

## Organize, Educate, Co-operate

Whatever Western Canada might be in the distant future, today and for years to come it is and will be chiefly an agricultural country, and hence the bulk of the population will be agriculturists. It is therefore up to us farmers to make conditions such that we and our children shall have a country fit to live in. The future condition depends a good deal on what we do today. Our climate, while a little severe at times, is undoubtedly healthy and just the kind that stirs up and makes them do things. Our soil is fertile, and if tilled intelligently it should provide every family with all that is necessary to make life worth living. But in spite of all there seems to be something lacking to make our population contented and happy. There is too much difference between the cities and the country, and the farmers get little or no benefit of the new and great things that make life in the cities pleasant. In all ages poets and writers have pictured country life in the most beautiful colors; the fresh air, the green fields, prairie, hills and forests, as the things worth striving after and enjoying. But while all this looks fine on paper, the fact remains that almost all the farmers, compelled to toil from sunrise to sundown, during the heat of the summer and the cold of winter to earn a bare living, have no time or inclination to enjoy it. From 25 to 50 miles from a railroad, without a telephone and without mail service, the farmer is cut off from the benefits of our boasted and advanced civilization. He lives in a shack or poorly built house devoid of all comfort and sanitation. He sends his children to the little country school where they get a very poor training compared with the children in our up-to-date city schools. In short, the majority of our farming population live in the feudal age compared with the city man. The reason for this state of affairs is not hard to find. It is not that the farmers do not want facilities and pleasanter surroundings, but simply that the farmers are being robbed out of the product of their labor. We all know that besides the farmers there is another class in this country, the so-called capitalist class; the men who make and sell the things the farmer must have, and who handle the farmers' products. Between this class and the farmers there can be no brotherly love as their class interests are diametrically opposed. The men who make and handle the implements the farmer must have, the lumber, wire, railway and other trusts are not in the business for their health but to make profit. The more profit they can squeeze out of the farmer the more happiness accrues to them, that is, it means more millions, finer houses, more pleasure, etc. It is not that these people particularly hate the farmers. Individually they may be fine fellows, but profit they must have, the more the better. And the higher prices the farmer pays for his implements and other necessities the harder he must work and the less of comforts will there remain for himself and his family. The farmers are not dreamers of impossibilities. They don't want to level things down or divide anyone's money, but they do want to obtain a decent price for their product and be able to buy their implements and other necessities at a reasonable price. They want a reasonable number of railroads to transport their produce, telephone and rural mail service, consolidated schools, good sanitary houses and enough for what they raise so that it is not necessary for them and their families to work unnecessarily long hours year in and year out. But so long as those things that the farmers must have are made and sold by private individuals or associations for profit, just so long will a farmer's lot be an unhappy one and he will not get his just dues. We should therefore strive by all means to get the government ownership of everything practicable, for it stands to reason that where any public utility is handled at cost and the profit system eliminated things must be better and cheaper. Of course some people are afraid of the corruption of the public officials, but then no official will be corrupt unless there is somebody to corrupt him, and wherever

corruption occurs we can turn the vassals out. But what remedy have we against private companies? What can we do with a C.P.R. official or anyone connected with the lumber, implement or any other trust? Of course I am aware that any government controlled and composed of the capitalist class can not be depended on by the farmers, and the farmers' interest will always be in danger as long as those people hold the reins of government. But what's to hinder the great farming and laboring population of this and any other country from organizing and acting together politically and capture the government and thus insure their own safety and future happiness? And in all matters where government ownership or operation is impracticable the farmers should co-operate among themselves. I was born in the little country of Denmark and happen to know what co-operation has done for the Danish people. When I left that country 28 years ago there was no co-operation, but each farmer tried to shift for himself a good deal as the Canadian farmers have been doing, and the result was the same. But somehow or other the Danish farmers learned how to co-operate, stand and work together, and the result has been gratifying. Today the Danish farmer is not looked down upon as a Wayback Hayseed, an inferior class, but he is respected and looked up to as one of the most useful members of his country. He markets all his produce and buys all his supplies through his co-operative association. He obtains the highest price for his butter and eggs, etc., on the world's market. He ships his produce over government owned railroads at a low rate. He drives over macadamized roads. He lives in the best of houses, lights his house and barn with electricity from the co-operative power plant. He has up-to-date and all modern improvements in his house, and his children receive the very best education in up-to-date schools and agricultural colleges. Now, if the farmers in a small country like Denmark do all this, why can't we Canadian farmers do the same? Here we have a great country, with great possibilities, with land enough for everybody who wants a farm. We have the advantage of older countries in that we are just starting out to lay the foundation of a great nation. The old saying that "we shall reap as we sow" is surely true. Our future depends on what we do today. Let us come together, organize, educate and co-operate. Let no member of the Farmers' Union rest until he gets all farmers to join the Union, and let's all be ready to fight against unjust conditions, fight to make conditions better, brighter and happier for the farming population of Canada.

JOHN GLAINBEAK.

Alta.

