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GETTING FARMERS TOGETHER FOR CO-OPERATION

PRICE EDWARD

J. J. Morrison Visited Prince Edward County Last Week Interesting the Men There in Co-Operative Buying and Selling—Bank Manager and Seed Men Were Among Those to Attend and Show a Hearty Interest in the New Proposal—All Endorsed It.

(Toronto Weekly Sun)

Insurrection is breeding throughout the Province; it is being deliberately fostered among the farming community; and it is directed against that full-fledged militia power—General conditions. In other words, dissatisfaction with conditions as they are today are bringing farmers to a realization of their position, and all over Ontario they are rallying behind the Farmers' Clubs. These clubs will be vigorously wielded until the General Bad-Conditions are wiped off the map and General Satisfaction is left in full control of the situation.

Last week the Sun was privileged to attend several of these organization meetings down in Prince Edward county, in company with J. J. Morrison, secretary of the United Farmers of Ontario.

A splendid meeting was held at Rednersville, where fifty men had gathered; some of them men who had never been at a meeting of a Farmers Club before, and one of whom admitted, "There was a good deal of truth spoken there."

Willoughby Anderson, Reeve of the township of Ameliasburg, had been delegated to attend the U.F.O. convention at Toronto several weeks ago and report. He reported that to him the time seemed ripe for a systematic organization of the whole Province co-operatively. It was a duty as well as a privilege to co-operate with the U.F.O. in buying and selling, and he hoped to see a Club organized in every school section of the County.

He had been sent to criticize, and he had only praise for the movement.

Geo. Moxam, a local wholesale seed man, told of forming five Farmers' Clubs within the previous few weeks, and of the opposition which had followed his selling of seeds at cost to the members. Local retailers had refused to buy from him if he sold co-operatively to Club members at trade prices.

Farmers are Back Bone.

"It is true," said J. J. Morrison, "that farmers are the backbone of the country, but by some means or other it has been turned upside down." Only three or four members of the local Legislature today were farmers, while there were many lawyers, doctors and other professional and financial men. This was because the old man, who was not tied down swung the result. "Laws are made to suit the urban people, and the rural ones can do as they like, for they don't amount to anything in the industry of farming, is it had shape."

said the speaker. This was why the industry occupies the attention of law-makers and others as a result of the high cost of living. "They realize that something is wrong and are alarmed. Why should they be?"

Mr. Morrison felt that the spending of \$10,000,000 to "put agriculture on its feet" would be unwise spent, while the real causes of trouble are left untouched. "The 'free' information sent around would not cost anything—and was not worth any more than it cost."

J. W. Flavell had said the lands of Old Ontario were in the hands of 100,000 less people than they had been years before, and that it was because farmers did not understand their business. Mr. Morrison believed that this was true, or Mr. Flavell would not have made the money out of farmers that he has.

If people get profitable returns, they will not leave the industry—people don't do that. It was because they were not prosperous that people were leaving the farm. The wonderful race of people, the primeval forest, and are now resting in the churchyards of the country, had left a great heritage, which was being dissipated and left behind, while the young race was turning its steps to the city.

"You can't find a farm which will return to you interest on the purchase price. It means that no farmer is not profitable," Mr. Morrison said.

"Are we asking too much for the land?" he asked. In Wellington a farm of 100 acres had been sold. It was fine land, level, partly undrained, and had a bank barn 70x80 feet, driving shed, woodshed, and house 28x32 feet, 2 storey with furnace and water. There were wire fences, orchards, telephone, mail delivery, 3 miles from a village, 1-2 miles from a separate and public school. This splendid farm had sold for \$8,500. It went to a brother of the owner, on terms of pay what you like, and take the rest at 5 per cent. interest when you like.

"And now," asked Mr. Morrison, "did he get anything for his land, or did he give it away?"

Hon. Jas. S. Duff had said that a mortgage indebtedness of \$225,000,000 was existing on Ontario farms. At 6 per cent. interest this huge sum was invested in an industry which only yields at the most 3 per cent. Some say, remarked Mr. Morrison, that farming yields only wages.

