

Helping the Community

Fourth Prize Article in The Guide's Association Competition

By John Glanbeck, President Queenstown Local U.F.A.

As to the question "How has your Association helped your community?" I think I can truthfully say that our local here of the U.F.A. has done a great deal of good. When we first organized, with sixteen members, five years ago this spring our local was looked upon as a joke. Most of the bigger farmers kept away from it for a while and tried to ridicule it, saying it was nonsensical to expect farmers to stick together for anything. But those few who first organized felt sure that if they could show the farmers that the U.F.A. organization would benefit them financially, if in no other way, they would stick all right. The outcome has proven that we were correct. Today practically every farmer in the Queenstown district belongs to the union. We now have upwards of 150 on the books of whom 58 have paid their dues since January 1 this year and it looks as if every new settler coming into the district loses little time in presenting his name for membership.

Far from the Railroad

Co-operative buying, where the union saves a good many dollars to its members, is no doubt the true reason for our large membership. Another thing that may have some bearing on it is perhaps that our district has been fortunate in crop raising. We have had some crop every year since the district was settled and been less troubled with frost and hail than many other districts. But then, in regard to co-operative buying we are very seriously handicapped in being so far from a railroad. Cluny, our nearest shipping point, is twenty miles away, and as there is no bank and only a couple of stores there, we have to go to Gleichen to transact most of our business and Gleichen is eight miles farther. The distance to town is not our only trouble, but to get there we have to cross the Bow River on a ferry that can't run for several weeks both spring and fall on account of drifting ice, and in the fall when the farmers are trying to haul in their grain to meet their notes the jam at the ferry is a fright. Some days as many as sixty to eighty teams are waiting to cross at the same time.

Co-operation

But in spite of our transportation troubles we have bought flour, twine, wire, fence posts, apples, wood and other articles by the carload. Our members can also purchase, any time of the year and in any quantity, from the Farmers' Co-operative Elevator at Gleichen such articles as flour, feed, dried fruit, fresh fruit, fish, gopher poison, formaldehyde, etc., at very much lower prices than those charged in the local stores. At our last annual meeting we decided to issue yearly cards to our members which must be presented at the elevator when they buy anything. This plan has proved a big success in getting in dues. The Farmers' Co-operative Elevator has also proven a good thing to the farmers in our district as it has reduced prices in the local stores which formerly were sky high, and in shipping hogs to the market it has stirred up local buyers to pay better prices than formerly.

Our Association also makes it its business to take up and work out any local matter in the district and have been successful on several occasions.

Meetings are Successful

Our meetings are held every two weeks in winter and once a month during the busy season and are fairly well attended. The women in the district have their own association, The Ladies' Institute, but many of our meetings are attended by both the women and young people. In the month of December we hold our annual meeting which is the biggest affair of the season and the school house always proves too small, so a movement is now on foot to build a hall. At this annual gathering we try to have an outside speaker. We have a big supper, program and dance. In July every year we hold our picnic on the Bow River where there are fine woods. At this annual gathering the Cluny, Gleichen and other neighboring unions are invited and we have immense crowds. Here we also have a speaker, a good program of sports, dancing, etc., and this is a great day in which to gather

in new members and collect dues from old ones. Our local meetings are conducted according to the by-laws of the U.F.A. and general discussion usually takes place. We have no library, but encourage all our members to subscribe for The Guide. All our local schools here have good libraries.

Our Association has secured a good loading platform in Cluny and we have been trying for years to have the provincial government build a bridge across the Bow at Cluny. But in this we have not been successful, which proves that the farmers need some representation at Edmonton. In short, I believe that our union is doing good work and bringing the farmers together, teaching them to depend upon themselves, making them see that the farmers as a class are confronted by many problems that must be solved by themselves in united action. Co-operative buying on the one hand means dollars saved to every farmer, while co-operative selling will mean better prices for his products.

Independent Political Action Needed

Continued from Page 9

work now, but it should be very evident that this work will need to be multiplied exceedingly before any measure of Free Trade will be secured.

