



# ALBERTA SECTION

EDWARD J. FREAM, Editor

## Hogs is Hogs

In spite of the publicity which has been given to the proposed contract in connection with the government pork packing proposition, and to the report of the commissioners, a great deal of doubt still exists in the minds of some farmers as to the advisability of signing a contract for the supply of hogs, and the feeling seems to be that each man is waiting for the other one to move first. At the request of several, the recommendations of the pork commission is herewith given:

### Recommendations

1. That when a sufficient number of hog growers give a reasonable assurance that they will supply at least fifty thousand hogs per year to a plant, and that they will elect from among themselves officers and directors whose duty it will be to look after the steady supply of hogs of suitable quality; to decide on the amount of money needed from time to time to successfully operate the plant; to look after the conduct and ability of the operators; your commissioners would then recommend that the government furnish the money to build, equip and operate a plant, as they and the directors deem most advisable, so constructed as to admit of enlargement, and the original plant to have a capacity large enough to handle at least three hundred hogs a day at the start; that the management take in the farmers' hogs, pay them at time of delivery up to two-thirds of their estimated value, then at regular intervals as may be agreed upon when sufficient time has elapsed to place the product on the market, pay the producers the balance of the full value of their product, less the cost of curing and marketing the same and a sum sufficient to pay local working expenses, such as insurance, taxes, directors' remunerations, etc., also less one-quarter cent. per pound live weight. This one-quarter cent. per pound to be applied to the creation of a fund for the purpose of paying back to the government their original investment and interest equal to the amount paid into this fund by the assessment of the one-quarter of a cent. per pound on his produce.

2. Your commissioners would further recommend, when the government indebtedness has been fully paid off by this fund that this fund be then applied to paying a reasonable interest to the patrons on the amount of shares held by them and take the balance to be paid as a bonus on each pound of pork supplied, shares to become transferrable only to bona fide patrons, and then only by application to and with the consent of the directors. But in the event of the removal or death of any patron and where application has not been made for such transfer by his or her heirs for the space of one year subsequent to such removal or death, then the directors may have power to cancel such shares and apply the proceeds to the general fund.

3. Your commissioners would further recommend that in the event of it being found necessary to erect additional plants at other points in the province, those patrons who wish to withdraw from the first existing plant may do so, with the approval of the directors, the shares held by them being transferred to the new plant with which they may affiliate, and the amount of money thus withdrawn from the first existing plant to be made by the remaining patrons as before.

As each patron would naturally wish the plant to be located near his special place of business so as to cheapen the freight rates paid by him, your commissioners would recommend that a sum total of all freight rates paid on railways be subdivided and charged equally against each pound of pork supplied.

4. To minimize the cost of buying hogs, regular shipping days should be established when the patrons could bring their hogs to their respective railway stations where the regular buying agent could be in attendance, and whose duty it would be to grade the hogs, weigh them

and credit each patron with the amount due him. In some cases this might mean the shipping of less than car load lots from one station to the next to be made up there, but it would obviate the difficulty of forcing the patrons to keep their hogs after they had arrived at the proper size, hence a more uniform grade could be secured. In Denmark the patrons are paid by "dead-weight" and quality of the hog after inspection, which method of payment your commissioners consider worthy of careful consideration.

5. Your commissioners would further recommend that all patrons be required to enter into an agreement to give all the hogs which they wish to dispose of for curing purposes to the packing plant of the association of which they are members. And any patrons who sell their hogs in contravention to their agreement shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$2.00 for such hog sold, and that the directors of the association shall have power to cancel the shares of such patron up to the amount of such fine inflicted, and also the power to dispose of such cancelled shares to any other patron, or in any way they think fit, and to apply the proceeds to the general fund of the association. In the case of over-production or if the plant should be unable from

therefore, be able to see that their own men are in charge of the business.

Another objection seems to be that some will have to pay more than the rest to get their supplies to the plant. Section 3 provides for this, and the charges will be equalized.

Another, and possibly the strongest objection, has been to the proposed penalty of \$2.00 per head on hogs sold by a patron to other concerns, and the question is asked, "How can this be enforced?" Section 5 states that a fine not exceeding \$2.00 shall be imposed, and that the directors shall have power to cancel the shares of such patron to the amount of the fine. No word is mentioned of collecting this penalty in cash.

These are the main objections and they are not very substantial ones, but another argument was presented the other day which, for downright selfishness, deserves a reward. This—yes, I suppose he must be called a farmer, although a "lump of cursed selfishness" would probably have suited him better—farmer wanted to know why he should sign a contract, for said he, "Once the plant is erected, I can easily dispose of as many hogs as I desire to the government plant." The answer was, "No, you will not; only subscribers will be allowed to reap the benefits of the co-operative undertaking."

Possibly this question could be discussed for some time, but space is limited



Saskatchewan River, near Edmonton

any cause to handle all the hogs offered, then the board of directors may give permission to any of the patrons to dispose of their hogs as they may think fit.

6. Your commissioners would also recommend that the Stock Commissioner be instructed to canvass the different districts to ascertain the probable number of hogs that the farmers will guarantee to supply and to obtain the signatures of these farmers to this agreement.