### PARCELS POST IN CANADA

The domestic service in Canada for fourth class matter, which includes merchandise such as confectionery, dry goods, groceries, hardware, stationery (including blank books, etc.), not included in the first, second and third classes and not excluded from the mails by the general prohibitory regulations with respect to objectionable matter, is limited to five pounds in weight and 30 inches in length by one foot in width or depth, but the combined length and girth of any packet must in no case exceed six feet. The rate of postage is one cent for each ounce or fraction thereof, or 16 cents per pound, prepaid, subject to a fine of double postage for any deficiency in prepayment. The rate applicable to general merchandise when posted in Canada addressed to the United States is one cent per ounce, 16 cents per pound, and the limit of weight is four pounds six ounces.

Closed parcels weighing up to 11 pounds are exchanged by direct mail between Canada and the United Kingdom, Mexico, Bahamas, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Trinidad and Tongo, Leeward Islands, St. Lucia and British Guiana at 12 cents per pound; with Bermuda at 16 cents for the first pound, 28 cents for two pounds, 64 cents for five

## Manitoba Grain Growers Attention!

The Manitoba Federation for Direct Legislation beg to announce to the local Grain Growers' Associations and other organizations that are interested in the promotion of good government that they have secured Mr. Frank E. Coulter, of Portland, Oregon, to act in the capacity of organizer. All organizations who wish to have addresses from Mr. Coulter should apply at once for allotment of time. The Federation will not charge anything for Mr. Coulter's addresses, and posters and advertising matter will

be mailed free to those who undertake to organize meetings. The only obligation you assume is to have a large audience in attendance to assist Mr. Coulter to enroll members for the Federation.

Mr. Coulter is an eloquent and forcible speaker. He knows his subject and has been associated



with that band of pioneers who secured the Initiative, Referendum and Recall for the State of Oregon since the inception of the movement in that State and down to the recent victory (Nov. 8) when the emissaries of privilege were put to flight by the forces of progress and democracy.

The Federation have opened headquarters at the address given below and would be glad to have all the friends of the cause call at their convenience. If you are in sympathy with the movement send in a dollar and become a member. This will help on the good work both morally and financially. All members will receive a membership card and free copies of all literature which the Federation will circulate. We now have in the press a comprehensive booklet and several folders of unusual interest to those who believe with us that Direct Legislation is the cure for governmental inefficiency, incompetency and dishonesty.

### MANITOBA FEDERATION FOR DIRECT LEGISLATION

239 CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, WINNIPEG

Hon. Pres., J. H. Ashdown; President, Dr. J. N. Hutchison; Vice-Presidents, Donald Forrester and John Kennedy; Treas., Robert L. Scott; Secretary, S. J. Farmer.

pounds, and \$1.36 for 11 pounds, or 12 1/3 cents per pound; with Hong Kong and British post offices in China at 16 cents for the first pound, 28 cents for two pounds, 64 cents for five pounds, and \$1.36 for 11 pounds, or 12 1/3 cents per pound, there being pound rates from 1 to 11 pounds; with New South Wales and New Zealand at 24 cents per pound; British Solomon Islands at 30 cents per pound. Parcels are limited to seven pounds between Canada and the following countries: Newfoundland, Japan, Grenada and St. Vincent, at the following respective rates: 15 cents, 20 cents, 25 cents and 25 cents. The general regulation as to size is 2x1 ft. in width or depth (2x1x1), with the exception of the United Kingdom, which must not ordinarily exceed 30 inches in length or one foot in width or depth, but in the case of parcels containing golf clubs, umbrellas or articles of a similar form a length of three feet six inches is permitted.

It will be observed that it costs 16 cents to send a pound parcel or fraction thereof, or 80 cents for a parcel of five pounds by post between any two places in Canada. Compared with this a one pound parcel may be sent from any point in the United Kingdom or the countries mentioned for 12 cents, or a five pound parcel for 60 cents to any point in Canada. It costs no more to send a pound parcel to Hong Kong than it does to send it from Montreal to Ottawa, and considerably less for a five pound parcel, the rate from Montreal to Hong Kong being 64 cents as against 80 cents to Ottawa.

With regard to the service in the United Kingdom, parcel post conveys anything that is not more than 11 pounds in weight and three feet six inches in length, the rate being six cents for one pound or less, eight cents for over one pound and under two, with two cents additional for each pound thereafter. Eggs, fish, meat, fruit, vegetables, glass, crockery, liquids, butter, cheese, etc., are carried by parcel post to the great convenience of a very large number of people. The post office department maintains in addition to the parcel post an express delivery service, either by special messenger all the way or by special messenger after transmission by post. Special delivery in advance of the ordinary mails is also provided.—Industrial Canada.

### "LITTLE ROLL OF NEWS PRINT"

The above is the title of a Christmas booklet received from the Winnipeg Free Press. Accompanying is a small roll of paper, a miniature of the huge rolls that daily go into the making of that great metropolitan daily journal. The booklet contains the interesting story of the origin of paper and the development in its manufacture. The artist has added to the booklet numerous interesting sketches. The Christmas greeting of the Free Press is certainly Western in its conception and in keeping with the enterprise of the journal which sends it forth.

Don't run away if the carburetor pitches fire. There is no danger while there is gasoline in the tank.