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ORGANIZATION AND RE-ORGANIZATION IN THE PINCHER CREEK DISTRICT

The following is a brief account of the latter part of a series of meetings which were started by E. J. Fream who was recalled to the central office by telegram on May 15. The narrative is taken up by P. P. Woodbridge who concluded the tour:

Following up the telegram recalling Mr. Fream to the central office, I arrived in Macleod shortly before 11 o'clock p.m. on Thursday the 16th. There I met the east bound from Pincher with Mr. Fream on board. We were able to have a short conversation before turning in for the night, when I learnt of the gratifying success which had been achieved during the earlier portion of the tour. This was particularly encouraging and results proved quite up to the expectations created by the opening meetings of the tour. At 5.10 a.m. the next morning I boarded the train for the west and reached Pincher station, my destination, in time for breakfast. Immediately after I was able to get in touch with our director for the Macleod constituency, Mr. G. W. Buchanan, who later called for me in his automobile, accompanied by his son and Mr. A. R. Main, Secretary of Mountain Mill Union. Together we proceeded down to Summerview, the scene of the meeting arranged for that evening. Arriving there an hour or two before the time stated, we were able to get around and see many of the farmers in the immediate district, which helped considerably towards the success of the meeting.

New Lease of Life

Shortly after 8 o'clock the farmers commenced to arrive and there were soon sufficient on hand to warrant the meeting beginning. After an interesting discussion in which several of those present took part, Summerview Union, which had fallen on bad times and had been more or less inactive for several months, decided amid much enthusiasm to re-organize. Fourteen of those present paid in their \$1.00 at once, and proceeded to re-elect a new set of officers who, it is confidently expected, will carry the Union, not only up to, but beyond the success it had previously enjoyed. The meeting broke up about midnight, when again making use of Mr. Buchanan's car we reached Pincher station shortly before 1 a.m. A word of thanks is due here to Mr. Buchanan for the use of his car. The trip proved most enjoyable and we were able to take in some of the most beautiful of the foot hill scenery.

Saturday proved to be another fine day, the meeting for that day, May 18, was to be at Pincher station. On arrival at the school house that evening I found the members of Pincher Station Union busily engaged in cutting up a calf which had been supplied by one of our members. I gathered from the information received that it was, by no means an unusual custom for one or other of the members to supply the union with fresh meat along the lines. The plan seems to work quite satisfactorily, and it struck me that it was one which some of our other unions might choose to try for themselves. Another very successful meeting was held immediately after the calf was disposed of, and I find that at this union they have several very capable speakers, and a most interesting discussion followed the opening address. There is evidently the material for a strong union at this point.

Sunday morning broke out wet and windy, so the day was spent at the hotel. On Sunday evening I was able to move down to Pincher Creek, where arrangements were made for me to meet Mr. G. A. Dixon, of Spring Ridge, who was to take me round to the unions south of the railway. Monday also proved to be wet, much to the delight of many of the farmers in the district who were getting a little anxious on account of the continued dry weather. The rain put everyone in a good humor.

A Pitch Dark Night

We proceeded through varying degrees of mud and water to Robert Kerr, the scene of the meeting that evening, calling

on several farmers on our way. We were again rewarded, in spite of the weather and the fact that the night was very dark, with a representative crowd. Here again a complete re-organization was effected and Robert Kerr Union decided that if there had been reason for forming a Union before there was still more reason to-day.

After the meeting Mr. Dixon and myself with the other members of the union, after feeling our way around in the dark for some time at last succeeded in finding the gateway out of the school grounds and proceeded to our quarters with two of the farmers in the neighborhood for the night. I think this was without exception the darkest night it has ever been my experience to be out in. The only way in which we could keep track of each other in the different rigs driving home, though we were only a few feet apart, was by a continuous calling. However, we reached our destination without accident and on the following morning, May 21, (still raining) we were off in good time for Twin Butte. Most of the day was spent in calling on farmers and speaking to others over the phone. Another good meeting was the result of this work. Twin Butte re-organized with some fifteen members and from reports since received they seem to be continuing the good work they started that evening.

Wednesday morning, May 22, proved to be more favorable and later on in the afternoon the sun shone for the first time that week. The meeting that afternoon was at Utopia, a new union organized a month or so previously. Here we had the largest meeting of the tour so far, some thirty members were present and several were added to the union. The members expressed their appreciation of the work of the Association and their determination to assist, as far as they were able. Several visitors were up from Fishburn and we were pleased to learn that they had re-organized there that same afternoon.

