

# Official Minutes of U. F. A. Convention

Continued from Last Week

## REPORT OF ELEVATOR COMMITTEE

It was moved and seconded, That the report of the elevator committee be now adopted and that the committee be empowered to act on the suggestions contained therein. Carried unanimously.

## AGREEMENTS WITH MACHINE COMPANIES

Moved by the resolution committee:

Resolved that the executive recommend to the government that a law should be passed along the lines suggested by the minister of agriculture, that the machine companies should be compelled to use a simple, uniform style of agreement in connection with the sale of machinery, and that the government be requested to prepare an agreement which shall be the only recognized agreement allowed in this province, and further, that the executive of the U.F.A. be allowed to pass upon this agreement. Carried.

## SEED GRAIN ADVANCES

Moved by Pearce, Granum, Wheatland Centre, Carnforth, Sweet Valley, Jumbo and Rising Sun Unions:

Resolved, that on account of the scarcity of seed grain in some parts of the province the executive shall at once take steps to find out how great the demand; what amount is available, and bring the matter to the attention of the provincial government and ask them to devise some means to meet the necessity of settlers in these districts. That consideration be given to the expressed wish of farmers to have the government allow them to purchase grain themselves in order that precautions may be taken to have the grain absolutely free from impurities. Carried.

## FRUIT TREES

Moved by Toffield Union:

Whereas, in consideration of the fact that it has been fairly demonstrated that the province of Alberta is more or less adapted to the growing of the hardy varieties of crab apples and small fruits such as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, etc.

And, whereas, at present these fruit trees are sold to the farmers at prohibitive prices on account of having to be shipped from eastern nurseries, and very often fruit trees sent out from the east are not adapted to the country.

Therefore, be it resolved that the government include the growing of fruit trees with its other enterprises at the experimental farms for free distribution and also for sale to settlers at a reasonable price. In this way every farmer in the province in a few years can have an orchard of his own to cultivate and attend to.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that this resolution be laid on the table.

On the question being put the amendment was carried and the motion was therefore tabled.

## HAIL INSURANCE

It was moved and seconded:

Resolved, that we are in favor of compulsory hail insurance on all lands at the rate of 2c per acre, to be paid in about the 10th of June, and to take effect about the 20th June, money to be collected by the council of the district; the insurance to comply all the way from \$1 to \$8 and the government to pay same after the first day of October, the councillor to be appraiser, his expenses to be paid by the government.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that this resolution be referred back to the resolution committee for reconsideration.

On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the motion was therefore referred back.

## AGAINST COMPULSORY HAIL INSURANCE

The president then called for a vote on the subject of compulsory hail insurance, and the result of same was that the convention decided by a large majority that they were not in favor of compulsory hail insurance, and the resolution committee was instructed accordingly.

## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

It was moved and seconded:

Be it resolved that we ask this convention to urge upon the government of Alberta to take immediate steps to adopt a system of consolidated schools for this province as, owing to the fact that new school districts are continually being formed, it would save a large amount of money and be of greater advantage to our children and make this province more attractive to men who have children to educate.

On the question being put this resolution was declared defeated.

## HAIL INSURANCE

Moved by the Resolution committee:

That this convention is strongly in favor of the present plan of hail insurance being placed upon a more satisfactory basis by the whole business being turned over to an independent commission which shall have full power to control same in a thorough and business-like manner, and that the whole system, especially insofar as inspection is concerned, shall be taken away from party politics. Further, that the directors be instructed to take up this recommendation with the government.

On the question being put this resolution was declared carried.

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Moved by Edmonton Union:

Resolved, that whereas a grievance exists in the administration of justice in the law courts of the province in the numerous cases in which reserved judgments are recorded—in many cases over a year elapses before judgment is given, working a great hardship on plaintiff and defendant alike; no interest is allowed on the money tied up; unfair advantage is given to large corporations to bring up paltry references so as to delay judgment; justice cannot be so satisfactorily given after a lapse of time, and the litigants are both running the risks of heavy expenses and delay of a new trial should anything incapacitate the judge.

We, the Edmonton Local Union of the U.F.A., request that at the annual convention a committee be appointed to wait upon the provincial attorney general to ask him to take such steps as are necessary to remedy this. Carried.

## SETTLEMENT OF RAILWAY CLAIMS

Moved by Edmonton Union:

That, whereas railway companies and similar corporations delay payment of claims and even enter into litigation for this purpose to the detriment of the farmers and the public, who suffer loss at their hands both in payments for animals killed on their lines or loss of goods in transit, we would urge that a law be enacted by the Dominion government so that such claims bear interest from the date of claim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, even if contested at law, if claim is substantiated. Carried.

