President Gilroy Reviews Pool Work

The United Farmers Co-Operative Company of Ontario Have a Bright Future and a Gratifying Past

MOVEMENT SUCCESSFUL

The report made by the directors and general manager of The United Farmers' Co-operative Company, Limited, at their annual meeting in December, covering the past year's business, has not only earned the confidence of Ontario farmers but it has also demonstrated the fact that it ranks as one of Ontario's big and prosperous business institutions with working capital stock of $335,700.00. The turnover for the year exceeds $20,000,000.00. After paying dividends to about 20,000 shareholders and distributing to patrons of seven creameries and egg pool shippers over $200,000.00, the profits amounted to over 17 per cent. on the capital investment.

When presenting the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement H. B. Clemes, General Manager, remarked:

"This statement covering the operations of the past year reveals the fact that your business undertaking is in a real healthy condition and well entrenched with reserves. Steadily and surely progress is shown year by year in volume, and also in returns to those who use the ompany's services in placing on the markets to the best possible advantage the products of their farms.

"Perhaps some of you, though shareholders, are not now in position to help swell the annual business of your company. In spite of this, no doubt, you feel a touch of pride in the fact that your money is being used to develop a successful farmer concern—always ready to help make conditions better on the farms of the province. You have also a more tangible satisfaction in the fact that you get dividend cheques."

DIRECTORS FOR THIS YEAR.

The result of the election of directors for 1929 brought four new faces to the Board in spite of the favorable financial statement presented by last year's Board. These named are:

H. A. Gilroy,	Alvinston
W. A. Amos,	Palmerston
R. J. McMillan,	Seaforth
R. H. Halbert,	Uxbridge
Geo. W. Buchanan,	Carleton Place
Carl Jones,	Port Stanley
Harold Currie,	Strathroy
J. G. Whitmore,	Woodbridge
Herbert Millar,	Forresters Falls

Mr. Gilroy, who served as president of the Company in 1926 and 1927, was again given that honor and responsibility, with Mr. McMillan as vice-president, and Mr. Buchanan as third member of the executive. J. J. Morrison continues in office as secretary-treasurer, having held the position since the Company was organized in 1914.

Discussing the Company and its achievements recently Mr. Gilroy remarked that he considered it a great honor to be selected by his fellow-directors to serve in the capacity of president once more after an absence from that post of one year. "However," he pointed out, "past experience tells me that the honor carries with it serious responsibilities. While great progress has been shown in the past, particularly in recent years, much still remains to be done.. If I can help solve some more of the problems met by Ontario farmers in their business of buying and selling I shall be happy.

POOL OPERATION

"The Ontario Grain Pool organized in nine counties in 1927 and extended last year to seven other countries has lived up in operation to all we had reason to expect before we took definite action and launched the campaign in January, 1927. We now have on record the contracts of over 12,600 grain growers in the province each of whom have agreed to dispose of through the Pool all the grain they market.

"Evidence that the pool has been effective in the province was found in handling the 1927 crop when for the first time in many years the prices ruling in Ontario, not to the grower, were considerably higher than could be got by sending the same grade of wheat to seaboard for export. It was distinctly proven that, with a normal crop, export prices do not necessarily govern Ontario prices.

"When the 1928 crop came on the market the power of the Pool was again demonstrated. The papers were full of reports indicating a bumper crop in Western Canada. Before the pool was organized this 'bumper crop stuff' was used as an excuse for pounding down Ontario prices to a very low level There is no denying the fact that our growers themselves had visions of dollar wheat, or less. Personally I figure that the price offered to our farmers would have been about 90 cents on good milling wheat during September and October. I base this on my experience of former years. But again, the Pool proved that the Ontario wheat market is a market unto itself and that our home mills need all our wheat, and should be prepared to pay a fair price for it. The pool management held its first or initial payment at 95 cents a bushel, not to the grower, after allowing for maximum deductions to cover local handling through the elevator or the mill that had contracted to accommodate our members. This, it should be noted, is the same initial payment as was made on deliveries from the 1927 crop whereas in the West the pools, owing to the large crop, reduced their payment by 15 cents a bushel.