Love and Convert Them

Criticism is always odious, but it does seem to the writer that reformers often fail to grasp the true meaning of that great phrase "Love your enemies." We are too apt to regard everyone outside of our organizations as a foe to be avoided,

or combated, rather than a possible recruit for our forces. We ought to realize that we need every man we can win to accomplish our aims for the common good and we should go out of our way to win over those who are indifferent or opposed.

Money will be needed for such work as this. In the fight against the corn laws in Great Britain money was spent at the rate of \$5,000 per week. This money was principally subscribed by manufacturers who hoped to gain by Free Trade. As Cobden said, their slogan was, "Let us invest part of our property in order to save the rest from confiscation." Somewhat of the same spirit needs to be infused into the movement in this country. Any sensible farmer will insure his improvements against fire and his crop against hail, and it is only because he does not realize the importance of the matter that he does not insure the wealth he creates against the depredations of Special Privilege by persuading others to join with him in a mutual insurance company organized to send independent men to parliament to enact a policy of Free Trade.

The Anti-Corn Law Fight

History and experience teach us that some such body of men is necessary to accomplish reform. Cobden said of the anti-corn law movement: "We have refused to be bought by the Tories, we have kept aloof from the Whigs, and we will not join partnership with either the Radicals or the Chartists, but we hold out our hand ready to give it to all who are willing to advocate the total and immediate repeal of the corn and provision laws."

That Cobden thought parliament a very appropriate place from which to mold public opinion is evidenced by these words: "You speak with a loud voice when you are talking on the floor of the House, and if you have anything to say that hits hard, it is a very long whip and reaches all over the kingdom."

Let us start you in a business that will make you from \$15 to \$50 a day when farm work is slack. Other men have done it for years with a **Water**

One Man
One
Team

Improved Powers Combined Well Rering and Drilling Machine
Same rig horse through any soil at rate of 100 ft. in 10 hours, and drills through rock. One team hauls and operates machine. Engine power if wanted. Easy to operate—no experts needed. Small investment, easy terms. Make machine pay for itself in a few weeks work. There is a big demand for wells to water stock and for irrigation. Write for free illustrated circulars showing different styles. Little Manufacturing Co. Box 990 Clarinda, Iowa

Farms for Sale

Improved and Wild Lands in well settled districts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta

PRICE **\$8** PER ACRE FROM **\$8** UPWARDS

EASY TERMS

Write for Particulars to

Robinson and Black
WINNIPEG, MAN.

We might with good hopes of speedy success model our fight here on the lines of the anti-corn law fight in Great Britain. It is necessary for some one to take the lead and natural that men should turn their eyes to the organized farmers for leadership in this fight. An election is coming, if not now yet it will come, and we should be prepared. As Dr. Bland said at Brandon some years ago: "O strong farmers, if ye but knew your strength." We look to you for action.



REMINGTON UMC

PUMP GUNS and SHOT SHELLS

"NITRO CLUB"—The steel-lined Speed Shell.
"ARROW"—The "last word" in Speed Shells.
"REMINGTON"—The low-priced Smokeless Shell.

Are You Ready for the 15th?

The tang of dawn is in the air. High in the sky, a red-head wings its way southward. The advance guard of a speeding aerial host.

Another. Still another. And now they come—in full flight.

Guns speak to the right of you. To the left of you.

Grey meteors plunge earthward. Stray feathers float down with the breeze.

All day the guns talk. With sunset, silence settles across the fields.

Light-hearted—heavily-laden—you "hit the homeward trail". And the lightest hearts—the heaviest bags—belong to sportsmen who use

Remington UMC
PUMP GUNS and SHOT SHELLS

The 15th's the Day! Remington-UMC is the name! Your Dealer's the place to get YOURS!

REMINGTON ARMS-UNION METALLIC CARTRIDGE CO
(Contractors to the British Imperial and Colonial Governments)
London, Eng. WINDSOR, ONT. New York, U.S.A.