## BORING DEEP WELLS

Moved by Blackfoot Union:

That the department of public works be requested to provide a bounty to lessen the cost of boring deep wells, the present cost being prohibitive.

In speaking to this motion Mr. Stone, of Blackfoot, said: Our dependence on surface wells and sloughs is limiting our efforts at stock raising, besides providing excellent fever traps for human beings. These same wells and sloughs are also yearly getting more shallow and altogether less to be depended upon.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment: That this matter be referred to the board of directors with power to act.

On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the matter was therefore referred to the directors.

## PARCELS POST

Moved by Cowley Union:

Resolved that the executive take up the question of a cheap parcels post with the proper authorities. Carried.

## ADVERTISING STRAY ANIMALS

Moved by the Resolution committee:

Resolved that local unions shall report monthly to the general secretary any stray animals in their locality and the general secretary shall issue a supplement to his monthly report, giving a list of the strays. Carried.

## ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Henderson, that we do now adjourn till one thirty o'clock. Carried.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON

The convention was called to order by President Bower at two o'clock, and the business taken up was that of resolutions.

## RE PREEMPTION

Moved by Rawdonville Union:

Whereas, Hansard, dated 13th April, 1910, page 7091, setting forth questions by Mr. Magrath, M.P. for Medicine Hat, as to whether Section 31, T. 30, R. 24, W. 4th mer., was:

- (1) Applied for as pre-emption.
- (2) Available or not for pre-emption.
- (3) What opportunity was given the rightful owner to obtain said land, and, Whereas, the replies of Mr. Oliver, Minister of Interior, stating:
  - (1) That said land was applied for.
  - (2) That it was marked "Disposed of in error."
  - (3) That notices were posted in Calgary and Sub Office for 10 days by instruction of the government, and,

Whereas, these farmers, Mr. Haley, Mr. Orr and Mr. Laven, have forfeited their rightful possessions by an error on the part of the government.

Therefore be it resolved that the executive take up this matter and endeavor to reinstate said farmers to their lawful rights.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment that this resolution be referred to the executive committee with instructions to make a thorough investigation.

On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the resolution was therefore referred to the executive.

## MACHINE AGENTS

It was moved and seconded:

Resolved, that machine agents be required to keep repairs on hand for each part of each machine that has been or is being sold by the company they represent.

That on failure to supply immediately each part required, they be compelled to pay the farmer a reasonable compensation for loss sustained.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment, that this resolution be laid on the table.

On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the motion was therefore tabled.

## CONSUMERS' LEAGUES

Moved by Millet Union:

Resolved, that the U.F.A. encourage through the various Unions the forming in cities and towns of "Consumers' Leagues," who will purchase their necessary supplies, so far as is possible, through the Unions of the U.F.A. direct, thus eliminating middlemen's profits and increasing prices to farmers and reducing prices to consumers. Carried.

## RE COMMISSION HOUSE

Moved by Millet Union:

Resolved, that the president of the U.F.A. appoint a committee to act with Mr. Czerar, president of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., to consider the question of a Farmers' Commission House in connection with co-operative stores. Carried.

## APPOINTING LEGAL AGENTS

Moved by Cowley Union:

Resolved, that the U.F.A. appoint a legal adviser to act in all cases of dispute or claim for compensation made by members against public companies in cases of loss or claims for damages, and that an annual contribution of ——— be made by each member to establish a fund to be called the U.F.A. legal expenses fund.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment, that this resolution be laid on the table.

On the question being put the amendment was declared carried and the resolution was therefore tabled.

## HUDSON'S BAY RAILWAY

Moved by Toffield Union:

Resolved, that we endorse government ownership of Hudson's Bay Railway and the operation thereof, and that every farmer throughout the Prairie Provinces send a personal letter to his member at Ottawa stating explicitly his views on the subject of the Hudson's Bay Railroad and government ownership and operation; and further, that a copy of this resolution be laid before the delegates of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers and the Manitoba Grain Growers at their annual conventions. Carried.

## DEVELOPING GOVERNMENT LANDS

Moved by Rawdonville Union:

Whereas, the wise homestead laws requiring settlers to develop their land is rapidly placing Alberta at the front of the small grain growing countries of the world; and

Whereas, these settlers, by their work, energy and self-sacrifice are giving

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