

### In Union There is Strength

## Western Farmer's Organizations Amalgamate

A STEP fraught with great importance to the organized farmers' movement, not only in Western Canada, but in Ontario as well, was taken on Thursday, Nov. 20th, in Winnipeg, when the shareholders of the Grain Growers' Grain Company decided to unite with the shareholders of the Alberta Cooperative Elevator Company and form a new company, which will take over both of the old companies and be known as the United Grain Growers' Limited. The new company will be tremendously strong, having a capital of five million dollars.

This year the Grain Growers' Grain Company reported profits of almost \$600,000, and paid a war tax of over \$100,000. The Alberta Company had profits of over \$230,000. The new company will have about 25,000 shareholders. As yet the shareholders of the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Company, which this year reported profits of nearly \$700,000, have not decided to affiliate, but it is expected that they will do so in due time. The suggestion that the shareholders of the United Farmers' Cooperative Company of Ontario may desire to affiliate later, was greeted with applause.

The Ontario delegates, R. H. Halbert, of Melancton; J. Z. Fraser, of Burford, and H. E. Cowan, of Farm and Dairy, have been having a busy time attending sessions of the Canadian Council of Agriculture and other meetings. As we write a conference between the leaders of the organized farmers and prominent business men on matters of mutual interest. The farmers, as usual, are doing themselves credit.

### A Most Successful Year

PROFITS of \$571,465 were made by the Grain Growers' Grain Company in the past year. President T. A. Cramer, addressing representatives of the 18,000 farmer shareholders, said the year had been the most successful in the company's history.

The Grain Growers' Export Company, a subsidiary concern, made a profit of \$198,000. The Government's war tax on the Grain Growers' Grain Company's profits was \$104,000, and on the Export Company, for the past two years, \$160,900. In distributing profits the company paid out a 10 per cent. dividend, amounting to \$100,000 on the capital stock, and placed the balance to reserve account, which now totals \$600,000.

The company handled 46,000,000 bushels of grain during the year. The Manitoba Government elevators were operated very successfully by the company. In the meantime the company is running its own elevator system in the province, now having fourteen elevators.

The Alberta Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Company has just closed the year with a profit of \$282,000. It has 103 elevators in operation in that province, and ten thousand shareholders.

The Grain Growers' British Columbia Agency, a subsidiary company at New Westminster, had operated at a loss for the year, but at a profit for the past six months. The cooperative supply department made a small profit, handling machinery, twine, etc., to the value of more than \$1,250,000. More than 600 cars of live stock were handled.

In Western Canada at one time, the interests opposed to the organized farmers', employed a man at a salary of \$4,000 a year for three years to write

up articles running down the farmers' movement. The farmers found out about it, however, stood by their guns and won the fight. This is a chance for the farmers of Ontario to stand by their organization and to stand by the movement, which means so much for the agricultural success of Ontario.

### Secretary Morrison in Brand County

THE Onondaga Farmers' Club held a special meeting on November 15. Mr. J. J. Morrison, of the United Farmers' Cooperative Company, entertained the members by a very profitable address, pointing out the position of the farmer to-day as compared with other organized industries. He emphasized the need of cooperation.

It was unfortunate that more members were not present, but owing to the short notice we had of Mr. Morrison being able to be present with well advertised. There were about 24 members out and a good measure of interest was shown. The community spirit of Onondaga has been noted for its prosperity and our farmers hardly felt the necessity of organized effort. They have shown some indifference and lack of confidence in the cooperative movement, largely because we were not familiar with the principles upon which business has been transacted. However, after Mr. Morrison clearing away the clouds of doubt we hope to hear of results from the Onondaga Farmers' Club, and assure the Secretary of a cordial welcome when he sees fit to come and address us again. —G. E. W.

### B.C. Farmers Organizing

THE Vancouver Island Farmers' Association, as it is temporarily called, came into being early in November, and the speeches delivered at the organization meeting indicated that farmers are face to face with similar conditions there, as in the east. One man stated that in the recent election in British Columbia, 75 per cent. of the voters were directly interested in agriculture, yet they were entirely without provision for having their views as farmers influence the election. The enchantment of farming failed when men had to mortgage their farms in order to get along, said another speaker. Milk prices were cited as not being fair, the wide margin existing between farm and city prices being taken into consideration. "The farmer is the only person who lies down and does not fix the price on the article he sells," said another. "Merchants, Japanese, Chinese, even shoe blacks were organized." He favored appointing delegates who should go out and canvass every farmer's club on the Island.

An old labor unionist, now a farmer, stated that for 25 years he had paid \$2 a month for dues, but since at the end of the year he had been from \$25 to \$50 better off, he considered it a good investment, and urged that similar result could be secured by farmers. "The efforts of the union," said one prominent speaker, "should be directed to the task of educating ourselves to look after our own interests, to initiating and helping out in the working of a certain amount of cooperation where it is thought profitable, the farmers being represented by their accredited representatives, backed by the full force of their organization derived from pulling together."



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

TO the many friends and patrons of the U. F. Cooperative Co. we extend our best wishes for the Xmas season. May the coming Xmas find you comfortable in mind, body and estate.

The year that is closing has been fraught with great issues for the U. F. Cooperative Co., but, thanks to the staunch support of the farmers of Ontario in their own organization, we have weathered all storms, and are in a better position than ever to give you of our best service during the coming year.

We have still some three weeks before the 25th, and our new Xmas Price List is completed. You will find it worth your while to have a copy.

Drop us a line for one to-night. It is free.

## The United Farmers' Co-Operative Co.

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