

THE RISE OF AGRARIAN DEMOCRACY: THE UNITED FARMERS AND FARM WOMEN OF ALBERTA, 1909-1921

The Rise of Agrarian Democracy is a lucid and persuasive work detailing one of the greatest agrarian and mass democratic movements in North American history. It describes the events leading to the formation of the United Farmers of Alberta in 1909 and explores the UFA's development over the next decade as farmers built a distinct 'movement culture,' organized a large membership, and established the United Farm Women of Alberta. A path is laid from the farmers' inherited ideas and common experience, gender assumptions, class opposition, and agrarian ideals to a collective sense of responsibility, co-operation, and confidence. We follow the growth of a grassroots movement whose astonishing political success culminated in the election of the United Farmers of Alberta in 1921 and in their governing the province for over a decade.

More than an institutional study, this book examines an elemental period in Canadian democracy within the cultural, social, and community context at the core of the movement's inception. It contributes significantly to our understanding of the evolution and politicization of the Alberta farmers' movement and as such is an important investigation in western and agrarian history and economics.

Meticulously researched, this work is of interest to those studying co-operative movements worldwide. With clarity and accuracy, Brad Rennie provides valuable insight into both reform movement and gender history in Canada.

BRADFORD JAMES RENNIE is the winner of several academic awards and has taught at the University of Victoria and the University of Calgary.

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Farm Women of Alberta
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BRADFORD JAMES RENNIE



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

www.utppublishing.com

© University of Toronto Press Incorporated 2000
Toronto Buffalo London
Printed in Canada

ISBN 0-8020-4847-1 (cloth)

ISBN 0-8020-8374-9 (paper)



Printed on acid-free paper

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Rennie, Bradford James, 1960–
The rise of agrarian democracy : the United Farmers and
Farm Women of Alberta, 1909–1921

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-8020-4847-1 (bound) ISBN 0-8020-8374-9 (pbk.)

1. United Farmers of Alberta – History. 2. United Farm Women of
Alberta – History. 3. Alberta – Politics and government – 1903–1921.
I. Title.

HD1486.C3R46 2000 324.27123'02 C00-931592-6

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial assistance to
its publishing program of the Canada Council for the Arts and the
Ontario Arts Council.

This book has been published with the help of a grant from the Humanities
and Social Sciences Federation of Canada, using funds provided by the
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial support for its
publishing activities of the Government of Canada through the Book
Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP).

To my girls

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