It was possible to buy an improved farm cheaper than an unimproved one and improve it. He illustrated this by saying that it would cost him \$1,600 for tile to underdrain his farm with other expenses it would probably cost \$2,000. If he should die within two years his wife could not get a proper allowance for that \$2,000. The only way that returns for that investment could be had would be to run it himself. It could not be rent-

ed or sold at value.

Production and Prosperity.

"Increased production will not bring prosperity," was the strong declaration of Mr. Morrison. Farmers' Institutes had encouraged greater production, and taught how to bring it about, but the increased production had not made any one any better off. There had been an increased volume of business, but profits had been taken off by one fad or another; the principle followed seemed to be to take everything from the farmer that he can spare, as honey is taken from bees in the fall.

The fact of the grainage advice embodied in "patriotism and production" was untold by Mr. Morrison, who referred to an increased protection given to the very men who were behind the movement, so that their profits went into the pockets of those who had their own advice and "produce more." Certainly not. He instanced the fax industry, which has been very great one time in this country. A big merger had been formed, which acquired all the mills and locked the output of the country, and forced up the price of linned oil, oak case and tow, until now the trade is controlled by only two mills in Canada; one at Montreal and one in Waterloo; while the old factories were standing, and monuments to the power of others to do us."

Other parallels could be instanced, in which the invariable practice was to regulate the market, shut off the supply and force up the price. "And yet," said Mr. Morrison, "these same fellows tell us to increase our production and never mind the prices."

"When horses, hogs, or grain are plentiful where do the prices go?"

"They go down," he said. "And yet," said Mr. Morrison, "these same fellows tell us to increase our production and never mind the prices."

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Don't Run Away.

He did not advocate throwing up the sponge and running away. In the past farmers had let the other fellows run everything, and had had nothing to say. When a person had eggs to sell he went to the merchant and let him buy the price was. Then he bought some tea and paid the merchant's own price. "The same principle runs through the whole structure, and it serves us jolly well right, said the speaker.

It had been realized that a man never got rich on work, and the only hope was for the farmers to get together. Some 200 representatives of Farmers' Clubs had got together and decided to form a Farmers' Club in the county, and sell their own products instead of allowing others to do so. "If the manufacturers allowed you to sell their products," said Mr. Morrison, "wouldn't you get it about right?" (Laughter.) It was realized that if ten men could do better in buying than one could, then 500 Clubs could buy better than one Club. "At the present time agricultural sentiment doesn't count for anything," he said. "In politics it counts, 'knew them they know them.' In compiling the disorganized bodies they had found 350 Farmers' Clubs, 100 Granges, 52 Apple Growers' Associations, and a number of seed, vegetable and marketing associations. There was no central executive head, and so the U.F.O. had been formed to weld them together and raise up a strong agricultural feeling to look after their own interests."

Every year 15,000 or 16,000 farmers visited Guelph, which was a licensed city, and yet not an extra policeman was enrolled to help control this crowd. Such a crowd from Toronto would paint the town red in five minutes. If all went to show "what a decent, respectable set of people farmers were, and yet we do not act any figure in shaping the policies of the country."

Details of the Company.

One year has passed over the head of the co-operative company, which had \$10,000 capital in \$25 shares, half of which was to be paid down and the balance kept on call. Monopolistic control was avoided by the one man one vote system. Club's may hold one share of stock each, or in five minutes. The privilege of buying co-operatively, while the representative of the Club is eligible for a place on the directorate of the company.

What the company has already done was to buy 4 cars per week of dried brewers' grain of a Toronto company had been contracted for delivery to Germany, and shipments started when the war broke out. The U.F.O. output. At first it had been necessary to put two agents on the road, but now they are continually sold out for months ahead.

Last year it had been impossible for the company to secure binder twine, but this year a contract was made with an Irish firm for a large amount of twine, 550 and 600 feet to the pound, which will be sold at a lower price than other people sell it. The price had not been made public yet.