Difficulties of Fording

Before the Utopia meeting we visited two or three fords across the Kootenay River, which it was necessary for us to cross in order to get to Hill Spring where we were booked for the following day. Owing to the river being in flood it was decided there was no chance of crossing except by the Stand-off bridge some 33 miles distant, so we reluctantly resigned ourselves to the prospects of a 65 mile drive in order to reach Hill Springs, which was visible only five miles distant across the river.

Next day, out in good time, we had not gone far when we met Mr. Harry Jenkins, of Fishburn, who told us that we could cross the river by a ford near his farm, and kindly offered to show us the ford. Mr. Jenkins was intending to cross himself on horseback, leading a big shire stallion. On arrival at the ford we found that it was impossible to cross with the rig, so it was a case of unhitch and try it on horseback. The river here ran in two streams and the procession crossed it in the following order: Mr. H. Jenkins in the lead on a saddle horse, next the assistant secretary of the U.F.A., perched high up on the withers of the shire stallion, following behind, Mr. G. A. Dixon on the back of one of our driving team, leading the other and the dog followed on behind. On reaching the other side none the worse for our trip, we succeeded in borrowing another rig after going about a mile and reached Hill Springs about supper time.

Mormons Were Hospitable

Here the union was organized that evening. Hill Springs is one of the Mormon settlements, and whatever may have been said at different times about the Mormons, our experience was that all those we met both here and in our trip to a neighboring settlement the Mormons proved to be among the most considerate and hospitable people that it has ever been my fortune to meet.

We crossed the river the next morning after the same fashion as the previous day, and we reached Fishburn in time for the picnic there in the afternoon. Owing to the day being very windy and the big

sport program it was decided to postpone doing anything that day and hold a meeting at Fishburn the following Wednesday evening.

On Saturday the meeting was held at Chipman Creek. A large thunderstorm came on about the time of the meeting, in consequence of which the attendance was not as large as expected though a new union was formed here and the members showed great enthusiasm and good work is expected from this union.

The following Monday we were out again and crossed the Kootenay River once more to Glenwood, another Mormon settlement. This time we crossed the river, which had fallen more than a foot during the past few days, in a heavy democrat, after first loading up the bottom of the rig with large boulders. Even then there was some excitement, for the water easily came over the body of the democrat. However, the trip was once more safely accomplished and we reached Glenwood early in the afternoon.

By-Election Interfered

As this happened to be the date of the Cardston election in which many of the settlers were interested, only about 14 showed up at the meeting. I might say here that both our meetings in the Mormon country were somewhat interfered with by the by-elections which were raging in the constituency at the time.

At Hill Springs the two previous nights had been taken up by speakers on behalf of the rival candidates. We were unfortunate enough to strike Glenwood the day of the polling, when some 15 or 20 teams had gone in to play their part. Those present, however, passed a resolution in favor of forming a union, and the second meeting was arranged for the following Monday to complete the organization.

On Tuesday our meeting was at Spring Ridge. A splendid turn out showed up here, many ladies being present. One

District Directors:

Victoria—P. R. Austin, Nanfurly; Edmonton—George Bevington, Spruce Grove; Strathcona—J. R. Painter, Strone; Red Deer—E. Carwell, Penhold; Calgary—H. Sorensen, Strathmore; Macleod—G. W. Buchanan, Cowley; Medicine Hat, W. S. Henry, Bow Island.

member also had his violin with him, with a musical program to open and close the evening with. Everyone agreed that the evening was most enjoyable. I understand this was the first occasion on which the ladies of Spring Ridge had turned up to the U.F.A. meetings. Not that it was their fault by any means, but the general opinion seemed to be that for the future the ladies would be especially welcome to take part in the proceedings.

Wednesday the last meeting of the tour was held at newly reorganized union of Fishburn. The meeting was an entire success and Fishburn Union proved to be very strong in personality, if not very much in number at the present time.

A Successful Tour

The following day the return journey to Calgary was successfully made, the whole tour was one of the most successful and encouraging that we have ever had, and as the country is well organized should lead to very fine results.

The thanks of this association are due to all those who proved their hospitality and showed such willingness to assist us in the work on the road. More especially are our thanks due to Mr. G. A. Dixon, of Spring Ridge, who devoted his own time and the use of his team, to say nothing of putting in a good deal of hard work, to ensure the success of the meetings during the last ten days of the trip. With such earnest workers as Mr. Dixon in our midst we need have no fear as to the future of the association.

P. P. WOODBRIDGE.

P.S.—Our friends the politicians had arrived at Hill Springs in motor cars. My imagination will even now continue to run riot and present me with mental views of some of our prominent politicians of Ottawa fame fording mountain rivers perched high on the (saddle-less) back of a shire stallion to organize the farmers of the West.



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