

Reaping the Fruits of Endeavor

Convention of United Farmers of Alberta an exhibition of the might of numbers; Epoch making resolutions passed; Concessions Gained; Reforms Achieved. Most Successful Agricultural gathering in the History of the Province

Nothing which has ever occurred in the agricultural life of Alberta has equalled the success of the convention of the United Farmers which was held at Edmonton on January 19-21.

There was in attendance from all parts of the province some three hundred delegates and the business conducted will have a far-reaching effect in moulding the future destiny of Alberta farm life. A notable incident of the convention was that it was attended by the premier of the province and by the Minister of Agriculture, both of whom delivered addresses indicating a strong desire to work in harmony with the wishes of the association.

Chief among the actual results accruing from the annual gathering was the acceptance of a draft scheme presented by the government for a provincial pork packing plant. The directors were appointed to meet the government and work out all details. Strong resolutions were adopted urging the provincial and federal governments to aid in the establishment of a chilled meat trade; also with regard to straight government ownership of elevators both terminal and internal. In this latter regard the provincial government was called upon to take over and operate the internal elevators.

Endorsed Brandon Resolutions

The United Farmers endorsed unanimously the resolutions adopted at the Brandon convention with regard to Direct Legislation; and the organization of a Canadian Council of Agriculture. The continuation of the Grain Growers' Grain as the official organ of the United Farmers was emphasized by a resolution which was unanimously carried. Signal concessions were received from the provincial legislature when the government agreed that farmers shall be fairly represented upon the senate and governing board of the university. The Alberta government has also agreed to finance a commission to investigate a western train route via the Tehautec Railway. This investigation will occur during the present year.

Considering the vast magnitude of the business conducted, last week was one of history making for the farmers of Alberta. The problems dealt with which effected the interests of the producer were handled in a manner that showed how thoroughly conversant the convention was with every feature of them; redress was demanded for wrongs and remedies suggested for these wrongs. The legislation proposed is calculated to vastly improve the conditions of the farming community of Alberta. Co-operation was the dominant note of the convention. The delegates asked for a co-operative pork packing plant; for co-operation creameries; for co-operative associations for the marketing of grain and farm products; they stood for co-operation in the establishment of the western grain trade and for co-operation in organization. Nor were the problems of production and marketing the only ones touched upon; a resolution was adopted calling for the consolidation of rural schools. The provincial government will be also asked by the association to procure money at a low rate of interest on the credit of the province and to loan it out to farmers at, say, 5 per cent.

Dead Meat Export Trade

The resolution calling upon the governments to take action toward the development of a dead meat export trade was: "Whereas it is of very great importance to the whole west that prompt governmental action be taken toward the establishing of a chilled meat industry on a sound and permanent basis, and with the interests of the producers adequately protected, we, the members of the United Farmers of Alberta, in convention assembled, do hereby urge that the federal government take the matter up with the object of placing the business upon a practical footing without unreasonable delay. Furthermore, that the provincial governments be urged to do all in their power to impress upon the federal government the necessity for prompt governmental

action with regard to the taking up of the proposal and rendering the necessary assistance for the establishment of a dead meat trade from the west."

When the resolution in regard to government ownership of internal elevators came up the convention gave a cordial reception to the proposition advanced by T. H. Worsnop of Vancouver, which suggested a government guarantee of an independent terminal elevator at the Pacific coast. The tone of the meeting, however, was strongly for government ownership and their stand was strengthened by the attitude of the Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments in regard to the matter. The resolution for government ownership was unanimous.

Other resolutions passed were those asking the Board of Directors to confer with the government in regard to the establishment of a labor bureau by the association for the securing of labor in the harvest season; a resolution asking that the government retain control of creameries; a resolution asking the government to arrange a proper adjustment of the damages by prairie fires; a resolution asking that one or more organizers be appointed for association work to act under direction of the directors; a resolution asking the government to take up the matter of duty charged on

Both Premier Rutherford and Hon. Mr. Marshall repeated the intention of the government to fulfill to the letter

Premier Rutherford to United Farmers

Leader of Alberta Legislature attended Convention at Edmonton, and discussed issues face to face with Delegates. Expressions on Pork Packing, Elevator, and University Problems

The wonderful growth of the province of Alberta in the past four or five years was shown in the introductory remarks of Premier Rutherford. He said that 234 new school districts had been formed since the inauguration of the province. The school enrolment showed an increase of from 5,000 to 6,000 every year, and in four years' time the school enrolment had advanced by 20,000 scholars. In 1906 there were 23,000 scholars on the school roll, and in 1909 the number was increased to 40,000. Continuing, the premier said that the province of Alberta owned more public utilities than any other province in the Dominion. In the list were the telephones, creameries and government hail insurance. Regarding the hail insurance, he said that the past year had again shown a deficit

the question of agricultural education in the province.

