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THE CANADIAN CO-OPERATOR & PATRON.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

VOL. V.

OWEN SOUND, JULY, 1886.

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THE CANADIAN CO-OPERATOR & PATRON

A MONTHLY Paper, devoted to the best Financial Interests of the Order of PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY in Canada.

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Address all communications to—

R. J. DOYLE,
Manager D. G. M. F. I. Association,
DRAWER 464, OWEN SOUND.

Card of Thanks.

RAGLAN, March 9, 1886.

R. J. DOYLE, Esq., Manager Dom. Grange Mutual Fire Ins. Co., Owen Sound.

Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for prompt payment of my loss, \$210.00, on Dwelling House, situated on lot No. 2, in the 8th con. Township of Whistler. You will please convey to your Directors the appreciation in which I hold your Company for the honorable and prompt settlement in cash inside of three weeks from date of loss, instead of settling by 3 months' note, as many Companies do; and it is indeed doubtful whether I would have received anything from those Companies which stand on technicality, because I had moved out and a tenant had moved in, without any notice being given to the Company. I can confidently recommend your Association to my brother farmers, believing that your losses are settled on principles of justice between man and man.

(Sgd) THOS. HEZZLEWOOD.

Card of Thanks.

WALLACE TOWNSHIP, Nov. 19, 1885.

To the Directors of the Dominion Grange Mutual Fire Ins. Company:

GENTLEMEN.—I have with pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of \$580.10 cash, for payment of my claim for loss on my Dwelling House and ordinary contents, destroyed by fire, and which was caused by a chimney burning out. The property was insured under Policy No. 7743.

ELIJAH ELLIS.

Card of Thanks.

To DAWSON KENNEDY, Esq., Agent Grange Ins. Co.

DEAR SIR.—It gives me pleasure indeed to thank you and the officers of your Insurance Company for the prompt settlement of my claim in full, for the damage that was done to my Barn by lightning during that terrible thunder storm that passed over this Township on the 9th of July last. I hope never to have such a scene again. Some men were engaged at the time putting a stone wall around the cellar under my house, when the lightning struck it and came down through the house into the cellar, and killed one of the men at work. Thanking you very kindly, sir,

I am yours, &c.
WM. REVINGTON.

Ennismore, Oct. 1885.

Card of Thanks.

Dominion Grange M. F. Ins. Company, Owen Sound:

GENTLEMEN.—My thanks are hereby due and tendered to you for payment in full of my claim for loss on Barn, Stabling and chattel property, amounting to \$836.30. The loss occurred on the 23rd July. I have also to thank the Manager, Mr. Doyle, for his personal attention for assisting me in preparing my claim papers, and for the careful and honorable adjustment of my claim. Yours truly,

ANGUS CAMERON.

Osprey, Sept. 18th, 1885.

Card of Thanks.

To R. J. DOYLE, Esq.,
Manager Dom. Grange M. F. Ins. Co.

DEAR SIR AND BRO.—I have to thank the Directors of your Company for the prompt and honorable settlement of my claim in full by payment of Cash, \$200, for my loss under Policy 7919. The fire occurred on the 12th inst., and payment was made in 8 days from date of the fire, was very acceptable to me, as my house was burned with almost all my furniture and my family's clothing. Loss was caused by sparks from the stovepipe, I believe.

WM. G. LAWRENCE.

Minto, Nov. 20, 1885.

Card of Thanks.

To D. KIMMEDY, Esq., Agent Grange Insurance Co.

DEAR SIR.—Please convey to the Manager and Directors of your Company my thanks for the satisfactory settlement of my claim in full for \$283.44, by cheque this day received from you, for damage to my House and Furniture by lightning last harvest. Wishing you every success, I am yours truly,

GEORGE JOHNSTON.

Smith, Oct. 24, 1885.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY, active, intelligent, reliable men, to represent the DOMINION GRANGE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION in the following Counties,—Elgin, Haldimand, Hastings, Addington, Frontenac, Leeds, Grenville and Carleton. None but reliable men, who can give good testimonials, and who will undertake to thoroughly canvass the territory assigned, will be appointed. Address, with testimonials,

R. J. DOYLE,
Manager, Box 461, Owen Sound.

O, Come to the Greenwood Shade.

BY ALEX. M'LACHLAN.

O! COME to the greenwood shade,
Away from the city's din,
From the heartless strife of trade,
And the fumes of beer and gin;
Where commerce spreads her fleets,
Where bloated luxury lies,
And Want as she prowls the streets,
Looks on with her wolfish eyes.

