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THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE

Helping the Community

Fourth Prize Article in The Guide's Association Competition

By John Glambeck, 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 kent 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 anyexpect farmers to stick together for any-thing. 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, areas, former, correct. Today practically every farmer in the Queenstown district belongs to the union. We now have upwards of 150 union. We now have upwards of 100 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 mem-bers, 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 stores there, we have to go to Gleichen to transact most of our business and Gleichen is eight miles further. 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 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 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 bldeversur 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 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 athering 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 in new members and collect dues from old ones. Our local meetings are con-ducted 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 pro-vincial 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.

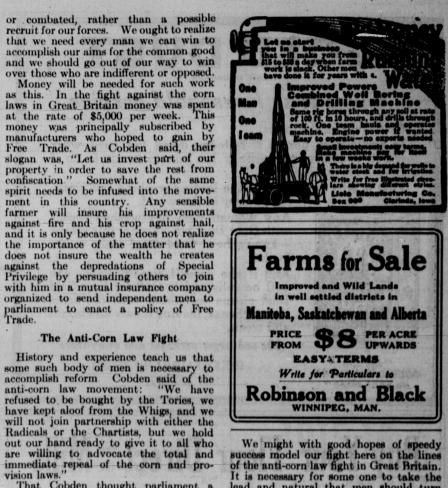
Independent Political Action Needed

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,



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.



The Anti-Corn Law Fight

That Cobden thought parliament a

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