A Marketing Plan.

"Selling is more important than buying," said the Secretary. "We propose to sell our own goods on the Toronto market before the year is over. This will cover the selling of cattle, hogs, potatoes, apples, eggs, and everything that can be graded. We hope to put a man on the market to sell these things."

Opposed to this was the present system of staying at home till the buyers come and give the least possible price. Minto Club in Hastings County had solved the trouble by selling their own cattle in the way proposed. Grading of stock was done by the buyers on the Toronto market, and stock belonging to individual members was tagged with a distinguishing number. They weigh their own stock and ship their own. One man became a member of the Minto Club after he had lost \$14.50 on a bunch of hogs, because he had to sell near 50c below the price secured by the club when they sold direct.

Methods of Financing.

Several methods of financing the local Club were suggested by Mr. Morrison. The first and least satisfactory one was to get some willing and rich man to build a warehouse, and charge a fee for handling the order.

A letter of credit, which was really a collateral note, was a better plan. It would be for the required amount, and when an invoice with the bill of lading attached would be turned over to the bank it would be released.

Club members would then pay their share at the bank, and the letter of credit would remain to be used on the next order. This could be varied by having the members sign individual notes for the amount they would be buying, and deposit them in the banks, where the account would be handled in the same way.

A NEW CLUB ENDORSED THE MOVEMENT AND DECIDED TO TAKE STOCK IN IT.

Massasaga Club is a Lively New One Which Gives Promise of a Successful Career in Prince Edward County.

The Massasaga Farmers' Club is a new organization, and when Mr. Morrison visited there last week he addressed the second meeting of the Club, which finally decided to subscribe for a share in the co-operative company.

Jas. R. Anderson, a director of the United Farmers' Co-operative Company, was present, it being his home town, and spoke a few words. He referred to the fact that when duties had been reduced on farm implements their prices had not been cut down, but when it was added to the prices went up at once.

He has taken a share in the co-operative company when it was first organized, because some people had to take stock personally to get the company started and form a directorate. However, he had not done much buying until this fall, when he bought a gun and 2,400 rounds of ammunition, and a drum of coal oil and gasoline. In these four purchases he had saved enough to almost cover the cost of his \$25 share. Timmington and his friends know him, is a hunter first and a farmer afterwards—especially around duck time, and that explains the purchase of the gun.

Referring to the large national debt, and the fact that Canada produced more goods than she could consume, Mr. Anderson said that the occasion could only be met by exportation of Canadian produce. This was impossible because there were not enough people on the land, and so it was necessary to import large quantities of eggs every year.

This meeting was very similar to the one at Rednersville the previous night, but Mr. Morrison followed a slightly different line of thought. He divided the population of Canada into two distinct classes, the rural and the urban, showing that this was a natural division.

In the country the old-time co-operation has gone. It was manifest in the logging boss, the barn raisings and the countless round of festivities and work combined, which kept man in close touch with each other. Instead of this, the time has come when we see men so suspicious of their neighbor that they will not even let the price at which a steer had been sold. Mr. Morrison made a plea for a better spirit—that of brotherly love. The farming industry has declined, and is no longer a profitable one; labor and capital have left the land, as a result of the lack of organization. In the city, workers of all classes are organized, from the street sweeper to the bank merger. Great organizations sit to the front the great minds in each hand help build themselves up at the expense of others. This was responsible for the coming sight of a man who came from the plotting to add to the burdens of the farmer friends he left behind him, directing operations against the old farm that gave him birth.

Organized labor had been able through its organization to fight the gigantic commercial combines, and win out against them, but farmers who had no such organization, made to pay the very wages that were increased as a result of the labor unions.

Among those present was a bank

manager from Belleville, Mr. Jones of the Mohons Bank, who was pleased with the spirit of co-operation, the details of which in this case had, however, not fully crystallized in his mind. "There is this about it," said Mr. Jones, "if you fellows don't organize for yourselves, there is nobody else going to organize for you. And if you do organize and do business as others do, you have got to be loyal to your own organization."

