

THE VALUE OF CO-OPERATION

The Work That is Being Done by the Co-operative Societies in Great Britain, and Other Places

INTERESTING MEETING, METHODS DESCRIBED

How the Giant Competition is Eliminated from Business and Expense of Middle-men Removed

A meeting of the Calgary Co-operative society was held on Tuesday evening last in the Barber Block before a large number of people. In response to invitations several delegates from the different labor unions were also in attendance. President W. Stowell was in the chair, and on opening the concert he outlined the aims of the society.

Bro Lowell a director of the society said:

The progress of the people and the place of crops in relation thereto.

If our educational forces are to be wisely directed and our ideals not baseless dreams, but the ultimate end of a succession of forward movements is essential that we should know the place of the Co-operative movement in the progress of the people. Briefly stated, the ideals of the pioneers was the industrial emancipation of the workers. This they hoped to accomplish by the establishment of self-supporting colonies. Since the pioneer first formulated their aims, great changes have taken place in the industrial, social and political world. We have seen political power pass from the hands of the privileged into the hands of the people and we have witnessed an appreciable improvement in social conditions, while in industry a revolution has been effected.

We have still as our ideal the economic emancipation of the people, but changed conditions have rendered the home colony proposals of the pioneers obsolete.

Few of us now look to the establishment of self supporting colonies as the means for securing to the workers the wealth they create. All through the centuries men have been growing more and more independent and a recognition of the oneness of the interest of the people has been showing, spreading and to day we have a large body of opinion which recognizes the waste and folly of competition and sees in the substitution of crop for competition in industry the industrial salvation of the people to a correct understanding of the place occupied by co-operation a knowledge of the conditions out of which the movement grew is absolutely essential. The outstanding movements which aim at the improvement in the condition of the people, trade unionism, co-operative, socialism, or state and municipal ownership of industry all arise from new conditions created by the industrial revolution of the 19th century.

Manufacturers were transferred from the domestic workshop to the factory, the appropriation of the common lands left the workers landless, the industrial revolution left him homeless. Henceforth he had only his labor to dispose of and competition brought the price of labor down to a miserably low level. But the hitherto isolated worker was, by the factory system brought into close contact with his fellows and as a consequence, discussion of their condition and combined action for improvement were much facilitated. The trade union and the crop movements came into being and steadily developed. There is no need to trace the growth of these movements, but it will be well perhaps to state briefly their relationship.

Each movement aims at the improvement of the condition of the people. The trade union movement by raising wages and fixing a maximum working day. And the co-operative movement by eliminating profit and so reducing the cost of living. Extension of co-operative production, gives to the workers themselves the power to determine the conditions of employment. But if the workers were not organized in trade unions, the saving which results from co-operative trading would probably through competition, pass from them. Both co-operators and trade unionists realize the helplessness of the individual under existing conditions and have substituted collective for individual action with marked advantage to the organized workers. But the majority of the working class remain outside of these movements. After half a century of co-operation and trade unionism, the mass of the people remain poor. During the last century innumerable mercantile inventions were utilized to increase the productive power of labor, and as a result wealth increased with unprecedented rapidity, until today the national income is estimated at \$1,700,000,000. Of this one half is taken in the shape of rent, interest and profit by 5,000,000 persons, the other half being shared by the remaining 38 millions. 13 millions of them are having on or below the poverty line which is represented by an income of about 21s. per week p. r. family. Why do the mass of the people get so small a share of the national income. It is because land and capital which are essential to the production of wealth, are owned by a comparatively few persons, who by the virtue of their ownership levy toll on the workers. The chief cause of the poverty of the people is the enormous share which the possessors of the instruments of industry are able to take from the produce. Mr. Morley in his book "Riches and Poverty" tell us that the sum of £100,000,000 is taken annually for the use of land of the united kingdom, and that 2,500 people own one half the whole area. The capitalist takes the lion's share. The railways shareholder in this country for instance, take in profit £40,000,000 per annum, or far more than is paid in wages in one of the most dangerous and most useful of all occupations.

Mr. Morley intimates that in the financial year 1902-3 joint stock companies took in profit £129,000,000 and in dealing with the estates of rich and poor, he calculates that in an average year 87 persons die worth £150,000 each, 48 die worth £250,000, 17 worth over £500,000 and 8 die worth nearly £3,000,000 each.

Each year the national income increases, but the conditions of the people show no marked improvement and while 5 million persons are permitted to take one half of that income the conditions of the workers remain much the same.

We have seen that trade unionism and co-operation are doing something to raise the condition of some of the people but we have to recognize that trades unionism, as such, does not aim at a transformation of industrial conditions and that co-operation has its limits. If the poverty of the people is due to the private ownership of the means of wealth production, then industrial emancipation can only be effected by using land and capital co-operatively.

