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THE CANADIAN CO-OPERATOR

In spite of the fact that on at least two occasions I have drawn the attention of our unions to the little monthly magazine known as the Canadian Co-operator, published in the interests of the Canadian Co-operative movement by the Honorary General Secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada, it is surprising how little this valuable little booklet seems to be known by both officers and members whom I have so far spoken to on the matter. I wonder how many of our members know that such an organization as the Co-operative Union of Canada exists and what its purposes are.

The Co-operative Union of Canada was organized on March 6, 1909, and has for its objects the following:

(1) The recognition, by affiliation with the Union, of all bona fide co-operative associations in the Dominion of Canada, in order that the public may be able to distinguish the same from institutions which are now or may hereafter be organized with a co-operative title for purposes of personal or private advantage or profit.

(2) The propagation in the Dominion of co-operative principles, to the end, that the practice of truthfulness, justice and economy may be secured by the abolition of false dealings, either (a) Direct by representing any article produced or sold to be other than what it is known to the producer or vendor to be; or (b) Indirect by concealing from the purchaser any fact known to the vendor, material to be known by the purchaser to enable him to judge of the value of the article purchased.

(3) Conciliating the conflicting interests of the capitalist, the worker, and the purchaser thru the equitable division among them of the fund commonly known as profit.

(4) Preventing the waste of labor now caused by unregulated competition.

(5) Cultivate a spirit of mutual service by self-abnegation expressed in the co-operative motto "Each for all and all for each," and to promote by the same means, moral, educative and refining enterprises designed for the improvement of the people generally.

The Union commenced with three societies in affiliation and at the close of last year had 24, and has during its existence supplied thousands of people, including many of our unions, with co-operative information on many matters, and is always at the service of those seeking knowledge in regard to true co-operative methods and concerns which are co-operative in name only.

Returning to the Canadian Co-operator, there is no reason why each one of our unions should not be a subscriber to this magazine, on the contrary there are very many reasons why it should be in the possession not only of each of our unions, but of each individual member. Complaints are frequently received at the Central Office of lack of material to maintain the interest at various meetings of the union. The Canadian Co-operator would furnish sufficient material for very many meetings every year, either as readings or debates, or both. If each of our unions put in a subscription for this magazine and appointed a committee of these officers to pick out matter suitable to lay before the union for discussion, many pleasant evenings could be spent. For instance, in the January number among other things is a report of a conference of the Ontario Co-operative Societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union. Many of these stores are doing business today with the Co-operative Wholesale Society of Great Britain, and the account of their experience in trading would be interesting to the majority of our unions and without doubt would be of considerable value to many. In these days of co-operative trading on a wholesale scale, as it is being done by our unions today, they could do with all the information and experience which comes their way.

In the February number of the magazine will be found some very interesting figures and statistics in regard to the work of the various societies affiliated

with the Canadian Union, also the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

In the March number there are a number of interesting articles on a number of matters, many of which would be of sufficient interest to many of our unions to justify discussion for half an hour or more.

In the April number there is a particularly interesting article entitled, "An Abandoned Boycott." It deals with the actual experience of a co-operative society in Ontario, boycotted by a big wholesale house from whom they were trying to purchase their goods. Some of our unions have been up against the same sort of thing and the story of how this Ontario society thru its affiliation with the Co-operative Union managed to win out in their fight makes very interesting reading.