Mr. Jones had been told by farmers that it was impossible to organize farmers, and if it could be done they would not stick. He did not think that there was ever a farmer who was worthy who was ever turned away from a chartered bank when he applied for money for a profitable investment, such as buying clover seeds, for instance.

ROYAL BLACK PRECEPTORY'S NEW OFFICERS

H. A. Graham, of Kingston, is the New Grand Master.

Ottawa, March 17.—Officers of the Royal Black Preceptory of Eastern Ontario were to-day elected as follows:

- Grand Master, H. A. Graham, Kingston; Deputy Grand Master, J. W. Featherston, Ottawa; Assistant Grand Master, T. K. Allan, Kemptville; Chaplain, Rev. John Patten, St. Paul; Deputy Chaplain, Rev. George Nickle, Napanee; Assistant Deputy Chaplain, J. D. Richardson, Cornwall; Registrar, W. J. Rhodes; Assistant Registrar, T. Timmon, Crookston; Treasurer, T. McConnet, Springbrook; Assistant Treasurer, George Brown, Tweed; Lecturers, L. E. Stanley, Ottawa, and William Reynolds, Foxboro; Censors, W. C. Reid, Belleville, and W. J. Hill, Madoc; Standard Bearer, E. E. Allan, and W. G. Burke; Committee, W. Dawson, Napanee; J. B. Lowrie, Frankford; James Moore, Eganville; John Smith, Omeme; G. W. Taylor, Kemptville; E. Aitchett, Crookston; and George Keene, Queensboro.

LEGAL SUASION

The laws of the state against murder do not entirely prevent murder; but nevertheless, I am opposed to licensing 1 murderer to ever so many thousand persons, even on petition of a majority of the property holders in the block that we may have all the murder that is desirable in the community under wise regulations, with a little income for the municipality. I believe in the absolute prohibition of murder.

The laws of the country prohibiting stealing do not entirely prevent stealing. Nevertheless, I am opposed to a high license system of stealing, providing that all theft shall be restricted to certain authorized thieves, who shall steal only between the hours of say, 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. except Sunday, when no stealing shall be done except by stealth, entrance, or made in all cases on that day by the back door, at the thief's risk. I believe in the laws that absolutely forbid theft at any hour, on any day of the week.

And on the same ground, and just as positively, do I believe in the prohibition of the liquor traffic. And I never said that I didn't. And I did say that I did. And I do.

I do say the best way to make a man a temperate man is to teach him not to drink.

But a bar-room is not a kindergarten of sobriety.—Robt. J. Burdett.

TYENDINAGA RESIDENT DEAD

The death occurred on Friday of Mr. William Sine of the second concession near Shannonville.

Mr. Sine was a farmer and was fifty years of age. Although Mr. Sine had not been well for some time his death came as a shock to the community and all sympathize with the bereaved family, which consists of his wife, Harry and his daughter Bella, both at home. He also leaves to mourn his loss his parents, two brothers, Alonzo of Parry Sound, and A. O. of Napanee and two sisters, Mrs. Boulstridge and Mrs. R. H. Laidie, of Shannonville. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon from his late residence to Shannonville Methodist church. Service was conducted by Rev. J. G. Robson. The esteem in which deceased was held was evidenced by the large number who congregated to pay their last tribute of respect to him. Interment took place in the Shannonville cemetery, the bearers being Messrs. Frank Palmer, Fred Barlow, Archie McDonald, Abraham Farnsworth, Fred Melburn and Fred Buskard.

NO MILITIA CAMP HELD THIS YEAR

The announcement has been made that there will be no training of the active militia this year. This follows naturally upon the war mobilization, the training of troops at the mobilization centers and their removal to camps in England and France. The cancellation of the annual drill means a difference in the militia expenditure of \$2,000,000.

POLICE NEWS.

Patrick Joseph O'Neal, a stranger in town was fined \$2 this morning on a charge of having been drunk.

