

## U.F.A. Resolutions

### C.P.R. Irrigation Dispute

At the opening of the convention on Friday morning the fight of the settlers in the irrigation block east of Calgary against the C.P.R. was brought before the delegates by W. D. Trego, of Gleichen. Mr. Trego reminded the delegates of the circumstances and asked that the U.F.A. give the settlers its moral support. On the motion of Mr. Comber, Red Deer, seconded by Mr. Glambeck, of Cluny, it was resolved:

"That this convention go on record as giving its moral support to the combined irrigation committee in their fight with the natural resources branch of the C.P.R. over the district east of Calgary, known as the Western section of the irrigation block, and we instruct our directors to give them their support and that the directors go into the matter carefully and see in what practical way they can assist the people on this block to get their rights."

### Misleading Crop Reports

The question of misleading crop reports was given some attention, the matter being raised by resolutions from Buffalo Bird and Gleichen Unions. These resolutions both declared that the crop reports published in the press thruout the West were entirely misleading and often caused prices to be depressed and called for the establishment of a system of crop reports by the local unions thru the Central office of the U.F.A.

J. C. Drury said he did not consider it was fair to characterize all the crop

reports published in the press as misleading and suggested that a change be made in the wording. The matter was referred back to the resolutions committee.

Another resolution gathered by Balfour Union advocated the repeal of the law compelling threshermen to make a return to the provincial government. Both these resolutions were referred back to the resolutions committee, who later recommended the passing of a resolution in the following terms:

### Grain Growers' Crop Report

"Resolved that in the interests of the farmers of Western Canada, and of the country generally, it is desirable that the board of directors of this Association should take the necessary steps to work out an adequate system of securing crop reports thru the medium of the local unions of the Association and that the Grain Growers Association of Saskatchewan and Manitoba be requested to assist in this matter and thereby secure a uniform crop report system on behalf of the grain producers of Western Canada."

### Threshermen's Returns

The committee recommended that the resolution of Balfour Union be not adopted as they believed it would be a retrograde movement, it being necessary for the general advancement of the province that reliable information relating to crops shall be forthcoming. Both these resolutions were adopted without further discussion.

### Edmonton for 1915

Invitations for the 1915 convention were received from Medicine Hat, Calgary

and Edmonton. A vote was taken and Edmonton secured the convention by a large majority.

### Hardships of Pre-emption Settlers

A startling story of the hardships suffered by many of the settlers in the pre-emption district in Southern Alberta was told on Friday afternoon. Several resolutions had been given notice of from which a consolidated resolution was submitted as follows:

"Whereas the homesteaders located in those districts who own pre-emptions find it impossible under present conditions to meet the annual payments of interest and principal on same; and whereas owing to lack of transportation facilities we have to pay a much higher cost for the necessities of life and all other materials, due to the cost of hauling same; be it therefore resolved that the U.F.A. urge the Dominion Government, thru the minister of the interior, to give this matter serious attention and devise means to relieve the severe hardships suffered by settlers, either by reducing or abolishing the payments in cash and the interest charged, or by allowing extra duties to be performed in lieu thereof."

### No Crop for Four Years

V. L. Lloyd moved this resolution and said it was absolutely impossible for the vast majority of the homesteaders to meet their payments on pre-emptions. They had had practically no crop since they settled in the country four years ago, and had not only spent all the money they had taken with them, but had had to sell some of their stock and had now gone to the extent of their credit with the banks and storekeepers. Most of those who had proved upon their homesteads

had borrowed or mortgaged to pay off their other debts. A. L. Hoer seconded and said that unless relief was given the people in the pre-emption area would have to leave. J. Y. Clark said one reason why the men in the pre-emption area could not grow good crops was because of the noxious weeds that blew over from the abandoned farms on the irrigation block alongside. The pre-emption area was a semi-arid country and the settlers had had to contend with drought and frost. They had done their best and many of them spent a great deal of their time working away from home to try and even earn food for their families. He asked the assistance of the delegates living in other parts of the province in petitioning the government for relief. The resolution was carried unanimously.

### Real Direct Legislation Wanted

The Direct Legislation Act passed by the Alberta Legislature came in for severe criticism in a report presented by W. S. Henry, of Bow Island, who had been appointed by the executive to recommend amendments to the act. Mr. Henry, who stated that he had consulted with Rev. P. S. Parrott, of Namoia, and John Z. White, of Chicago, said a study of the present law showed that it contained numerous provisions that were not reassuring, or in other words, the act did not give to the people the power they wished to exercise in the matter of Direct Legislation. A number of amendments were proposed to make the act similar to that in force in Oregon. It was proposed to extend the scope of the bill so that bills calling for the expenditure of money might be initiated, to reduce the number of signatures required for the initiative from 20 per cent. to 10 per cent. and to do away with the provision requiring the petitions to come from 85 per cent. of the constituencies. A provision for the recall was also recommended and other changes were proposed for the improvement of the act. Mr. Henry said he had reason to believe that the bill would be made more workable and he proposed that the matter be referred to the executive to deal with. The recommendation was unanimously concurred in.

### Grain Growers' Grain Co. Misrepresented

Among the resolutions passed was one asking The Grain Growers' Grain Company in view of the misrepresentations which were being spread abroad as to its character, to distribute literature showing the objects and principles of the company, the benefits it was conferring upon the farmers and how it was impossible for the company to become a trust or monopoly.

### Cannot Become a Trust

T. A. Crerar, president of The Grain Growers' Grain Company, was present and said he would be glad to issue and distribute literature such as was suggested by the resolution. He had learned since coming to the convention that there had been a good deal of misrepresentation of The Grain Growers' Grain Company by certain interests which were opposed to the company. There need be no fear, he added, that a satisfactory explanation could be given to show that The Grain Growers' Grain Company could in no way become a trust or monopoly. It was only necessary to quote a few clauses from the charter of the company which was contained in a special act passed by the Dominion Parliament in 1911. By that act it was provided that no one but a farmer, a farmer's wife, son or daughter could be a shareholder, that no person could hold more than forty shares of the par value of twenty-five dollars and that whether a man had one share or forty he had only one vote in the councils of the company. Under those circumstances if any one could show him how the company could become a trust or monopoly he would like to hear their argument. Mr. Crerar also spoke on the question of the distribution of profits in proportion to patronage and said it was the policy of the company to do this whenever possible, but in the matter of grain they could not at present see that it would be practical.

### Pork Packing Question

Half a dozen different resolutions were brought before the convention dealing with the pork packing question. From Killarney came the proposal that the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator company be asked to take up the shipping of hogs and livestock. Minburn Union had a resolution in favor of a

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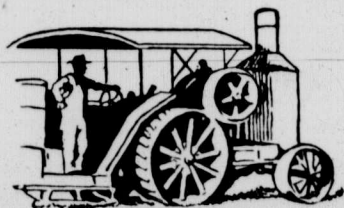
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