, who publishes a local paper, showed the way in which the new tariff is going to affect the farmer. He stated that the day before the tariff increase was announced he had an advertisement on hand from a fence company quoting certain prices for fencing. The day the new tariff was announced he received a telegram cancelling that advertisement. Shortly after he received a new advertisement, in which he noticed that the price of the fencing had been increased 5c and 6c a rod for every grade. He pointed out that this increase did not go to the government, but to the protected manufacturer.

Mr. Wm. Bacon, of Orillia, spoke on "Our Trade With the Motherland." He urged the practice of real patriotism by more extensive buying of British-made articles.

Strengthening the Organization. Mr. B. C. Carter, Harold, Ont., secretary of the Minto Farmers' Club, spoke on the subject, "What Can the Central Do to Help the Local Associations?" He urged that the central association should give the local associations something definite to do, and advocated the publication by the central organization of a bulletin which would keep the locals in touch with the central. His club has had a representative in the city of Toronto who has assisted them in selling their live stock. He thought that the central association should promote this work for the benefit of all the locals. This suggestion led to considerable discussion, and will probably result

in the matter being dealt with ultimately by the central organization.

### Cooperation in England

Mr. Geo. Keen of Brantford, gave an address on "Successful Cooperation in Great Britain" which he illustrated with lantern slides. This address was a revelation of the extent to which cooperation has succeeded in Great Britain. The sales of the Cooperative Wholesale Society of Great Britain last year amounted to \$650,179,475, and the profits to \$71,302,000. The capital of the society was \$350,548,865, or more than the combined capital of all the chartered banks in Canada. This great organization was started by a few miners, who got together under great difficulties about the middle of the last century, and arranged to buy together in a very limited way.

### Movement in the West

Mr. J. B. Musselman, the secretary of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, described the great success that has attended the farmers' movement in Saskatchewan. The total population of Saskatchewan is less than the population of the city of Toronto, nevertheless the farmers have 1,000 local organizations and more to be organized. This year they held a four days' convention at which there were 1,800 delegates. The Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Company controls 215 elevators, and last year handled 90,000,000 bushels of grain and made a profit of \$298,000. All the stock is owned by farmers. They have a municipal hall insurance commission, which last year carried \$25,000,000 of insurance and made a profit of \$250,000. The premiums are paid by a tax on land values.

### "Can't Competers"

Mr. Musselman made a hit when he described the protected manufacturers as "Can't Competers." He said that while the farmers of Canada had to sell their produce in the markets of the world, our manufacturers shout that they cannot compete with the manufacturers of other countries, and therefore that they must be protected, which means that the farmer must help them by paying higher prices for the goods they manufacture. "They talk about the inefficiency of the farmer," said Mr. Musselman, "yet the farmer seems to be about the only class in the community that is able to compete with the rest of the world." Mr. Musselman endorsed the principle of taxing land values, and in this connection showed that in western Canada a few men had been able to accumulate over \$200,000,000 in wealth in a few years through increasing land values which they had done practically nothing to create.

Mr. J. S. Woodworth, of Winnipeg, made one of the best speeches of the convention. One delegate having expressed the fear that harm

might result if political questions were discussed, Mr. Woodworth remarked that the farmers of western Canada had got far past that stage. He considered the politicians instead of being the masters were the servants of the farmers. He contended there is no such thing as an "independent farmer," as social and economic conditions govern the welfare of every farmer, and unless farmers are willing to relinquish their so-called independence they are going to be crushed under the industrial revolution which has now struck the farmers as it has every other class in the community. Farmers are mixed up directly and inextricably in the banking, railway, marketing, and manufacturing problems of the country, and unless they work with their fellow-farmers to advance their united interest they will suffer the consequences. In western Canada the farmers have taken a strong stand against the combines and mergers that are bleeding the country.

Secretary J. J. Morrison made the closing speech. He showed that the success of the movement is going to depend on the loyalty of the individual farmers in the local association and on the loyalty of these associations to the central organization. He said that he had found from his visits to all parts of the province that the farmers are ready and anxious to organize. The organization has now created and is ready for the affiliation of the local associations. The future, he said, was full of promise, and he expected that the coming year would show great progress.

Different delegates spoken to by the editor of Farm and Dairy stated that they were delighted with the convention, and intimated that they were returning home determined to push the movement towards a still greater success.

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### Dairy Farming on Sand

One of Our Folks who is making good on a farm of thin, sandy loam, recently wrote Farm and Dairy telling of his success with dairy cattle. His letter is published on page 5, Dec. 31st. Mr. Rutherford's success under adverse conditions may well act as an inspiration to the many of us who are more favorably situated but, perhaps, not doing so well.

Mr. Rutherford was glad to pass on his experience for the encouragement it may give to others. He himself was not unrequited. Immediately we extended his subscription six months. Had this letter been accompanied by a photograph of his herd or buildings, Mr. Rutherford's subscription would have been extended the full year.

The same privilege is extended to all of Our Folks. Acceptable letters of 300 words or more describing successful farm practice, or dealing with any topic of agricultural interest, entitle the subscriber to a six months' renewal of his subscription. Our women folk can secure the same remedy by writing for our Household Department or Home Club. Several have already availed themselves of this offer. We would be glad to hear from you.