

# United Farmers of Alberta

## Organization and Brotherhood

**T**HE value of organization cannot be measured by figures. No direct balance sheet of profit and loss can represent its utility. The direct contribution of organization to civilization is made, not in visible wealth, but in the intangible and immeasurable forces of character on which civilization is founded. It began in the days of the cave man and has since worked to influence the centres of trade. In fact, the masses are only now beginning to conceive its true meaning. Its general application and popular acceptance by farmers began in Canada some 17 years ago, and its commercial, social and political importance has multiplied very rapidly during this period.

It has done more than all the gifts of impulsive charity to foster a sense of human brotherhood and of common interests. It has done more than all repressive legislation to destroy the gambling spirit.—M. W. Molyneux, Superintendent Organization Department, United Grain Growers Ltd.

## Convention Resolutions

The following resolutions for submission to the annual convention have reached the Central office:—

### Suggests Ottawa Delegation

"Whereas it is being repeatedly brought to our notice through farm journals and leaders of the organized farmers that manufacturing and various protected interests are very strongly organized and have started a great campaign through the daily press for a greater measure of protection, or in other words a higher tariff,

"Therefore be it resolved that this local wishes to go on record as advocating the sending of a gigantic delegation of farmers to Ottawa at the next session of Parliament, said delegation to be made up of a representative from each of the different locals of the U.F.A., the Saskatchewan Grain Growers, Manitoba Grain Growers, United Farmers of Ontario and Quebec, and any of the other provinces that are organized, and one from each local of the U.G.G. and Saskatchewan Grain Growers' companies;

"Further, that the aforementioned locals wherever possible circulate petitions among the unorganized farmers of their districts and the residents of towns for the abolition of the duty on agricultural machinery and a lower tariff in general, these petitions to be taken to Ottawa by the members of the delegation to give added power to them as organized farmers in their plea for a lower tariff and the complete abolition of the tariff insofar as agricultural implements are concerned. The tariff as a whole to be gradually lowered year by year until it is entirely abolished."—Hanna local, Hanna P.O.

### Control Coal Prices

"Resolved that the federal government be requested to take over all coal mines in Canada and to control the price of coal."—Tring local, Tring P.O.

### Disapprove Titles

"Whereas the granting and receiving of titles redounds to a continuation of class distinctions which is inimical to the democratic principles which lie so close to the heart of every real lover of this great land of the Maple Leaf, and for which our soldiers are offering and laying down their lives,

"Therefore be it resolved that we put ourselves on record as being unalterably opposed to the election or appointment to office or any position of public trust, any person receiving or continuing to hold any title, saving that of 'honest man' conferred only by common consent and approval of the people everywhere."—Universal local, Youngstown.

### Warns Government

"Inasmuch as the government through the press by its agents and by every means within its reach is con-

Conducted Officially for the United Farmers of Alberta  
by the Secretary

H. Higginbotham, Calgary, Alta.



H. W. WOOD.

## When Farmers Organize

By H. W. Wood, Pres., U.F.A.

Seventeen years ago the farmers of Canada were the easiest people in the world to legislate for, and the easiest to trade with. "They never asked for anything and never got anything," and they didn't deserve anything.

But a few of them concluded they would try to deserve something, and this is the way they went about it and what they got. I take the story from a personal letter from an old war-horse in the movement, who is also one of the best men in it:—

"The grain shipping conditions following the good crop of 1901, were so bad, that during the winter the farmers were subjected to great inconvenience and much expense in an endeavour to market their grain. At that time most of the wheat was delivered in bags, very grain. A few of the elevators being equipped with wagon dumps, and it was a rare occurrence, that season, to bring home one's bags after driving (as we did) nearly 20 miles to Moosomin. At Indian Head, Sintaluta and other places where more grain was grown the villages were filled with portable granaries into which farmers drew their grain and waited for a car or a chance to get a load or two in the elevators when they could.

"About the end of the year, it was independently arranged that meetings should be held at Indian Head and Moosomin. The farmers at the former place learning of the proposed Moosomin meeting, suggested that it be deferred until after their's had been held and they would then send a representative down to the Moosomin meeting. We, near Moosomin, agreed to this, and while, I think, the Indian Head meeting was held during the last week of the year, that in Moosomin was held on January 4, 1902, and Senator Perley, of Wolsley, came down and told us what had been done at Indian Head, and urged us to call meetings at our several local points and form branches of the proposed organization which it was suggested should be called the 'Territorial Grain Growers' Association.'

"These local meetings were duly called, and representatives sent from our own district to the Convention held at Indian Head, about a couple of months later, when 38 delegates were in attendance. At that time the total membership was under 400. Before the convention, however, it was thought advisable that some effort should be made to relieve the intolerable railway situation which had grown worse, if possible, rather than better. So in February (about the 18th) the Indian Head and Wolsley people sent a delegation to Winnipeg to meet the Winnipeg Board of Trade and the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange (as it was then called), and with them interview the C.P.R., which was practically the only railway in the country. M. Snow, then of Wolsley, now of the Board of Grain Commissioners' Office in Winnipeg, was appointed spokesman for the delegation, and laid the matter before J. W. Leonard, General Superintendent of the C.P.R.