The problem is not, how to produce enough for all, but, how to equitably distribute that which has been produced. No equitable distribution is possible while the present system, under which goods are primarily for profit, continues. Conscious co-operators resolutely refuse to accept as the best possible a system, which condemns the mass of the people to joyless work for inadequate wages, and are determined to extend co-operation in industry.

The industrial developments of the nineteenth century have been preparing the way for the control of industry by the people. Steadily, industrial concerns have been growing in size and complexity. After the industrial revolution the small master worker with his men, later the master supervised, and still later the capitalist, the individual who finds the capital become differentiated from the manager. The increasing subdivision of labor and utilization of expensive machinery necessitate production on a large scale and single individuals are unable or unwilling to provide the whole of the capital. Hence the developments of joint stock undertakings, in which owners and management are associated. For a time competition rules supreme, the small man unable to produce as cheaply as a large firm, is crushed out.

This process goes on until the number of competitors become a manageable quantity, then combination takes the place of competition. Voluntary association for the purpose of maintaining prices are formed, businesses are combined and effective competition ends. This is going on in all industries even in the retail trade. What is to prevent further consolidation. In the United States, where capitalist production is more highly developed than in any other part of the industrial world, single combinations control whole industries and in England, we have combinations, controlling over 90 per cent of their particular trades. Industry is being organized, but the interest of a comparatively small section of the community. The organization of industry for purposes of private profit spells inevitably a vast unemployed problem. Charles Beard in his "Industrial Revolution" tells us that 3,000 men lost their positions through the formation of the American tobacco company and that the Continental Tobacco Company discharged 350 travellers in one day. There can be no solution of the unemployed problem short of the organization of industry for national purposes. With unemployment, as with many other pressing problems co-operators can do but little.

Competition came into the world to free trade from feudalism and having done that, played havoc with the lives of men. It called into being the great opposing principle of association. Finally competition, turning against itself, has ended in combination. We cannot turn back the march of economic progress, for good or for evil, we have to face the concentration of industry. We cannot go back to competition, but we can direct the new tendency into safe channels. In the collectivization of industry lies the future hope of society.

Conscious co-operators realize the need for control of industry by the people, but many seem to think that the co-operative movement in itself is capable of solving the industrial problem. From the point of view of the social reformer, the movement is doing work. It is with the private syndicates, organizing retail trade, it affords an opportunity for the development of the business capacity of the workers and it prepares the people, in some measure for democratic government. But in industry, the movement will combine to expand the whole of our industries. The land to a great extent, mines, railways, great staple industries and public services, such as the provision of gas, water, tramway etc., are too vast for co-operative control and represent infinitely more capital than the co-operators possess.

The capital invested in municipal undertakings alone is more than ten times the capital of the whole of the co-operative societies, and when we compare the capital of the co-operative movement with the total national wealth, we see how utterly out of all reason, is the belief that the co-operative movement as such, can absorb all our industry, and solve the industrial problem.

If co-operators desire democracy in industry, then our educational policy must be directed to show them the part they are to play. The movement may not enter the political arena but the rank and file must be taught their relationship to the wider movement, which seeks the establishment of co-operative commonwealth, and equipped so that they may be able to properly discharge their duties as citizens. It is possible for the people to control the national industries, and to make it a sound basis for the national life, but it cannot be done by the co-operative movement alone. The people must learn to view the movements they must look upon reduced tramway fares and electric light charges and improved facilities which result from public control of industries, as results and co-operative trading.

Legislative measure will make possible a great extension of co-operation and while this is going on municipalities will enter more largely into the provision of services for the citizen, and in the wider field the nation will control monopolies affecting the whole people, until at last the necessities of life are produced by the people for the people.

The manager of the store reported on the past year's work and it was very gratifying to know that the debt due to the shareholders had been reduced from \$8000 to \$3000.

Several of the labor delegates reported that they would put the matter before their union, just as they had heard it that evening.

A large musical program had been arranged and the following took place: Solo, Mr. Hawerdt, duet, Messrs Anderson and Dawson; solo, Miss Stovel comic song, Mr. Harrison; quartette, Miss Stovel, Mr. Dawson; recitation, T. Wintle; solo, E. Emery; duet Misses Towell; comic song, E. Knight; song, C. Good; solo, F. Flummerfelt.



CITY OF CALGARY

A public meeting of the electors of Ward I in the city of Calgary will be held in the City Clerk's office, City Hall, on Monday, the 28th day of January, A. D. 1907, at 12 o'clock noon, for the nomination of candidates for the office of alderman to fill the vacancy at the Council Board for said ward.

Nominations will close at 1 o'clock p.m. of said day.

Dated at Calgary this 17th day of January, A. D. 1907.

