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MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE

We have the following report from W. H. Anderson, of Dewberry. The Central Office very much appreciates the self-sacrifice of those members of Union No. 98 who took the time and trouble at this busy season of the year to go over and help to get the Wellsdale people re-organized:

"In fulfillment of a promise granted to two Wellsdale men who drove eight or ten miles to the regular meeting of Dewberry Union No. 98 on August 7, to ask for help in re-organizing the Wellsdale Union, five members of the Dewberry Local journeyed to the Wellsdale schoolhouse on August 21. Unfortunately, three of the five were unable to remain for the meeting, which did not commence till late in the evening. A spell of warm weather had brought harvesting on with a rush, thus necessitating haste with the finishing operations of the haying season. However, to the pleasure of those farmers who attended the meeting the remaining two were able to stay and give such advice, information and encouragement as several years of U. F. A. membership enabled them to impart. The Wellsdale Union was organized a number of years ago in a really good district, the people of which are mainly engaged in dairying and stock raising, but for some reason not very apparent, the union never seemed to have got properly onto its feet. We hope that as a result of our visit this union will shortly be in good working order.

"Some of those attending the meet-

ing were from the adjoining district of Rusylvia, as the people of both these places think of coalescing in one strong body. The attendance of P. S. Austin, of Ranfurly, district director and organizer, had been requested, but brought a prompt response from him that he regretted the time was too short to make satisfactory arrangements to be with them on this occasion, but would be much pleased to visit them later. Accordingly this meeting chose the temporary chairman as secretary, and decided to arrange a date with Mr. Austin when they thought they could get a large crowd and have more choice in electing permanent officers. It is hoped to secure at least fifty members, so that we can expect soon to have the satisfaction of seeing Wellsdale-Rusylvia, which we have been watching for some time, put on the U.F.A. map as a live and powerful unit of our progressive organization."

GOVERNMENT SEED

J. D. Smith, superintendent of the Seed and Weed Branch of Alberta Department of Agriculture, writes calling attention to the report of the Colinton Union, No. 540, which appeared in The Guide on August 4. The report referred to the weed question and the introduction into the neighborhood of wild oats, buckwheat, mustard, etc., thru seed shipped in for the assistance of settlers who had poor crops last year.

Mr. Smith points out that the resolution does not distinguish between the Dominion and Provincial governments, referring to both under the term "our government." As a matter of fact, the seed grain was distributed by the Dominion government, whereas the provincial government is responsible for the enforcement of the Noxious Weeds Act. It is not, therefore, correct to say that the government "which is continually reminding the farmers to keep their land free from weeds" is responsible for the "injustice of contaminating a new and virgin district with noxious weeds and undoing the work done by the good farmers of the district."

BENEFITS OF ORGANIZATION

The following report has been received from Cloyd Foster, Secretary of Lunford Union No. 409, which was recently organized:

"I take pleasure in forwarding the enclosed names of paid-up members in our local. I think it possible to make our organization a power for good. We have already effected a saving by buying our binder twine together in one large order. At present I am negotiating for a lower threshing rate for our Union, with good prospects for success. We also look forward to much pleasure in a social way this winter and trust the organization will prove a success. As I am anxious to promote the work you might send me a few organization reports, annual reports and constitutions, and I shall endeavor to get a few more unions organized."

THE NEW ZEALAND SYSTEM OF FARM LOANS

I have before me the State Advances Act of New Zealand, dated December 4, 1913, and I think it may be interesting, if I analyze its main provisions, so far as they apply to farm loans. The Act is a Dominion measure, not provincial. I think a provincial law would be more likely to be adapted to our provincial conditions, and to be administered in harmony with them.

The Act is administered by a superintendent, appointed by a "Commissioner," who is appointed under the Public Service Act, 1912. The superintendent is "assisted" by the State Advances Board, whose resolutions are binding on the superintendent. This board consists of the superintendent, the under secretary of crown lands, the

Alberta

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by P. P. Woodbridge, Secretary, Calgary, Alberta, to whom all communications for this page should sent.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

Victoria—P. S. Austin	Ranfurly
Edmonton—George Long	Namoo
Stratheona—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

valuer-general, and two other members appointed by the government. It is thus a government board. Further, the governor by order-in-council, may make regulations covering the whole business of the Advances Office, including even "specifying the rules of good husbandry," regulating, I suppose, the farming on lands mortgaged to the government for a loan.

The business of this board, so far as it relates to farmers, is to make advances to settlers on first mortgage. The various lands, on which advances can be made, are specified in the Act, but I will confine myself to "freehold land," which may correspond somewhat with our ordinary patented or purchased land.

The valuation of all land is to be made by the Valuer-General of the government. "First class security" land is entitled to a loan which shall run for 36½ years. "Second class security" secures a loan for 30 years, and "third class security" for 20 years.

