

Ontario Farmers Do a Good Year's Business

(Continued from page 8)

Considerable discussion took place on a motion of amendment of the by-laws of the Company, which had been given by E. C. Drury, of Barrie. Mr. Drury's amendment provided for the appointment of an executive committee to be composed of five members, of which the president, the vice-president and secretary should be members. The object of the motion was to make it possible for the policy of the Company to be directed largely by the executive committee, subject to control of the board of directors. The office management would continue to rest in the hands of the manager. The amendment was carried. During its discussion the opinion was freely expressed that the board, which is now composed of 13 directors, is too large and that it should be reduced to not over nine. Such an amendment may be made at the next annual meeting and the term of office, which is now four years, may be reduced.

Directors' Terms.

A notice of motion had been given by Mr. J. I. Morrison, who presented it at the request of others, was considered. It provided that retiring directors should not be eligible for re-election for one year after their term of office expired. It was recognized that this amendment had some good features, but it was feared that it would restrict the power of the shareholders to do as they like at annual meetings, and that it might prevent the election of particularly valuable men. The directors should their re-election seem desirable. It was pointed out that business firms competing with the Farmers' Company would not tie up their hands by such an amendment. After full discussion the amendment was not seconded and therefore was not put to the meeting.

On motion of Mr. W. C. Good, it was decided to amend the method of electing directors. The new method was outlined in the notice of amendment mailed to all the locals.

Address by Mr. Crerar.

A feature of the meeting was a splendid address by Mr. T. A. Crerar, the president of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, of Winnipeg, the largest and most successful farmers' business company in Canada, if not in the world. Lack of space prevents our reporting this address in full in this issue, but it will be published as a special article later. Mr. Crerar showed how his company was started ten years ago, with a manager, stenographer and desk, and how it has a paid-up capital of over \$600,000, and earned profits of over \$600,000 and has offices in many parts of the West. Its employees number over 500, and from the first of last September to the end of the year handled through its offices in Winnipeg over 28,000,000 bushels of grain.

Mr. Crerar stated that their Company had made many mistakes, but had endeavored to profit from their mistakes. He emphasized the importance of engaging competent men, even if higher salaries had to be paid, and stated frankly that he thought the Ontario Company was trying to do business on too small a commission. Mr. Crerar made a most favorable impression. It was recognized that he was a man of wide experience, whose advice should be carefully considered.

Officers Elected.

The election of directors resulted in the re-election to the board of Mr. E. C. Drury, of Barrie, and in the election of a new member in the person of Mr. B. C. Tucker, of Harold, Hastings county, the secretary of one of the most successful local organizations in the province. At a subse-

quent meeting of the board officers were elected. The directorate is composed as follows:

President: John Pritchard, Gorrie, Ont.; Vice-President: C. W. Gurney, Paris, Ont.; Managing Director: Anson Groh; Secretary-Treasurer: J. I. Morrison, Arthur, Ont.; Directors: E. C. Drury, Barrie, Ont.; C. F. Whitaker, Williamsburg, Ont.; Geo. Carlaw, Warkworth, Ont.; W. C. Good, Paris, Ont.; John Z. Fraser, Burford, Ont.; S. A. Beck, Cavuga, Ont.; L. Schurr, Shallow Lake, Ont.; B. C. Tucker, Harold, Ont.

Addresses.

A number of addresses bearing on the work of the Company were delivered at the meetings of the United Farmers of Ontario. The secretaries of several clubs reported that strenuous efforts were being made by various firms to injure the central company by offering the local clubs lower prices than were being quoted by the central. An outline of these addresses is given elsewhere in this issue.

The reports and addresses showed that the United Farmers' Cooperative Company has made splendid progress, that it has many difficulties to overcome; that opposition against it is certain to grow keener; that it is doing a splendid work for the farmers of the province, and that its future success is going to depend upon the loyalty shown towards it, not only by the local farmers' clubs, but by all their individual members.

The year 1916 may be the crucial one in the history of the Company. This is because of the opposition already aroused. That the farmers perceived the valuable work being accomplished by the Company and how important it is that it should succeed was shown when upon an appeal being made for those present to purchase additional stock, some 33 farmers stood up and each purchased a share. Continued support of this character is all that is required to ensure the future great success of the Company.

Protection

(By a U. S. Free Trader)

EDITOR, Farm and Dairy.—The Empire calls upon the Dominion for soldiers, machinery and munitions. Thus the very property which war has peculiarly thrust upon Canada becomes a tax on her natural resources.

Whence shall come the replenishment and from whom? From whom but the farmer? Agriculture is the very basis of prosperity and national safety. Really, does it receive its due?

Food for your armies is free, yet food for your crops is taxed. War machinery is free, yet agricultural machinery is not. "Protection!" you say. Then why not protect your makers of ammunition? Remember, your agriculture is more essential than your commissary.

Duties on continental plant food, implements and tools are detrimental to Canada's interests. Few Canadians are "protected"—very many are harmed.

Give your farmers a chance to raise bigger crops at less cost and on smaller areas. Let them choose, in all markets, complete, well-balanced fertilizers and a greater variety of labor-saving machinery at reasonable prices.

Subordinate the interests of the individual to the interests of the State. Thus do your enemies win and thus you can win. — H. H. Charles, New York.



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