

Farmer Fined \$500 for Criticizing Government

Widespread Interest in Cross Case—U.F.O. Will Appeal

CHARGED with an infraction of order "D" of the order-in-council of April 17, Mr. J. F. Cross, a Brantford farmer, was, on Tuesday, June 25, fined \$500 and costs by Magistrate Livingston of Brantford. Order "D" states that "no one shall print, publish or publicly express any statement, report or opinion which may tend to weaken in any way, or detract from the united effort of the people of Canada in the prosecution of the war." The words alleged to have been spoken by Mr. Cross in a private conversation with John Holding, a neighbor, were to the effect that we could be no worse off under Prussian rule than under the present Government.

The case has created widespread interest among the farmers of Ontario, not only because the sentence is felt to be unjustly severe, but also on account of the remarks made by Magistrate Livingston, one of his utterances being, "I have already remarked that a lot of these farmers should have been put in jail."

At the trial evidence was given by the members of the Houlding family, John A., Mrs. George Houlding, Stewart Houlding and Reeve Rupert Greenwood. All told of being informed with the defendant in which he had criticized the Government for breaking the promise that farmers' sons would be exempt after they had received absolutely no training. It was the order-in-council affecting farmers' sons—the same which brought about the meeting of the farmers of this section here and the deputation to Ottawa—which brought out Cross' remarks.

Cross, when called upon to give evidence, stated that he referred to the Government pledge as an scrap of paper, and he did not think that in saying this he was going beyond the bounds of rightful criticism.

Cross told of having two farms, one ten miles from the other, with a total acreage of 119. He had an adopted son yet at home, while his other son had recently been drafted. His parents, he said, were English and he had been born in Canada.

M. W. McEwen, for the defence, contended that Cross had merely exercised the rights of free speech, the same as other citizens all over the country.

The magistrate: "I have already remarked that a lot of these farmers should have been put in jail."

Mr. McEwen continued that the attitude of the farmers was generally known, and there was no reason why Mr. Cross should be singled out for treatment when no others were molested.

"All I have to say is that some people have been lax in this connection," the magistrate replied.

Mr. McEwen contended that if any Government in this country was to pass a law prohibiting criticism of it as a Government, then it was Prussianism indeed. The defendant had merely exercised his right of common Canadian citizenship.

No Seditious Utterance.

In conversation with officials of the United Farmers of Ontario last week, Mr. Cross strenuously denied having used seditious language. "We were having an ordinary discussion about the Government's breach of faith with the farmers," he said, "and that's all there is to it." Mr. Cross' only son is in the army.

"The magistrate at Brantford is biased against the farmers as a class," declared Mr. Cross. "He remarked that a lot of these farmers should be put in jail, and that, so far as he could, he was going to put this down, meaning the agitation of the farmers."

Mr. Cross declares that his only

thought in all his conversations was that the Government had been faulty in granting exemptions to farmers' sons and in taking them away.

Commenting editorially on the case, and on the remark of the Magistrate to the effect that "I have already remarked that a lot of these farmers should be put in jail," the Toronto Globe says:

"It would appear that the penalty imposed upon Mr. Cross was unnecessarily severe and calculated to do injury to the Government, for the cause which patriotic Canadians are seeking to advance. The case should undoubtedly be reviewed and the sentence modified or suspended."

"The case of Mr. Cross is unfortunately, not an isolated one. It is a mistake to fail or refuse to recognize that throughout many of the agricultural districts in Ontario there is much exasperation and bitterness over the recent strengthening amendments to the Military Service Act. Much of this feeling, it must regretfully be stated, is inspired and encouraged by selfish outside influences not directly interested in the work of agricultural production. But it cannot be suppressed by prosecution. There is danger of further inflammation."

U. F. O. Appeal Case.

Feeling that not only has a grave injustice been done to a loyal Canadian citizen, but a reflection has been cast on the patriotism of the farmers of the province, the United Farmers of Ontario have sent a deputation to Mr. Cross and have instructed Gordon Waldron, their lawyer, to enter an appeal at once.

Convention Echoes

Mr. J. N. Kernaghan, the chairman of the committee that was appointed at the last annual convention of the U.F.O. to take steps to establish an official organ, has informed the farmers' committee in Ottawa, a man had offered to put up all the money the farmers might require to publish such a paper. He had refused to consider the offer because the man was not a farmer.

The advantages of the system of legislation known as the "Referendum" and the "Recall" were explained by H. H. Cowan, of Farm and Dairy, in reply to a request for information on the point. Mr. Cowan pointed out that if we had this legislation in Canada farmers instead of being at the mercy of the Government would have the Government where it would have to pay heed to their wishes. The "Referendum," he said, is legislation which makes it possible for the people, if they are not satisfied with a measure passed by the Government, to circulate a petition. If this petition is signed by eight per cent. of the people the Government must submit the measure to a vote of the people before it could become a law. At present the Government is able to ignore the desire of the farmers because it has been elected for a period of four years, and cannot be touched in its mandate. The "Recall" is legislation which makes it possible for farmers, when their member in the House of Commons or in the Legislature, ceases to represent their views, to sign a petition. If 25% of the electors sign the petition the member must resign and submit himself for re-election. The farmers' organizations in Canada, including the U.F.O., have had a plank in their National Platform for some years urging the Government to enact such legislation. So far the Government has refused to grant it. If we had such legislation on our statute books the Government could never have passed the recent order-in-council, and

had it done so it would have been possible to make the Government submit it to a vote of the people before putting it into effect.

