Decomber 21, 1916.

# FARM AND DAIRY

# The Possibilities of the Organized Farmer Movement

### (Continued from page 4.) The Alberta Co.

The Alberta Co. Some three years ago the farme's of Alberta formed the Alberta Farm-ers' Cooperative Elevator Co., Ltd. This and respects is the best or-genized company of any. It has 11,500 farmer shareholders, owns 103 elevators, and has year earned profits of \$282,000. The company also buy-and sells goods for its members, using the managers of its elevators as its and sells goods for its members, using the managers of its elevators as its local agents. Through a live stock commission department recently or-ganized at Calgary and Edmonton it has handled over 100,000 hogs, and is now commercing to sell catile for its members. An extensive business is now commencing to sell cattle citile and in members. An extensive businers is done also through a coopenaity of the hybrid sector was a set of the sector of the this fall handled hold car loads the total business done by this dear the months 700 car loads of local supplies were bought and sold to cal supplies the Larger quantities of binder twine also been shown and the sector of the sector of the sector the sector of t other similar supplies were also hand-led. The shareholders of this company have decided to unite with the shareholders of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., in forming the new com-pany, The United Grain Growers, Ltd. pany, The United Grain Growers, Ld. The manager of the Alberta company is Mr. C. RiceJones, of Calgary, a young man who has done splendid work for the company during the pasi-couple of years, and who is coming to be looked upon as one of the strong mean in the farmers' movement in mean in the farmers' movement in western Canada

# The Saskatchewan Situation.

Why, it may be asked, did not the shareholders of the big Saskatchewan Company decide to unite in the pro-posed new central company? It was not because they were not sympathetic with the general idea, but because they preferred another plan of amal-

During the past couple of years the feeling has been growing in the west that the time had come when the three big farmers' companies of the should endeavor to work in prairies closer harmony with one another. The three companies were buying The three companies were buying their supplies separately, and, there-fore, in smaller quantities than would be the case were they to pool their orders. They were maintaining differ-ent selling organizations for their grain which entailed extra expense. and which sometimes prevented the grain being sold to as good advantage as might be the case were the sales handled by one organization.

#### An Alternative Plan

At the annual meetings of the three companies last year the matter of amalgamation was discussed. Com-mittees were appointed to see what could be done to bring the three companies closer to gether. The commit-tee met and agreed upon a general plan of amalgamation. Difficulties were met, however, when the details came to be worked out.

One of the proposed methods of amalgamation was that the Manitoba Grain Growers should organize a grain company to handle the grain grown in Manitoba in the same way that the Saskatchewan and Alberta companies handled the grain of their members in their provinces. It was suggested that the three provinces. It was suggested that the three provincial companies might then form a large central company which would be controlled by the three provincial companies. On this basis, it was pointed out each province would continue its provincial organization and would have control of its own ele vators and the handling of its own grain while the central company might control the terminal elevators and the larger issues which the provincial impany could not handle to advan

tage. I understand that difficulty arose over how the grain should be sold, whether by the provincial companies or by the central company. Some of the Saskatchewan men held that as the sample was men herd anat as the provincials bought the grain they should sell it, while others held that it could be sold only to the best ad-vantage by the central company.

vantage by the central company. It was further proposed that the Grain Growers' Grain Company, or that some similar company might be formed, to buy and sell supplies for each province having possibly provincial companies in each province. would leave one company to do noth would leave one company to do noth-ing but handle the grain and the other company to do nothing but buy and sell supplies for the farmers. This plan met with general acceptance, but plain met with general acceptance, but as already stated, difficulties arose when the details came to be worked out. As Saskatchewan did not care to lose its identity, the Alberta and Manitoba companies decided that they world unit, immediately is the state of the could unite immediately in the hope would unite immediately in the hope that the difficulties now keeping Sas-katchewan out may ultimately be re-moved, and the way paved for Sas-katchewan joining the united com-Dany

### Another Plan

I am not fully informed as yet as to how the new company intends to handle the immense business which it handle the immense business which if will control. One prominent officer of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. Inti-mated that the new company might be organized on a good deal the same basts as the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. There is only one beard of direc-ter for the Canadian Dealth of directors for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, but there are subsidiary company, but there are subsidiary companies which control their hotel system, their steamship lines, their western lands and other activities. If this system is followed by the farmers it means that the this system is routowed by the farmers it means that the new company. The United Grain Growers, Ltd., will have subsidiary companies which will con-trol its different lines of work. It is believed that the time is not far distant when the new company will oper-ate its own timber limits and saw mills, when it will have its own fac-tories for the manufacture of agricul-tural implements, when it will have its own flour mills for the grinding of its own grain, and carry on many similar activities at a minimum of expense and a maximum of profits to its mem The buying power of its members. bers will be so immense as to insure a sale for such large quantities of the goods handled by the company as to enable the company to operate to the best possible advantage. Should the formers of Saskatchewan and Ontario fermers or comparison through their provincial companies, decide later to unite with the big central company it will form the great-est company of its kind in Canada, and a worthy rival for the great co-operative companies of England and The New Company,

It is proposed that shareholders It is proposed that shareholders of the new company shall be formed into local groups. These groups must re-present not less than \$\$,000 in stock and have not less than \$\$,000 in stock and have not less than \$\$ shareholders will have the right to meet anu ap-point a delegate to attend the samual meaning di the samual company. Only point a delegate to attend the annual meeting of the central company. Only delegates will be able to vote at the annual meeting. The expenses of the delegates will be paid by the central company. This plan has received the approval of the shareholders of both the Alberta and Manitoba companies.

## What About Ontario?

What does all this mean to the or anized farmers of Ontario? Simply als: If in time the organized farm Simply this: ers of Ontario decide they would like to identify themselves with the cen-(Continued on page 17.)



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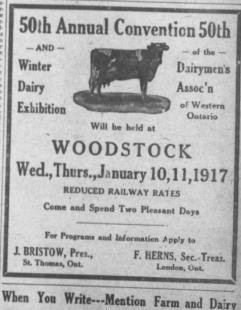


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