### Some Objections

The contract has already been published and no doubt it will be remembered that the preamble definitely states that the report of the pork commission is considered as part of the proposed contract. What then does this mean? In the first place the Minister of Agriculture announced at the annual convention that he would be pleased to confer with the U.F.A. in working out this scheme, and requested the appointment of a committee, which was done. This committee will assist as far as possible with the work until such time as the recommendation in section one—"That when a sufficient number of hog growers . . . and that they will elect from among themselves officers and directors." This means that the patrons will have direct control of their own affairs and that, when the time comes to start work on the plant a meeting of the proposed subscribers or patrons must be held and the provisional officers elected. The patrons will,

and I would only request the members of the U.F.A. to be loyal to themselves and sign the contracts as speedily as possible, for the sooner the number of hogs asked for is subscribed, the sooner will the plant be started and then the first serious blow to the meat octopus of Western Canada will have been dealt. Will you assist in the good work?

E. J. FREAM.

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### ROSELAND UNION

The members of Roseland Union have voted in favor of plan No. 2 of the hail insurance resolutions, with the addition of an amendment that the minimum indemnity be \$2 and the maximum \$10, for partial and total loss. The secretary of Roseland Union, Mr. H. Newton, together with Mr. D. E. Humbke, was present at the Rosendall meeting held on the same day, returning to Gwynne in time for their own meeting. These two gentlemen have also had the pleasure of attending U.F.A. meetings at Fredericksheim, John Knox and other unions recently, and note with satisfaction that the U.F.A. is going strong.

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### SUNNYDALE UNION

Again the farmers of one district have met together, when, on February 26, Sunnydale Union, with a membership of 22, was organized with the following officers elected for the ensuing year: President, George A. Rogers; Vice-President, H. E. Etheridge, J.P.; Secre-

tary-Treasurer, Frederick Wood; Executive, W. M. McLean, A. A. Hillson, J. Lindsay, Dr. M. Fraser, W. Fouracre.

The secretary was instructed to secure the necessary supplies and write the general secretary for information which will lead to the better working of this union.

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### EAST CLOVER BAR UNION

At the monthly meeting of the East Clover Bar Union of the U.F.A., held on Monday, February 28, hail insurance was the principal topic under discussion, and the eight alternative schemes submitted to the local unions by the directors were pretty thoroughly debated. In the end the following proposal, which emanates from the East Clover Bar Union, was the one unanimously recommended for adoption:

"That the government inaugurate a compulsory scheme of insurance against damage by hail, to be financed in the following way: The first quarter section to be exempt from taxation. In the event of more than one quarter section being owned by any individual, company or corporation, the second quarter section to bear a tax of one cent per acre and every succeeding quarter section an additional tax of one cent per acre until a maximum of five cents per acre is reached. In the case of land used for grazing purposes, ten head of horses or cattle or thirty head of sheep per quarter section to entitle the owner to exemption from taxation."

This scheme, whilst it places no burden whatever upon the homesteader or the small farmer owning one quarter section, and exacts only the small sum of \$1.00 from the owner of a half section, will yet provide more than ample funds to cover all the damage by hail in the province, which last year amounted to \$188,028.

There are, in Alberta, 32,760,000 acres of untitled land, owned by railway companies and speculators, held out of cultivation waiting for high prices, and it seems not unreasonable that the owners should be asked to contribute a little out of their huge prospective profits to a fund for the relief of the man whose efforts and sacrifices have created the value of their property, when that man is the victim of an unavoidable calamity like hail.

If 10,000,000 acres be deducted from the above total, to allow for untaxable C.P.R. land, a tax of one cent per acre placed upon the rest would produce \$227,600, which is more than the amount paid out last year for hail insurance.

There will be a special meeting of the union on Thursday, March 10, at 2 o'clock, p.m., when Mr. H. Jamieson will attend to explain the government's scheme for a co-operative pork packing plant.

W. J. JACKMAN,

Secretary.

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### LEWISVILLE UNION

At the last regular meeting of Lewisville Union it was decided to support plan No. 7 of the hail insurance resolutions. The pork packing proposition was also considered and held over till the next meeting. The life membership scheme was also discussed and after a lengthy discussion on its merits, it was unanimously decided to recommend the adoption of the Saskatchewan plan as that which would give the greater benefit to the association, as by placing the revenue derived out at interest, a permanency would be created and a fund established which would result in incalculable good to the farmers of the country.

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### CLOVER BAR ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT.

The Clover Bar U.F.A. entertainment was held on March 1, and was a splendid success as an evening of social enjoyment and activity. The supper prepared by the ladies was excellent, both in quality and quantity, and ample justice was done to it by all who were there. The ladies all wore the red and gold badge of the association, as did all members of the association. After the tea, which was held in the league room of the church across the road, the crowd repaired to the school room, where an excellent program was rendered.

After the usual votes of thanks to those taking part in the entertainment in any way, the third annual entertainment of Clover Bar Union came to a close by singing the national anthem.