"But the Ontario Grain Pool is not yet equipped to serve our farmers as we want to serve them. A year ago we found out the need for storage accommodation in Ontario so that our wheat could be held for Ontario millers no matter when our members wished to haul out their grain. During the summer we entertained hopes that the erection o fa big elevator in Toronto would meet our need in this respect. It was expected that this elevator would be ready by the middle of September—but it was not equipped to take in grain until well on in November. By this time our rush was pretty nearly over for this season. And right here, I want you to tell our grower-members that the pool management appreciates the manner in which they co-operated in delaying their deliveries so that we were not obliged to export a single shipment this year.

"But as regards storage in Ontario, I have come to the conclusion, and I know that the directors and the County Representatives elected by contract signers, agree that what we need is storage accommodation at strategic points centrally located in districts of heavy production. This will hold the grain in marketing position and avoid unduly long railway hauls, eliminating the danger of having to be doubled back over the road from which it came if we were to store in Toronto.

"This, along with the desirability of making the sign-up one hundred per cent strong in all organized territory, will call for the attention of the Board and the Pool representatives this year."

LIVE STOCK MARKETING ALSO.

Mr. Gilroy, however, does not think only in terms of grain when he talks company business and co-operation. He is just as much interested in livestock, cream, eggs, seeds, potatoes, turnips, hay and such products, as he is in wheat—at least, the way he discusses these products betrays a sincere inclination to provide a marketing system that will return to the producers all that is possible.

"Farmers in many parts of Ontario," remarked Mr. Gilroy, "know something about the steps our company took a year ago to give livestock producers the opportunity of disposing oft heir animals co-operatively under contract. At the request—yes, on the demand of our shareholders at the annual meeting in December, 1927, we prepared a contract, framed after contracts used in the Canadian West, but modified in some details to meet Ontario conditions. This contract was submitted to producers and shippers from practically every county in the province, and after lengthy discussion they approved of it and accepted our offer to put on a campaign in four counties, this to be extended as soon as was found practicable.

"The directors did their part to the best of their ability and the proposition was accepted by overwhelming majorities at all meetings held. In some parts, however, for some reason or other, the contract, prepared by the Company after the most careful study, was attacked with such effect locally that after spending a few thousand dollars, the directors thought it best to postpone an actual canvass until the producers had more time to get full information and decide definitely for themselves whether or not they were satisfied with our contract.

"I could debate the reasons for opposition to the proposition made by the Company, but I think I could show that it was not prompted by any real desire to serve producers better than they would be served under our contract, but I prefer to leave the matter n the hands of those whom we hoped to help. I want to say this, however, that the Company stands ready to go ahead with a renewal of the campaign just asso on as producers show us that they want it. Furthermore, if it can be shown that the contract can be improved from the viewpoint of the producers we are ready to make revisions, with this one proviso, that it must not in any way conflict with the interests of the Company's shareholders."

While these are the two latest additions to the Company's activities, Mr. Gilroy made it clear that other units were not neglected. He referred with some enthusiasm to the seven creameries operated by the Company and the fact that in addition to paying a fair price for cream as it reached one of the plants, the patrons had also received over $400,000 since 1924 in Patronage or Commodity Dividend distributions. He also spoke of the Egg Pools and the Livestock Commission Departments, and their effectiveness in removing grievances and giving the farmers better returns. He also reviewed with some pride, the pioneering efforts of the company in reducing the cost to the farmer of important commodities such as fencing, binder twine, flour and feed, etc. Co-operative Merchandizing in volume has, in his mind, been a great boon to Ontario farmers in the last decade and a half.

And one reason why conscience so often has a still small voice is because it's a still small conscience.

Ancient tombs reveal furniture of bewildering costliness, but nothing to rival in value a seat on the New York Stock Exchange.

Farmer Company Directors For 1929

THE GUIDING LIGHTS OF THE UNITED FARMERS' CO-OPERATING COMPANY.
Reading from left to right th names are (Back Row): *J. G. Whitmore, Woodbridge; *Herbert Millar, Forester's Falls; W. A. Amos, Palmerston; Carl Jones, Port Stanley; R. H. Halbert, Uxbridge; *Harold Currie, Strathroy. (Front Row): Howard B. Clemes, General Manager; Geo. Buchanan, Carleton Place; Harry A. Gilroy, Alvinston, President; R. J. McMillan, Seaforth, Vice-President; J. J. Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer. *New Members.