SHORTAGE OF COPPER MAY END THE WAR

Lord Kitchener's serious words about ammunition call attention to the fact that the advance of the Allies cannot begin until the shortage is filled; and that it is not men, but shells and bullets, that Joffre is waiting for. He has now, and has had for months, 2,000,000 trained French soldiers far behind the firing line, and only waiting until the French War Office can assure him that it has caught up to the tremendous commission he imposed upon it when he announced that he would not make a general advance until he could be assured of 200,000 shells a day for his artillery. At the best France cannot make more than 70,000 shells a day; it has been estimated, and the other 130,000 must be supplied by England and from the United States. In both countries armament factories are working night and day to catch up to the tremendous orders of the Allies. When there has been a sufficient store accumulated the great advance will begin. When Kitchener and others speak of the war beginning in the Spring they are thinking of ammunition, not of the weather. As far as France is concerned, spring has arrived, but not apparently the death-dealing shells in sufficient quantities.

Miscalculations About Ammunition.

There is no nation now engaged in the war, not even Germany with her long-matured plans, and her methodical preparation, that did not make a grievous error with respect to the ammunition required. Shrapnel and bullets have been spent in this war upon a scale never before dreamed of. Nobody supposed there would be such a wastage of steel and lead. It is calculated that for every twenty-four hours of general fighting 70,000,000 rifle bullets are fired, with an additional ten per cent. for the machine and other rapid-fire guns. Statistics have estimated that in the Battle of the Marne 160,000 shells a day were fired by the British and French troops. To be on the safe side Joffre calculates that he will need another 20,000 shells a day when the great task of driving German armies out of France and Belgium is undertaken.

Kitchener's Huge Task.

Britain's miscalculations as to the amount of ammunition required are more excusable than those of France or Germany. Britain never dreamed of having to supply an army of some 3,000,000 men with bullets and shells. Indeed, the manner in which Kitchener has been able to secure the supplies necessary up to the present time is one of the minor wonders of the war. But what he has done in the past is nothing compared with what he must do in the next few weeks or months, and it is the gravity of this task that caused him to speak so plainly in Parliament the other day. Russia has immense stores of the raw material necessary for the manufacture of ammunition, and new armament factories are springing up every week, but for the most part Russia has had to depend upon Japan. Quite recently Japan made an enormous purchase of copper in the United States for the sole purpose of supplying Russia with shells.

Germany's Serious Flight.

But the plight of Germany and Austria is much more serious than that of the Allies. They must use as much ammunition in order to hold their own, and they, unlike the Allies, have not the whole world to draw upon for supplies, and particularly for copper, which is another largely into the manufacture of shells and cartridges. Writing in the New York Times, a Veteran Diplomat estimates that if the Teutonic nations have been using 20,000,000 rifle cartridges and 2,000,000 machine gun cartridges a day, they have been firing away 318 tons of brass. Their artillery fire, calculated at the rate of 150,000 shells a day upon all their battle fronts, would account for another 115 tons a day, or 433 tons a day in all. This would figure out at about 310 tons of copper, which would run into 112,000 tons of copper in a year.

Cannot Get Copper.

According to the London Times, the 'greatest living authority on copper' states that in time of peace Germany and Austria produce a maximum of 30,000 tons of copper a year, which might possibly be increased to 40,000 tons under the stimulus of war. But this leaves a shortage of 72,000 tons, which must be imported if the German and Austrian armies are to maintain their present rate of using shells. In the early months of the war there was considerable copper smuggled into the country, but not a ton is passing through now nor will it while the war continues. This is the reason why the Germans are picking up used shells, and have practically commandeered all the copper and brass fittings of the empire. It is Britain's command of the seas, again, that is starving the armament works of Germany, and this famine will be just as deadly to German ambitions in the long run as the blockade that deprives the enemy of food.

Nights of Agony come in the train of asthma. The victim cannot lie down and sleep is driven from his brain. What grateful relief is the immediate effect of Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy. It banishes the trifling conditions, clears the passages, and enables the afflicted one to again sleep as soundly as restfully as a child. Insist on the genuine at your nearby druggist.