"After Mr. Snow had stated the conditions, Mr. Leonard said the C.P.R. was doing everything within its power with the rolling stock at its command and asked Mr. Snow for suggestions. He (Snow) then stated they were informed that the Great Northern Railway on the other side of the line had more cars than they needed and possibly some could be secured from them, and the grain hauled to Duluth.

"This, Mr. Leonard thought, was an outrageous proposition, and one that he had never heard of being put up to a railway company, but to this Mr. Snow replied that the situation was equally outrageous and desperate remedies were needed. He (Leonard), however, agreed to lay the matter before the authorities in Montreal, which was done, with the result that 200 cars were received from the Great Northern and shipment was made to Duluth, with the immediate result that the day on which the first train of empties passed through Moosomin (March 3) the price of wheat rose five cents per bushel, and general relief was afforded, so that farmers were enabled to get rid of much of their grain before the roads broke up, and they also received a much higher price for it—for the price continued to get nearer track level.

"At the time the delegation went to Winnipeg the first convention had not been held, and the membership was very small—probably not over 300."

This was the beginning. Three hundred farmers, in an almost hopeless condition, concluded, in a moment of desperation, that they would, for once, use the brains that God had given them. So they got together, sent a delegation headed by an intelligent spokesman to put an "outrageous proposition" to a railway company. What they got meant thousands of dollars to them, and spelled the difference between failure and success. They got what they asked for. For years they had been staying at home like individualistic savages, cursing the C.P.R. every day, and getting nothing, deserving nothing. That was the first start. It was less than 17 years ago. Today nearly 100,000 organized farmers, farmers companies with 65,000 shareholders, are trying to learn to co-operate, trying to discover the true laws of trade, trying to learn the science of democratic government, trying to make the world a better place for people to live in, and trying to make the people that live in it better. We have made a start, but only a start. Our work is in the future and not in the past. There is work for all of us. The loyal, co-operative support of every one is needed; needed by your local, needed by your local enterprise, needed by your provincial organization in all its undertakings in whatever field of operation, needed in the Dominion-wide activities of the organization, needed everywhere. Have you given it? Are you giving it? Will you give it? What we get depends on what we do. We will get what we deserve.

stantly urging us to greater and greater production, while at the same time profiteering by those who are exploiting us continues rampant and the tariff on agriculture implements and other things which we must have in order to make production possible, places these articles practically beyond our reach if we are to have any profit or even a half-way decent living. Especially in the regions of drought and semi-arid districts where we cannot expect more than one crop in every two or three years and the fat years are more than consumed by the lean,

"Therefore be it resolved:—

"1. That we sound a warning note to the Government that unless these conditions are speedily remedied we must, many of us from sheer necessity of circumstances, be forced out of any attempt at production without any choice on our part.

"2. That we most urgently and assiduously affirm to the government that we are both as willing and as anxious as any man or set of men who ever entered a parliament building at Ottawa or London to do all we possibly can to bring this war to a successful close and make the world safe for democracy; but believe also with all our heart and soul that plutocracy if left to develop is as dangerous to the peace and prosperity of a nation or empire as an autocracy can ever be.

"3. That unless such remedial measures as are necessary, just and right to fully meet these grievances, are secured we pledge ourselves collectively and individually to put forth support and maintain such men as will uphold fearlessly in the face of any political hazard the just rights and dues of that great mass of the people, the real workers at production in every art, craft, or industry, on whose toil the very existence of all nations depends."—Universal local, Youngstown.

## Exemption Law

"Resolved that we request the government to amend the law regarding the exemptions from seizure by creditors from 3 horses and 3-horse implements to 4-horse outfits, as it is impossible for farmers in this country to farm with 3-horse outfits."—Iron Springs local, Picture Butte.

## Law of Foreclosure

Legal Dept. Query.—Can a loan company foreclose for principal when terms expire if interest is paid?

Answer.—If the mortgage in question covers farm lands we believe that the courts would now allow foreclosure for principal only, providing the term of the mortgage has expired. There was a certain period since the outbreak of the war during which the courts would not allow land to be foreclosed under mortgage if all interest were paid, but in view of the demand for farm land during the last year we think that the courts all over Alberta have changed their attitude in this respect. At the same time we think that the court would allow a much longer time to redeem than in other foreclosure where interest is in arrears.—U.F.A. Legal Department.

## Veteran Retires

Henry Jamieson, president of the Burnt Lake local, notified Central office that owing to advancing age he is obliged to relinquish any active participation in U.F.A. work.

Mr. Jamieson is one of our oldest presidents, being 75 years of age. The association has been much indebted to Mr. Jamieson for his work in the interests of the organization. Mr. Jamieson formerly took an active part in farmers' association and agricultural fair work in Ontario, and has continued to do so since coming to Alberta 20 years ago. The Central office hopes that some active, younger man in the Burnt Lake district will be able to carry on the work.

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