

## U.F.A. AND THE RAILWAY COMMISSION

The United Farmers of Alberta had several complaints before the Railway Commission at the sittings held in Edmonton, and the majority of the complaints were well received and successful.

Two or three questions which had in the meantime been taken up with the railway companies were reported to be in abeyance.

One of these, and probably the most important was referring to the freight rates on feed grain between local points in Alberta. Some few days before the sittings of the Commission, a delegate from the U.F.A. had an interview with the C.P.R. officials in Calgary and the result was that an agreement was arrived at whereby the complaint was dropped for the time being and the Transportation Committee of the Association was requested to take the matter up with the Railway Company and secure the adjustment promised.

A second complaint amicably settled was in reference to the long delay in getting stock from points south of Red Deer, on the C. & E. to Edmonton, partly on account of the divisional point at Red Deer and partly through the delay caused by the C.N.R. taking delivery of the cars at Strathcona and delivering them to the factories in Edmonton. The transportation committee met the C.P.R. officials, and cases were cited where stock shipped in box cars were on the road for over forty hours. The Superintendent saw the injustice of this and asked that a remedy be suggested by the committee. The committee suggested that the through freight train from Calgary to Strathcona, which leaves Calgary late in the evening, should pick up all stock south of Red Deer, thereby saving the long delay in the yards there, and that arrangements be made whereby the stock would be taken over to Edmonton immediately on arrival of the freight train into Strathcona. The C.P.R. officials promised this, and it is likely that the freight train leaving Calgary on Tuesday evenings will be the stock train. Since making this agreement the C.P.R. officials have sent word that they would like to have an interview with the Secretary of the Committee and come to some satisfactory arrangement on this matter.

Regarding the request made for planking for doors in case box cars must be used for the shipment of live stock, the Railway Commission issued an order entitling the shipper to a credit of \$1.25 for each door fitted by himself; this can be applied on his bill or can be collected at once from the Station Agent at the point from which these planks were supplied.

The only request denied was the one asking that moveable partitions be supplied in stock cars in order to keep separate the animals of two or more owners when they combine to make a carload shipment. The Commission denied this order.

Regarding the complaint made re the fencing of the right of way before construction work is begun, the complainants succeeded beyond their expectations and the Chairman administered quite a severe rebuke to the officials, especially of the G.T.P. for not having fenced the

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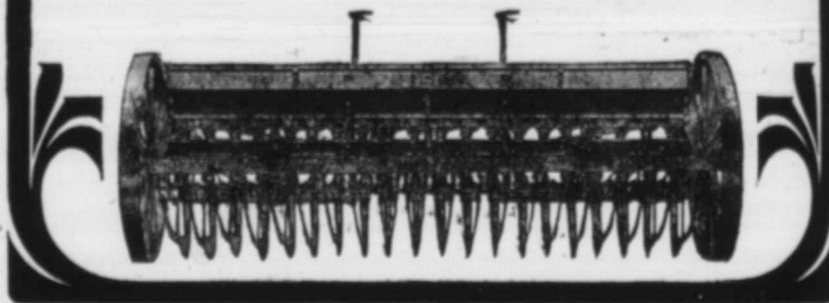
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right of way. The officials of the company stated they saw no reason why it should not be done. The situation as it now stands is that where lands are fenced before the work of construction begins the owner of said land can refuse to admit construction crews on the property until the right of way is fenced.

There is no doubt that the farmers and stockmen have materially advanced their interests as a result of these appearances before the Commission.

The Clover Bar Local Unions as a whole, and Mr. R. Ottewill in particular, are deserving of credit for having brought this last matter forward and for having presented the case in such a strong manner to the Commission, because with all the railway construction that is likely to be undertaken in the near future there would be many hardships arise if the present practice of the railway companies had been allowed to continue.

### EDMONTON.

The first meeting of the Edmonton Union was held in the city hall on February 27th, with Mr. G. Long in the chair. President Bower and Vice-President Sheppard were also present.

The election of officers resulted in the appointment of Mr. Grierson as Pres.; W. Golley, Vice-Pres.; and A. L. Clare, Sec.-Treas.

After the election of officers the Secretary announced that 35 new members had joined the union and it was decided to hold meetings the last Saturday in each month at two o'clock.

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