Quite a number of members of the Women's Institute were present. One of the women delegates suggested that the men should go home and urge their wives to join the Women's Institute in order that both organizations might work together in the interests of the farmer. As several delegates urged that something should be done to help the women to take a greater interest in the work of the U.F.O. much interest was taken in an announcement by Mr. J. J. Morrison that a meeting was to be held in Toronto on June 17, which would be addressed by Mrs. McNaughton, a past President of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, for the purpose of organizing a farmers' women's institute in connection with the U.F.O. similar to the Women's Section of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. A report of this meeting appeared in the June 26th issue of Farm and Dairy.

Brant Farmers' Cooperative Society

A YEAR or more ago there was quite a flurry in U.F.O. circles over the action of certain Brant county members in promoting a cooperative trading society of their own with headquarters in Brantford. The movement was interpreted in some quarters as a move to break up provincial cooperation, and the new society was considered a competitor of the Central rather than as an associate and feeder. Since then, however, the Brant society has directed thousands of dollars worth of business to the central organization, and has justified the claim of its promoters that it was not intended to break up the Central. When in Brantford a few days ago, in company with Mr. W. C. Good, an editor of Farm and Dairy paid a visit to the society's warehouses and had a chat with Mr. G. M. Ballachee, its manager.

The office and warehouses are conveniently situated in the business section of the city, and the work behind have the additional advantage of abutting on a railway siding. Car loads of feed, fertilizer, fencing, etc., can be unloaded direct from the car to the warehouses; and in the morning, joining, also under lease by the cooperative society, can also be filled direct from the car with a minimum of labor. For the character of the business done the plant is as convenient as it is very well located.

A few staple groceries are kept in stock, but the main lines are flour and feed, fertilizer, fencing, feeders, roofing, oils and greases, lumber, apples and, as Mr. Ballachee said, "coal if we can get it." The society is also becoming an important centre for its members. This spring, for instance, large quantities of seed grain were purchased from the members and sold again to other members who were short of that particular kind of seed.

The society is modelled after the plan of the British cooperative societies, Mr. Geo. Keen, of Brantford, assisting in the drafting and organization and by-laws. All goods are sold at the regular retail price, and the retail merchants of Brantford have, therefore, not been antagonized by the new venture. That particular dividend is paid to the stockholders and the balance is then divided back among the shareholders in proportion to the business that they have done through the society. The directors make up the other half of the members' rebate to non-members who have purchased from the society. At the time of our visit the shareholders numbered 200, and \$1,000 worth of stock had been subscribed, of which \$5,500 was paid up capital. The success of the Brantford venture, which seems to be modelled on the success of the one established by Ontario cooperators,

Need for Increased Capital

L. H. Blatchford, Mgr. U. F. Co-operative Co.

BECAUSE we have so far succeeded in doing a big business on small capital, it does not follow that we can continue to do so. We are growing. Our business is reaching out in various lines. We feel the need for a better financial standing keenly. It is embarrassing, at the least, to have an opportunity to save a good amount of money for our members, and because of our low capital to be unable to put the deal through. It is the first thing that any business concern will look up before entering into a contract of any size, and it is only good business, no matter how small the last year?

If we are going to do business satisfactorily, we must have the standing that will speak for itself. Where is the capital to come from? Out of the profits? The margin has been too small. There is only one way the money can come. We will each have to do a bit. Do not rest on your oars, when your club has taken a twenty-five dollars share, and think that you have provided central with capital to finance your share of the business. Why it wouldn't be a ton of feed. It isn't enough for each club to take a share, we want each man to take at least one share and more if you can. No one man or club can do it alone. It is just like our barn raisings, too big a job for one and too big for all the neighbors, unless they all pull together.

We are not telling you it is your duty to take stock, but your opportunity and privilege to become a shareholder in a great company that exists solely for your benefit. It is, and still is, a benefit to the farmers. Its usefulness in the future depends largely on your support.

Did it ever occur to you that while farming is the basic industry, yet, the farmers' organization is about the only one in Ontario that lacks capital? No doubt are aware, our capital stock has been \$100,000; our original capitalization was \$100,000. It has taken us three years to have this stock taken up. Let us take the barn raisings and we meet here in 1918 we shall not only have \$250,000 fully subscribed, but that we will be applying for a further increase in capitalization.

Let us work together, developing our future. We each have a vote to do. The directorate, the central office, and the local club must each be aggressive and progressive.

Success is not reached at a single bound. But we build the ladder on which we rise. From the lowly earth to the vaulted canopy of heaven.

And we scale the summit round by round.

Silo Facts

EVERY farmer who is a user of the silo is a booster for the silo.

In the silo you can store corn in a form in which practically every particle is eaten.

Silage gives the correct of pastures in winter; it is both palatable and succulent.

Silage aids digestion in the dry-feeding season.

Animals fed silage are not more subject to tuberculosis, do not lose their teeth more quickly, and are not shorter-lived than animals fed other kinds of silage.

The use of the silo often makes it possible to save corn that would otherwise be lost by frost.

A good silo should be round, sit high, be of heavy material, have a smooth inside, and be strong and durable.

A silo should be placed where it will give the greatest convenience in construction, and which is not exposed to extremely cold winds.

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