Strawberries Without Sun

Electric Lights Prove Sufficient to Produce Good Fruit But Costly

Paris—On one of the coldest of winter afternoons, with a bitter wind whistling up the Seine and flurries of snow sweeping the qual in front of the Institut de France, the savants of the Academy of Science recently assembled for a strawberry party.

Carefully packed in boxes, full, aromatic and luscious, two dozen berries were brought to the meeting by M. Mangin, president of the academy. The scientists found the berries had all the flavor of a fruit warmed by the sun and nurtured by rain. Yet not a one of the berries ever had felt sunlight or been exposed to the touch of nature.

They were grown in a basement. Light and heat came to them only from two great revolving lamps of 1,200 watts each. Beneath the artificial light it had taken the plants only forty days—about one-half the normal time—to mature and bear fruit.

Members of the academy declared the berries fit to rank with the best in flavor and quality. Their president, however, said it was not probable his artificially grown berries soon would compete with the garden variety.. His reason was explicit. The cost of growing by candle power had been 125 francs ($5) for each strawberry. .

Pacific Coast Birds Repay for Banquet

Turn February Into Spring When University Spreads Feast on Campus

Seattle, Wash.—That the University of Washington values the hosts of permanent bird residents as well as the migrants on the 583-acre wooded campus is proved by having them systematically fed during nearly two weeks when the city and surrounding country were covered with a 12-inch blanket of snow. One of the gardeners spread banquets such as the birds could not gather in hours under the most favorable conditions.

At these happy bird feasts were varied thrushes, which have recently come down from the remote mountain regions; grosbeaks, bluejays, chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, wrens, towhees quail ,robins gulls and crows.

Another way these birds have expressed their gratitude is by the woodland symphony which they have been rendering Underfoot it has been unmistakably February—overhead, May!

For the Boys

How To Tell The Common Earthworm

Writing about the expression which one so often hears, "The common earthworm," H.F.," in the Birmingham Post, says:

"For many years it has been the custom of writers of text-books of zoology to give the worm as one of the typical forms of animal life, along with the snail, frog, rabbit, and others. The descriptions, however, until recent years, were inaccurate. This was due to the fact that two or three different forms had become mixed up in diagnosis, as though they were all one and the same.

"The easiest way for the ordinary observer, or one who has not made a special study of earthworms, to determine the true earthworm is to ascertain exactly the number of rings or segments occupied by the girdle, or swollen knob known as the clitellum, which is found, when the worm is adult, about a third of the body-length from the head.

"If this girdle comprises exactly six rings, and these rings are numbers 32 to 37 from the head, then the specimen may be regarded as a representative of the true earth worm (Lumbricus terrestris). If, however, the girdle contains eight segments, which extend from the 28th to the 35th, the specimen is a member of a different species and genus, and is called the long worm (Allolobophora longa). When the earthworm and the longworm are placed side by side, a number of other differences relating to the color and shape are at once apparent.

"One of the most noteworthy points in which the two differ externally is in the shape of the head, or the way in which it is attached to the first ring of the body, which bears the name peristomium, because it surrounds the mouth cavity.

"Internally, the differences are equally great, so that since the days of Dr. Eisen they have been known not only as different species, but as representing distinct genera, just as the starling, for example, is generically distinct from the blackbird, however similar they may be in appearance to one who has not studied ornithology."

No man works harder against his own interests than the man who works for them exclusively.

Captain of Passing Ship: "Need any help?" Atlantic Flyer (after floating four days at sea): "No; we're just changing a tyre.

Coffee-Stall Customer: "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse." Proprietor (tersely): "Sorry, but I ain't got no horses."

Breezy Bognor

Where the King Will Recover Health and Strength in the "Finest Climate in England"

Bognor will have a record holiday season this year. That much was certain from the moment it was decided that the King should go to Craigweil House, Bognor, in search of health.

Bognor is the most westerly of the Sussex coast resorts, and one of the prettiest. No better place could be imagined for an invalid just beginning to recover from a severe illness. The sea air is invigorating, yet not too harsh or strong; it is sunny even in winter, and quiet even at the height of the holiday season.