From the city with its sin,
And its many colored code,
Its palaces raised to gin,
And its temples reared to God;
Its cellars dark and dank,
Where never a sunbeam falls,
Amid faces lean and lank,
As the hungry-looking walls.

Its festering pits of woe,
Its teeming earthly hells,
Whose surges ever flow,
In sound of the Sabbath bells!
O God! I would rather be
An Indian in the wood,
And range through the forest free,
In search of my daily food.

O! rather would I pursue
The wolf and the grizzly bear,
Than toil for the thankless few,
In those seething pits of care:
Here winter's breath is rude,
And his fingers cold and wan;
But what is his wildest mood,
To the tyranny of man?

To the trackless forest wild,
To the loneliest abode;
O! the heart is reconciled,
That has felt oppression's load!
The desert place is bright,
The wilderness is fair,
If hope but shed her light,
If freedom be but there.

Associated Labour & Trades Unions.

ONE of the chief characteristics of the present day is the number and variety of associations whose professed aims and objects are the removal of some political injustices, or the improvement of social conditions. This is a healthy sign, indicative of growing intelligence, and of the capacity of the people to associate and organize for securing objects of common good which cannot be so secured by individual and isolated action. There are many thoughtful persons who look with considerable disfavor upon the multiplicity of organizations, and who think that devotion and adherence to any other cause than their own is only the frittering away of energy and the distracting of attention from main issues. I do not, however, see any cause for alarm in this tendency; indeed, it seems quite natural. No two persons are surrounded by identical circumstances. We do not see through the same eyes. Our habits, customs, modes of thought and living widely differ, and it would therefore be very extraordinary if we all hit upon the same plan for redressing the evils of society. I frankly admit that many of the schemes of reform are superficial and inadequate, but until the masses of the people have discovered or have had made plain and simple to them the root-causes of political wrong, industrial depression and oppression and social suffering, we should hail with satisfaction any earnest and well-intentioned effort to grapple with them. I have faith that when our fellow-countrymen have a thoroughly intelligent grasp of national affairs, and know how to skillfully use the mighty power they possess, there will be a spontaneous and enthusiastic determination to work out for themselves "nobler modes of life, with sweeter manners, purer laws." In the meantime our duty is clear and palpable.

Association is not a newly discovered principle, but the systematic application of it for promoting the well-being of the community is comparatively new. All social reformers have recognized its civilizing influence, and have given to the world glowing pictures of a social state which shall be realized by its powers. The word association has a broader and deeper meaning than is usually found in dictionaries. It not only means a combination of individuals to obtain a particular end, but a subordination of the individual desires of those combining to the commonweal—"each for all and all for each." You will say this is more of an ideal than a definition. It is both. In an age of Mammonism it is very necessary that we should have a lofty conception of our duty and work.

Definitions are descriptions of the state or condition of things. Ideals represent our

highest thought and biggest hope. We are immensely indebted to the idealists—or Utopians, as they are disparagingly called—for the impulse they have given to human action. Let us endeavor to catch their spirit and to apply ourselves with the same unselfish devotion to work out into actual life the lofty thoughts they have given to the world.

The two greatest and most remarkable results of the application of this principle are (a) co-operation in its two-fold phase of distribution and production, and (b) trade unions. They are closely allied, though differing in their modes of action. Their objects are similar, viz. the permanent improvement of the whole body of workers. They are distinctly working class movements, though the work of both has been materially assisted by many able and courageous men not closely identified with hand labor. If I might be allowed the use of simile, I would say that the unions are like a well disciplined and highly organized army fixed in a given spot, resisting the continued and harassing attacks of powerful and often unscrupulous foes; and co-operators are like a triumphant army, gradually, but surely, taking possession of the lands hitherto exclusively held by a privileged few. In the interest of these two forces, and of society, a permanent alliance, offensive and defensive, should speedily be formed.

Differences of method are difficult to adjust, and in the absence of a well-defined mode of action, men become satisfied with the progress already attained, and at once enter upon a backward course. This danger threatens every movement, and is now threatening the two great movements of co-operation and unionism. We should, however, avoid the opposite extreme of rushing into any wild scheme which injudicious and impractical men might suggest to us.

Co-operators may be divided into three classes (a) the pioneers, or those who believe in carrying the principle of association to the farthest limits of its application, viz., to agriculture, manufacturing and social life; (b) the contented ones, or those who believe that the principle of association is bounded by their capacity to pay a dividend of 2s. 6d. in the £ on the sales of stores; and (c) the timid ones, or those who are afraid to apply it at all, lest it might shake the members' confidence in the committee or break up the society.

