

The Possibilities of the Organized Farmer Movement

(Continued from page 4.)

The Alberta Co.

Some three years ago the farmers of Alberta formed the Alberta Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Co., Ltd. This in some respects is the best organized company of any. It has 11,500 farmer shareholders, owns 103 elevators, and last year earned profits of \$282,000. The company also buys and sells goods for its members, using the managers of its elevators as its local agents. Through a live stock commission department recently organized at Calgary and Edmonton it has handled over 100,000 hogs, and is now commencing to sell cattle for its members. An extensive business is done also through a cooperative supply department which in three months this fall handled 1,000 car loads of supplies which was more than the total business done by this department during all of last year. In six months 700 car loads of local supplies were bought and sold to its members. Larger quantities of binder twine and other similar supplies were also handled. The shareholders of this company have decided to unite with the shareholders of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., in forming the new company, The United Grain Growers, Ltd. The manager of the Alberta company is Mr. C. Rice-Jones, of Calgary, a young man who has done splendid work for the company during the past couple of years, and who is coming to be looked upon as one of the strong men 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 proposed new central company? It was not because they were not sympathetic with the general idea, but because they preferred another plan of amalgamation.

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 prairies should endeavor to work in closer harmony with one another. The three companies were buying their supplies separately, and, therefore, in smaller quantities than would be the case were they to pool their orders. They were maintaining different 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. Committees were appointed to see what could be done to bring the three companies closer together. The committee 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 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 elevators and the handling of its own grain while the central company might control the terminal elevators and the larger issues which the provincial company could not handle to advantage.

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 provincials bought the grain they should sell it, while others held that it could be sold only to the best advantage 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. This would leave one company to do nothing 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 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 would unite immediately in the hope that the difficulties now keeping Saskatchewan out may ultimately be removed, and the way paved for Saskatchewan joining the united company.

Another Plan.

I am not fully informed as yet as to how the new company intends to handle the immense business which it will control. One prominent officer of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. intimated that the new company might be organized on a good deal the same basis as the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. There is only one board of directors for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, but there are subsidiary companies which handle the hotel system, their steamship lines, their western lands and other activities. If this system is followed by the farmers it means that the new company, The United Grain Growers, Ltd., will have subsidiary companies which will control its different lines of work. It is believed that the time is not far distant when the new company will operate at its own timber limits and saw mills, when it will have its own factories for the manufacture of agricultural 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 members. The buying power of its members 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 farmers of Saskatchewan and Ontario, through their provincial companies, decide later to unite with the big central company it will form the greatest company of its kind in Canada, and a worthy rival for the great co-operative companies of England and Scotland.

The New Company.

It is proposed that shareholders of the new company shall be formed into local groups. These groups must represent not less than \$5,000 in stock and have not less than 40 shareholders each. Each group of shareholders will have the right to meet and appoint 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 organized farmers of Ontario? Simply this: If in time the organized farmers of Ontario decide they would like to identify themselves with the en-

(Continued on page 17.)

50c BUTTER Makes Imperative the Use of an Improved DE LAVAL CREAM SEPARATOR

With the certainty of the highest prices ever known for butter this winter, no producer of cream can afford to run another month without a modern De Laval Cream Separator.

This is true whether you have no separator, or an inferior make of machine, or even an old model De Laval machine.

The waste of butter-fat is relatively greatest in winter, either with gravity skimming or a poor separator.

At present cream and butter prices, a new De Laval machine will almost surely save its cost within three months, and go on doing so thereafter.

There can surely be no good reason to delay the purchase another week and if it may not be convenient to pay cash it may be purchased on such terms that the machine will easily pay for itself.



See your De Laval agent immediately, or if you don't know him, write the nearest De Laval main office below for any desired particulars.

DE LAVAL DAIRY SUPPLY CO., Ltd.

LARGEST MANUFACTURERS OF DAIRY SUPPLIES IN CANADA.

Sole distributors in Canada of the famous De Laval Cream Separators and Alpha Gas Engines. Manufacturers of Ideal Cream Feed Sticks. Catalogues of any of our lines mailed upon request.

MONTREAL PETERBORO WINNIPEG VANCOUVER
50,000 BRANCHES AND LOCAL AGENCIES THE WORLD OVER

50th Annual Convention 50th

— AND —

Winter
Dairy
Exhibition



— of the —
Dairymen's
Assoc'n
of Western
Ontario

Will be held at

WOODSTOCK

Wed., Thurs., January 10, 11, 1917

REDUCED RAILWAY RATES

Come and Spend Two Pleasant Days

For Programs and Information Apply to

J. BRISTOW, Pres.,
St. Thomas, Ont.

F. HERNES, Sec.-Treas.
London, Ont.

When You Write---Mention Farm and Dairy