"This is perhaps the finest climate in England, wrote a former Lord Chancellor during a visit to Bognor, "having the mildness of the western and the dryness of the eastern coast." He had gone to the town to all appearances a dying man; he returned from it restored to health and vigor. Others have since had the same experience, particularly in cases of illness connected with the throat and lungs.

About 150 years ago Bognor was, like many other famous resorts, merely a fishing village. But in 1787 Sir Richard Hotham, a former London hatter, started to develop the place, and shortly after Princess Charlotte visited it. This event made the reputation of the new watering-place.

Today Bognor is one of the most popular of the smaller English seaside towns. It attracts visitors even in winter, and the climate is so mild that many people who formerly wintered abroad for health reasons now go to Bognor instead. For, though the town is called "Breezy Bognor," the prevailing wind is south-west, and the Downs give protection from northerly blasts. February and March are really spring-like at Bognor, whatever they may be in other parts of the cuntry.

The King's stay will undoubtedly make Bognor still more popular, both with winter and summer visitors, just as the visit of Princess Mary's children to the neighboring Littlehampton awakened new interest in that resort.

OF COURSE

1st Fish: I don't know who to get to furnish the music for our fish hall.

2nd Fish: Why don't you try the fiddler crab?

G. B. Shaw Thinks Gaelic Language Revival Foolish

Students Told Important Works Should Be Written in Widely Spoken Tongues

Bernard Shaw went to Geneva to take a look at the League of Nations, but as soon as he appeared there, writes Aase Haugaard, in "Polittiken," of Copenahgen, he himself became the most conspicuous figure at the meeting of the assembly. The first question asked—not by a newespaper man but by a group of students—was:

"What is an intelligent woman?"

"One who will buy my last book, 'The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism," price 15 shillings," replied Shaw.

"Is it true that you have lost faith in humanity?"

"Whoever told you that I at any time have ever had any faith in humanity? Humanity is forever changing, History tells us of six or seven civilizations which have gone to ruin. All reached a point of development similar to ours and collapsed because humanity in its political phase destroyed everything. I see no reason why we should not disappear in the same way; all signs point in that direction."

A Student: "Can we do nothing to save civilization?"

Mr. Shaw: "The League of Nations tells what can be done and I, too, have told it in my books; but people neither listen to what the League says nor do they buy my books. Modern humanity, however, is not creation's last word. We have the consolation of knowing that if we succumb it will only hasten the moment when the life force will produce something better."

Another Student: "Ought the Irish and the Welsh to give up their native language and adopt English?"

Mr. Shaw: "You are English, are you not?"

Student: "No, I am Welsh."

Mr. Shaw: "Well, that's even worse. I don't understand Welsh; I only know it is a very unprofitable language—for an author. I have known many writers from small countries who have written excellent books, but the first thing they think of is how to get them translated into a language that people read—English or American, for example. As for Irish, it's only a humorous tongue; and why should Irish avoid English when they know how to speak it so much better than Englishmen themselves? If there is any one here so unlucky as to have one of the minor languages as his native speech I advise him to learn one of the more widely spoken tongues as soon as possible."

A third Student: "What is your impression of the League of Nations?"

Mr. Shaw: "As a dramatist I am most interested in the stage setting. We behold a tribune from which a certain number of gentlemen deliver speeches, but not the slightest attention is paid to what they say because they say nothing except what they have been ordered to say from home. It was only Briand who, by a slip of the tongue, let out some real facts the other day. But in my character of stage manager I may tell you confidently that the curtain behind the tribune is very effective. The ladies of the secretariat know how to make admirable use of it. Toward the end of a long-winded oration one of these young persons suddenly steps out from behind the folds of the curtain. In a new dress, with charming movement, she glides over to a seat—while the audience wakes up at the sight of her and the crator congratulates himself on having caught the attention of his hearers!"

The question of war or peace is attractive because people can fight over it.

The Memory of Scotland's Bard Will Never Die

CONTESTANTS TAKE GREAT INTEREST IN BURNS' FETE

Royal Caledonian school pupils rehearse piping and dancing for "Burns' Night" concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London.