"The arguments in favor of having the university and college united are economy and expediency. The arguments for separation are for political expediency. I have letters to show that the best thought of the province is favorable to the union. Senator Talbot, of Lacombe, has expressed himself as being in harmony with the action taken."

The Pork Packing Plant

Regarding the pork packing plant, the premier said that owing to the illness of Hon. Mr. Finlay, ex-minister of agriculture, the matter had been delayed. The new minister of agriculture now had the matter in his hands and it was hoped he would take it up from its inception point. As far as the government was concerned, full faith would be kept with the farmers in all pledges which had been made.

Pressed to make some remarks on the government control of internal elevators, Premier Rutherford reviewed the situation in the sister provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and requested that the United Farmers of Alberta, in convention assembled, should appoint a committee to draft and place before the government a good practical scheme for the government control of the internal grain trade of the province. If a satisfactory scheme could be evolved the government was prepared to carry it out. He placed great stress on the value of trade intercourse with the province of British Columbia and stated this was another problem to be solved by the farmers. He suggested that this matter of external trade could also be submitted to the committee for investigation.

A Question

On the conclusion of the address by the premier, W. J. Tregillus was given permission by the president to ask the premier whether the appropriation for the university and agricultural college site was made through the Public Works Department in the usual way.

In reply, the premier said that when the budget speech was made the amount was mentioned especially as being for the purchase of the site for the university and the agricultural college. He said that everything had been done in the usual way.

Address By J. R. Boyle, M.P.P.

J. R. Boyle, M.P.P. for Sturgeon, in speaking later said that the question of the amalgamation of the university and the agricultural college had never been discussed in the old legislature. He said that none of the members of the House thought it would be discussed until formally brought up. He did not think the legislature should interfere with the choice of sites but as to the agricultural college being an adjunct of the university and controlled by the university, that was another matter. It had never come before the old legislature and he was surprised to hear the premier announce that it was all settled. Mr. Boyle personally was in favor of the agricultural classes of the province controlling their own educational facilities, and not the senate of the university. The Premier was absent when Mr. Boyle spoke.

U. F. A. OFFICIALS

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1910 AT ALBERTA CONVENTION

PRESIDENT JAMES BOWER, Red Deer
VICE-PRESIDENT W. J. TREGILLUS, Calgary
DIRECTORS AT LARGE JAMES SPEAKMAN, Penhold
..... D. W. WARNER, Clover Bar
..... L. H. JELLIFF, Spring Coulee

DIRECTORS FOR CONSTITUENCIES

VICTORIA T. H. BAALAM, Vegreville
EDMONTON GEORGE LONG, Nampa
STRATHCONA F. H. LANGSTON, Rosenrod
RED DEER E. CARSWELL, Penhold
MACLEOD J. QUINCY, Barons
MEDICINE HAT E. GRIESBACH, Gleichen
CALGARY A. VON. MIELEKI, Calgary

all classes of wire with the object of securing a reduction of the duty that wire may be put to greater use for fences; a resolution demanding legislation in the matter of exorbitant rates of interest charged on loans by banking institutions; and a resolution asking the government for a generous grant for wolf bounty purposes.

The Premier Speaks

The convention listened with the closest attention to the addresses of Premier Rutherford and the Hon. Duncan Marshall, which were delivered at the opening session. The Premier asked the convention to discuss fully the question of government ownership of terminal elevators, and to formulate some business-like proposition which they could present to the government and the legislature. He stated that although a great many more farmers had availed themselves of the hail insurance offered by the government, there was still a considerable deficit. The Hon. Duncan Marshall announced his intention of investigating what he termed the outrageous charges by the railway company for the transportation of coal from the coal mining centres to the isolated towns and villages in the province and of laying the case before the railway commission with a demand for redress in the form of cheaper rates.

but he was opposed to discontinuing the hail insurance business. A report of the year's business would appear in the directors' report and he hoped the convention would fully discuss the question.

"A matter which has agitated the farmers of the province," said the premier, "is, whether the agricultural college should be a part of the university or not. The blame for the course that has been taken has been placed on President Tory, the senate of the university and on myself. I would like to have the responsibility rest on the proper shoulders as I am sure some of the criticism would not have arisen if the circumstances had been clearly understood. In 1907 the legislature purchased a site for the university, including an agricultural college. The responsibility of this rests on the old legislature, and it has to take the blame or credit. The action was taken before Dr. Tory arrived to be president of the university. I should be sorry to see all the agricultural education in the province given within the walls of the university or college. It should be continued as it has been throughout the province, and established in connection with the high schools. I am sure the government and the senate of the university would be pleased to have a committee of this association meet with them to discuss