I do not think I need to say any more in regard to the interesting and useful work which this organization is carrying on. I believe that if the time ever comes when we have a successful and flourishing system of co-operative organizations in this province, it will be when we have availed ourselves of the facilities which can only be secured thru some such organization as this and not before. I hope our unions will take this matter up in real earnest and that each union will put in at least one subscription for the Canadian Co-operator and that many more of our members, particularly those who are officers in unions engaged extensively in co-operative trading will themselves subscribe for the magazine and make use of the information given therein. It may further be added that the Co-operative Union of Canada issues small pamphlets dealing with specific subjects which can be secured at very little cost. Full particulars in regard to these things can be secured from the Honorary General Secretary, Co-operative Union of Canada, Brantford, Ont. The price of the Canadian Co-operator is 50 cents per annum.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

We have a request for fuller explanation of the new law regarding the property rights of married women in Alberta, to which we referred in The Guide of April 28. When a married woman has lived at least two months in a home, she has the right, if she wishes, to write a notice to the registrar in the Land Titles Office in Edmonton, forbidding her husband to register any transfer, mortgage, encumbrance, lease or other instrument against the home and farm owned by him on which she is living. While this notice from the wife is in the Land Titles Office, the husband cannot sell the property, because the registrar would refuse to register the deed of sale or transfer; and he cannot mortgage the property because the registrar would not register the mortgage. In this way no home can be sold or mortgaged without the consent of the wife. This is not the form in which we asked for the thing. The objection against it has been raised that a husband could sell or mortgage the property without the knowledge of the wife, and before she could get the notice to the registrar. The only remedy for this would be for the wife not to wait for any action on the part of the husband, but to send the notice in at once, if she thought she needed to protect herself.

A GOOD NIGHT AT KEHO

The Keho Union, No. 110, recently re-organized, held a very successful social on Friday evening, April 30. Altho the weather was threatening and one or two of the speakers failed to turn up, the schoolhouse was full. There was a splendid program, which was much appreciated, the part taken by the children being particularly well done. Despite the threatening weather our second vice-president, S. S. Dunham, motored out from Lethbridge and gave a very fine address on some of the many difficult problems which confront the U. F. A. This speech brought forth good fruit and resulted in an increase of several members, also cheering some

of the older members in their work, and the union feel that Mr. Dunham's visit did them a considerable amount of good.

MERCHANTS ON CO-OPERATION

The second monthly meeting of the Dunmore Local Union, No. 274, was held in Longfellow schoolhouse on Saturday, May 1, the President, Mr. Armstrong calling the meeting to order at 2 30 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read. The secretary then read letters received from the general secretary and vice-president Trego, with regard to co-operative buying and selling, but it was moved that these letters be laid on the table till the next meeting. Applications for membership were then received and ten new members were admitted to the union. Messrs. Rae and White, of the firm of Jas. Rae and Son, being present, the president called on them to address the meeting. Mr. White who has had considerable experience with the U. F. A. gave the meeting the benefit of his knowledge. In the course of his address he stated that he had found that the members of a union by pooling their orders could command better prices than could the ordinary individual farmer, and that a combination of unions, by amalgamating, can still further reduce the prices when buying and raise them when selling. As the Dunmore union is yet in its infancy he offered that his firm would act as their agents and gave them a few instances of what could be done in the purchasing of binder twine, plow shares, coal oil, wire fencing, etc. He showed that a member of this union, by only buying one plow share, could save considerably more than his entrance fee.

Mr. Rae then addressed the meeting and said that it was only lately that the farmers were realizing the benefits of co-operation, and when they all came to understand what co-operation, both in buying and selling, would really do for them, it would be hard to find a non-union farmer in the province. He bore out Mr. White's offer in regard to the agency and showed where it would be to their mutual advantage. A hearty vote of thanks was given Messrs. Rae and White for their very interesting and instructive addresses. The secretary was instructed to write to the general secretary for a list of unions in the immediate vicinity of Medicine Hat, with the secretaries' names and addresses. D. W. Hamilton raised the question of increasing the membership, and thought a lot of farmers were waiting till after things got going well, but did not want to trouble till then. He thought a date should be set up to when applicants for membership would be admitted for one dollar, after which it would be raised. A general discussion followed as to the best means of raising the membership. It was moved, seconded and carried that each member present try his best to bring at least one new member to the next meeting. The secretary was instructed to write to the Central Office and ask that a speaker be sent for the next meeting. Mr. Middleton offered to meet whoever came and put him up at his house, as he was nearest to Dunmore, and Mr. Earl offered to bring him out to the meeting in his car. It was decided that the next meeting would be held in the Feldman Lake schoolhouse, on Saturday, June 5, at 2 p.m. The resolution of Alix Union, No. 569, re machinery notes, was unanimously adopted by this union.