The Labor Association, whose claims we are advocating to-day, belongs to the first of these classes. There are, of course, thousands who are not members of this association, but whose anxiety for the full development of co-operation is as keen as ours. It would be presumptuous on our part to claim a monopoly of co-operative virtues, but we do say that co-operators are not making the most of their opportunities. For years the question of engaging a special executive officer, acting under instructions of the Central Board in the interests of production, was urged upon delegates at congress. Experience has shown the value of such an officer in the work of distribution, and it was reasonable to anticipate similar results in the higher and more difficult work of production. The Central Board, with its excellent system of sectional boards is a great institution, and is not only knitting together in bonds of brotherhood existing societies, but its very existence gives tone, character, solidity and a guarantee of permanence to the movement. The Central Board represents the moral side of co-operation, and while it gives the fullest scope for individual exertions, it secures united action for common purposes. The Labor Association desires to do for production what the Central Board has done and is doing for distribution. The apathy, indecision, and want of method in production may be traced, I think, to the absence of this central recognised authority.

There are three methods of production, each of which has its adherents. Time will not permit an exhaustive examination of them, but this paper would be incomplete if their consideration were omitted. There are, first, those who contend that all production should be carried on through the agency of the Wholesale Society. (In passing, I may mention that Mr. Slatter, of Manchester, a prominent unionist, identifies himself with this school.) Second, those who advocate a federal plan, i.e., distributive societies finding

the capital and conducting business for themselves, as now done by the corn mills; and third, those who favor the individual plan, such as the Hebden Bridge Fustian, Coventry Watch and Paisley Manufacturing Societies.

The second plan may be dismissed by the remark that corn milling is more closely allied to distributive than productive co-operation, and therefore the federal plan appears applicable in this case. The participation of the workers in shares, profit, and management, ought at once to be admitted. The objections to the Wholesale Society carrying on production are, in my opinion, unanswerable. Of course, this form is better than none, for we do know that the works are conducted by co-operative capital; but, if we are to have a system, let us get the best attainable one under the circumstances. Mr. Henry Slatter, in his article in the *Annual* for 1886, says:—

"The abundant capital and great resources of the Wholesale Society distinctly mark it out as the organization which ought to take the lead in co-operative enterprise, and to be the one to head the march forward in the direction of production."

Now, I would not utter one disparaging word about the Wholesale Society. Its policy and management are what the members declare; but the fitness of such an institution to undertake, on a vast scale, production, is much more to be considered than the amount of capital it possesses. I will put some of these objections in a concise form:—

1st. The business of the Wholesale is already very great, and is a great tax upon the skill and capacity in our movement.

2nd. There is plenty of scope for the Wholesale in perfecting its own organizations and in extending its ramifications throughout the country. What is the meaning of the cry, "Loyalty to the Wholesale?" It indicates an imperfection somewhere.

3rd. The committees are not elected for their special knowledge of particular businesses, but for their general intelligence and knowledge of co-operative matters. In production a technical knowledge is essential, or you may rely upon information at second-hand.

4th. The plan is opposed to the spirit of the age—local self-government. It tends to over-centralization—the curse of all democratic movements; and keeps in check some of the best faculties of man.

5th. It renders conflict between Capital and Labor still possible, and holds out no hope to the worker that his position of wage-earner will ever be changed for one more in harmony with the dignity of true industry.

I need not examine the present conditions of the Wholesale workshops. But they cannot be regarded with complacency. The workmen have no share in the profits, no voice in the management, and no opportunity of taking up shares. Co-operation means the equitable apportionment of the results of labor among all those contributing to produce them. Labor is the greatest factor; but, in this case, is least regarded. We must, however, hail with satisfaction the desire of the Wholesale Committee to apply to all its departments this long neglected principle.

The establishment of "individual" workshops is full of interest and very often of pathos. They are the outcome of a belief and a faith in a principle; and their existence and prosperity are the strongest proofs of the capacity of the workers to manage successfully large and important establishments. The percentage of profit is not the only pleasing feature in these workshops. There is scope for the powers of every individual worker, and he is almost sure to exert them, for the benefit will be his along with his brother workers.

It is in this direction that we hope to see a development of productive enterprise. It may be interesting to you to see the results of the "Wholesale" workshops as compared with the "Individual" workshops. I am sorry I have not space to give them all:—

WHOLESALE WORKSHOP'S RESULTS, 1885.

Establishment.	Estimated Capital.	Sales.	Profit, including interest on Capital.	Average % on Capital Employed.
Leicester Boot and Shoe Works	£ 34,275	110,996	3,774	11
Crumplall Biscuit Works	10,850	21,352	2,305	21
Heckmondwike Boot and Shoe Works	6,025	19,560	387	6.40