The interest charged is to be one-half per cent. above the interest paid by the government. In the Act of 1913, basing on paying 4½ per cent. interest on the government debentures, the government is to charge 5 per cent. interest on farm loans, plus the amortization charge for the repayment of the loan. That works out in the following manner: On "first class security" loans, repayable in 36½ years, the borrower pays 6 per cent. per annum, in two half-yearly instalments of 3 per cent. each; 5 per cent. per annum of this is interest and 1 per cent. per annum capital. On "second class security" loans, repayable in 30 years, the borrower pays nearly 6½ per cent. per annum, of which 5 per cent. is interest. On "third class security" loans repayable in 20 years, the annual payment is nearly 8 per cent., of which 5 per cent. is interest.

The reader will see that the money for loans to settlers is raised by a straight government loan, on the security of the taxes of the Dominion of New Zealand, and that the interest charged to farmers is one-half per cent. more than the interest paid by the government. I have no information concerning any amendment to this Act, since the end of 1913. If the act is not amended, the working of it has probably stopped under the war conditions, for the act does not allow the government to borrow at more than 5 per cent. interest, and I should suppose it will not be possible for New Zealand to borrow at 5 per cent. at present.

Besides the interest, the borrower has to pay all the fees for valuation, mortgaging and registration. The buildings have to be insured and kept in repair.

The superintendent has power to call for immediate payment of the whole debt and to foreclose at once without notice, if any instalment is a fortnight overdue. There are many other provisions in the Act; many other classes of loans; I have simply tried to give the main provisions that bear on our subject of long time farm loans.

The Dominion of New Zealand, with its ten provinces, has borrowed for advances to settlers about 42 million dollars, has outstanding on mortgages about 37½ million dollars; has a reserve fund of \$250,000, and carried forward a profit at end of March, 1914, of nearly one and a half million dollars. Most of the loans are under \$2,250.00, the average amount of all loans being about \$2,000.00.

This is a government scheme, entirely under government control, open to all the dangers of political influence and abuse. Herbert Spencer says, "the most important thing about a law is the kind of national character which it tends to form." This law tends to make the people entirely dependent on the government, not self-reliant.

than it costs the government to borrow the money. Suppose under present war conditions money costs the government 6 per cent., the farmer would pay 6½ per cent. interest, and his amortization instalments would be:

- On first class security, 36½ years, 7½ per cent. annually.
- On second class security, 30 years, 8 per cent. annually.
- On third class security, 20 years, 9½ per cent. annually.

This plan does not give the farmer any cheaper money than any well organized co-operative association would do; nor longer time, nor easier terms of repayment.

As a Dominion arrangement it is workable in so small a country as New Zealand, in Canada, I think, it would be unworkable. It would have to be a provincial measure. New Zealand is not half the size of Alberta, measuring nearly 105,000 square miles against Alberta's 250,000.

JAMES SPEAKMAN.

A VISIT TO VULCAN AND LETHBRIDGE

On August 17 I had a meeting at Vulcan, where we started the U.F.A. up again, and I hope in such a splendid district, and with so successful a co-operative society, the farmers will build up a very powerful union. From Vulcan at the request of Vice-President Dunham, I went on to Lethbridge, attended an interesting meeting at Coaldale, and saw what I could see in the short time, of the farms near Lethbridge. The grain crops were splendid; the men were busy on the alfalfa fields, and the great growth of alfalfa on the irrigated lands was a revelation to me. Mr. Fairfield showed me over the experimental farm, and my greatest surprise there was the apple orchard, where a number of apple trees showed a very considerable load of really good apples.

I also went thru the Coaldale Nurseries with my old friend Arch. Mitchell who is certainly doing a fine work for the province in raising and acclimatizing many kinds of bushes and trees. I knew, of course, from my own experience, and that of many others, that we could raise currants and raspberries, but I have always been skeptical about raising other fruits in Alberta. When I looked over Mr. Mitchell's thousands of trees and bushes, and saw the orchard on the experimental farm, I felt that in some parts of this province at any rate, success with currants, gooseberries, raspberries, black currants, strawberries, apples, cherries and plums was pretty certain, and I expect to see during the next years a considerable increase in little farm orchards. If they don't bring in money, they will make the farms pleasanter as homes.

I found in Lethbridge an interesting experiment going on of co-operation between city men and farmers in the live stock business. About 70 Lethbridge citizens guarantee \$150 each to assist reliable farmers in the vicinity of Lethbridge in buying live stock, particularly dairy cows. On the security of this guarantee a bank advances the money, to the extent of \$300 to \$400 to each farmer. The farmer practically buys the cattle himself for cash, gives the bank a lien note on them and their increase, and pays off the loan in say six months to two years. There is a reserve of 5 per cent. taken, as a kind of insurance on the cattle. In this way the farmer gets the cattle at the lowest cash price, and has a reasonable time to repay the loan with interest to the bank. This is a help to farmers who could not secure the bank credit for themselves. So far \$5,198.36 has been given out in this way. The business men in the city look upon it as a reasonable way of improving their town business by increasing the prosperity of their country customers. Perhaps some other towns and cities will go and do likewise.

JAMES SPEAKMAN.

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