LOMOND DOINGS

On Saturday, May 1, the Lomond Union, No. 562, held a very interesting meeting. Three new members were admitted to the union, bringing the total membership up to seventy-three. The members discussed the feasibility of putting in a co-operative weigh scales in Lomond to be the property of the U. F. A. The next question was the annual picnic, which was discussed at considerable length. Mr. Duffy kindly offered the use of his pre-emption, which is situated within half a mile of the town, for the picnic. This offer was accepted

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:	
Victoria—P. S. Austin	Ranfurly
Edmonton—George Long	Namoo
Strathcona—H. G. Vickery	Strome
Macleod—G. W. Buchanan	Cowley
Calgary—J. A. Bishop	Beddington
Red Deer—D. Buckingham	Stettler
Medicine Hat—E. E. Sparks	Jenner

and it was agreed to hold the picnic on July 9, commencing at 10 a.m. A general committee was appointed to look after the program, etc. The secretary was also authorized to try and secure President Jas. Speakman, of the U. F. A., and E. E. Sparks, District Director, to address the audience on some subject pertaining to the U. F. A. The subject for discussion at the next meeting will be the different kinds of business carried on by the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company, which should be very interesting.

CREDIT FOR CO-OPERATIVE BUYING

Keoma Union, No. 328, met on Saturday evening, May 1. There were nineteen members present, and the greater part of the evening was spent in discussing the question of getting a line of credit with the bank. At first some of the members were afraid to put their names to the agreement with the bank, but after considerable discussion a resolution was passed that they enter into an agreement with the bank for a line of credit amounting to \$2,500, which would be enough to cover a car of binder twine. Fifteen of the members present signed, but the union is holding the agreement until all the members get a chance to sign it. The gopher tails, which were brought in as a result of the gopher-killing contest, were also counted and the total count up to the first day of May was 14,718,—for which, after the entrance fees are deducted, the union will have to pay out \$109 67 in cash, which the union considers is well spent money. Another ball is to be held on the 21st of May to raise money for this purpose. The secretary reports that the crops never looked better in the district at this time of year than they do at present and are fully one month ahead of last year. Nearly all the farmers were able to get seed, altho it was no thanks to either the government or the C. P. R.

OFFICIAL CIRCULARS

From Brunetta Union, No. 247, re official circular, we have received the following resolution:

"That we favor the suggestion of our general secretary to reduce the number of circulars and make use of the Alberta section of The Guide, but that we suggest that the head office keep us informed by personal letter of any special matter that he deems would interest us or that we ought to take action upon."

BIG BEND PROGRESSIVE

Big Bend Union, No. 656, held a very well attended box social on Friday evening, April 23, which realized about \$35 for purposes of the union. Isaac Bateman presided; there was some nice music from Mr. Brandt and others, and some good recitations and addresses given by H. Saurley and the president, James Speakman. There seems to be a hopeful, progressive spirit in the union, and we expect to see a growth in U.F.A. work thruout the district.

BACK TO THE LAND

In the "New York Sun" some verses recently appeared entitled, "Stick to the Farm." They have been forwarded to this office by one of our members with a few amendments and are perhaps worth reproducing. They are as follows: "Back to the land," says the President, To the wide-eyed farmer boy; Then he hies him back to his White House home, With its air of rustic joy.

"Back to the land," says the railroad king, To the lad who looks afar; Then hies him back on the double-quick, To his rustic, private car.

"Back to the land," says the clergyman, To the youth on the worm-fence perch; Then lays his ear to the ground to hear A call to a city church.

"Back to the land," says the doctor wise To those who would break the rut; Then hies him where the appendix grows, In bountiful crops to cut.