H. E. GILLIS, Returning Officer.

18-8

NOTICE

with the best ever elaborated by Application will be received by the undersigned up to Jan. 26 for the position of comptroller for the city of Calgary. Applicants will please state age, experience and salary desired and qualifications.

H. E. GILLIS, City Clerk.

1916

City Lots and Houses

2 lots blk. 50 sec. 16 Price \$10500 with house rents for \$15 per month. Easy terms.

2 lots main st. east, with house rents for \$12 per month. Price easy terms. \$8225

2 lots and large modern house on 3rd ave W. between centre and 1st west. Price \$4750

2 lots and large modern house on 6th ave. west and between centre and 1st west. Price \$4750

Easy terms. \$1200

3 lots in blk. 98 sec. 16 with 3 cottages, rents for \$36 per month. Price \$1200

Each, easy terms. \$1200

A number of nice lots in the vicinity of new Normal school

D. R. MacLean

Alexander Bk. Phone 706

Free Skating ON THE OUTDOOR RINK

On the above rink will be given every purchaser of a pair of skates, value \$5 or more will receive a free season ticket on the above rink. A proportionate discount allowed on cheaper skates

ALEX. MARTIN

231 EIGHTH AVENUE EAST

Half block back of P. O.

Grand Reduction Sale

During the month of January we will sell any article in our large and well assorted STOCK

At greatly reduced prices.

Stock consisting in part of Cooking Stoves, Ranges Heating Stoves, an Exceptionally large stock of Enamel ware, and Tin wear, Crockery wear, China wear, Glass wear, Toilet sets. Iron Beds, Springs, Mattresses, Brass Beds, Side Boards, Bureaus and Stands, Chiffoniers, Dining Tables, Kitchen Table, Dining Chairs, Kitchen Chairs, Parlor Suits, Parlor Chairs, Parlor Tables, Hall Tables, 4 Bed Lounges, Sofas, Lounges, Carpets, Rugs, Blankets, Table Cloths, Comforts, Lamps, Lanterns, Clocks, Cutlery, Knives, Forks and Spoons.

Terms Strictly Cash Come expecting bargains and you will get them.

McCallum, Chisholm & Moore

8 ave. East

Cash Market

To The Housewives

We do not want to feel that we are asking you for more than we are entitled to, but we do want you to feel that the meats which we are selling at our Special Sales on Saturdays cannot be excelled. The meat is fat, tender and juicy and absolutely the best that is growing in the country. We want your trade.

PRIME RIB ROAST 10¢
ROLLED ROAST, boneless 8¢
SHOULDER ROAST 6¢
LING and STEWING BEEF 4¢
SILOIN STEAK 12 1-2¢
ROUND STEAK 8¢
SHOULDER STEAK 3 lbs. for 25¢

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LIMITED

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1. A section of good farm land at \$25 per acre. Five miles west of Calgary. \$1000 handles it; balance to suit.

READ THE ABOVE AND EVERY OTHER AD. IN THIS PAPER AND THEN THINK.

2. We have 12 lots, situated in four of the best blocks across the Elbow of which we have the exclusive sale. Will sell part of the whole, and can arrange very easy terms. Come in and see us and get particulars.

3. One half section, all fenced, good house, two large barns and two wells, fifty acres in cultivation, in the finest farming district. South. A snap at \$22-50

4. Three quarter sections, an eight roomed house, large horse barn and a plank floor cow-barn, fenced and cross-fenced, two granaries, good well, 160 acres, broken, North-east of Okotoks. A good buy. per acre, \$25

5. Also one quarter section, adjoining the above. Will sell separately. A bargain.

6. House new and very good, plastered and papered. Fifty foot lot in Rouleauville. \$1000 cash; balance to suit.

7. Fifty foot lot C. P. R. sub-division. \$1250 Half cash, balance in three and six months.

8. Lots thirty and thirty-one, block 7, section 14. \$1500 half cash, balance three and six months.

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Everybody's favorite.

Bus meets all trains.

Reasonable Rates.

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Capital Paid Up.....\$4,500,000
Reserve fund.....\$4,500,000
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Reserve fund.....\$11,159,831
Total Assets.....\$168,061,173

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THE BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL EXPANSION OF CALGARY IS TOWARDS THE WEST.

Lots 21, 22, block 48, Main St. W., terms.....\$12,000

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, block 52, Main St. W., terms.....\$21,000

Two lots, P. O. block, monthly revenue \$40, terms.....\$17,000

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50 feet, Centre St., monthly revenue \$200, \$800 per foot, terms

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Residence phone 422.

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Remember the place just south of the Post Office in the Allan Block.

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9th Ave., block 63, three lots 75x130, facing new C. P. R. Station.

We can show you where this purchase will make you \$15000 and pay 12 1-2 interest for 1 1-2 years. A special figure and good terms to offer

Call and see about this at once before the other fellow does.

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W. M. DAY
Editor and

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