



ALBERTA SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by Edward J. Fream, Secretary, Calgary, Alta.

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

President:
James Bower Red Deer
Vice-President:
W. J. Tregillus Calgary
Secretary-Treasurer:
E. J. Fream Calgary

Directors at Large

James Speakman, Penhold; D. W. Warner, Edmonton; J. Quinsey, Noble.

District Directors:

P. S. Austin, Ranfurly; George Long, Nampa; J. R. Pointer, Strom; E. Carswell, Penhold; M. E. Sly, Strathmore; S. W. Buchanan, Cowley; J. E. Ostrander, Gleichen.

U.F.A. DIRECTORS MEET

Before this issue of The Guide reaches our readers the directors of the U.F.A. will have held their midsummer meeting, same having been called for Red Deer, on Tuesday, August 8. At this meeting several important matters will be discussed and settled, and a report of same will be sent to all unions at once. At the present time letters are being daily received, asking what steps the central purposes taking in the forthcoming elections. This is a matter which will be answered as soon as possible, and I would ask for the forbearance of all members till after the report of the meeting can be made known. It is impossible to forecast what the action will be, but as the Associations in the Eastern provinces have decided to keep out of the issue entirely and that no candidate shall be entitled to use the name of the Association in the fight, it is probable that such an action will find favor with the board here.

E. J. FREAM, Sec'y.

WHAT THE UNIONS ARE DOING

Hill Crest Union is now organized and while it is starting off with a small membership all are very enthusiastic co-operators and strong believers in the Union, so that it will grow rapidly. The preliminary organization work was undertaken by Mr. Bowls.

W. L. BUCHER, Sec'y.
Blackie, Alta.

Sunny Hill Union is progressing and the interest in the U.F.A. is steadily growing in this district. We are now working for a twice-a-week delivery of mail to and from the Barney post office. The present service is very unsatisfactory.

HARRY L. MILES, Sec'y.
Taber, Alta.

The members of Rathwell Union have been busy breaking, and therefore the attendance at the meetings has not been large enough to warrant us in coming to a decision on the co-operative store question. Good work is being done in this direction, however, and the idea we have advanced has met with a very favorable reception.

W. H. SHIELD, Sec'y.
Macleod, Alta.

The farmers of Sounding Creek District have organized under the name of Coronation Union, and have started out with a membership of twenty-six. All are very enthusiastic in the work of the U.F.A., and we are looking forward to having a good strong branch by the time the steel reaches the new town of Coronation.

W. E. FAIRBAIRN, Sec'y.
Sounding Creek, Alta.

Wolf Hill Union has endorsed the action of the Edmonton Board of Trade to exclude the negro. We are also in favor of the scrip and the C.P.R. tax resolutions. Our executive are preparing some pointers on the proposed Municipal Act which will be sent in at an early date.

GEO. G. GRAVES, Sec'y.
Hartshorn, Alta.

Castor has not been heard from very often, but we are working just the same, and now have 146 paid-up members. New members are coming in steadily, and the farmers seem to be getting alive to the value of our organization. We secured strychnine and formalin at reduced prices, getting same locally, and are now getting kerosene, machine oil and flour in the same manner, as well as 30,000 pounds of binder twine. At our last meeting we had a short discussion regarding the building of a farmers' elevator, and at our next meeting we expect to have a full dress rehearsal on this question. The crops are good in this district, and the farmers

ers are very optimistic at the present time.

IRVINE PICKLES, Sec'y.
Castor, Alta.

The farmers of Garden Plains have organized a local union with twelve members, and all are very enthusiastic in the work of the Association. We expect to at least double our membership at our next meeting, and from then on will add new members at every meeting.

CHAS. A. STANFIELD, Sec'y.
Garden Plains, Alta.

Duvernay Brosseau is the name of the latest U.F.A. Union to report to the central, and the start has been made there with twenty-two members. More will be added at an early date.

AMBROSE GREY, Sec'y.
Brosseau, Alta.

Windy Ridge Union has placed orders for a supply of lumber for the use of the members at a considerable saving in local prices. We are moving slowly, but are doing good in securing most of our supplies on a co-operative plan. Our members are well satisfied so far.

M. E. BABKA, Sec'y.
Windy Ridge, Alta.

Rocky Coulee Union is in favor of a herd law to be operated by the municipal council, and that pounds should be established by the council in parts suitable to the district. We are also in favor of the nine township plan for the municipality. The secretary received instructions to take up the matter of having the loading platform at Granum increased to the standard size, as the present one is far too small to be of any use to us in loading our grain. The secretary introduced a resolution that section 23 of the constitution should be amended at the next annual convention to read \$2 instead of \$1, for membership in the Association, the reason being the extra money was necessary to carry on the work, but no action was taken on this resolution.

C. BLUNDEN, Sec'y.
Granum, Alta.

Altorado Union has secured quotations for cedar posts at a very reduced figure, and advantage has been taken of this tender. An order for a car of binder twine has also been placed. The proposed change in the local improvement district was discussed, but no action taken. The negro immigration question was also discussed, and looking at it from all sides we do not agree with the Edmonton people in trying to stop them from coming into this country. We do not believe in encouraging them to come in, but once they are here, and unless undesirable as to character, we think they should be given a chance in this fair country of ours, and that their color alone should not make any difference.

H. McKENZIE, Sec'y.
Altorado, Alta.

Sundial Union has forwarded two resolutions for the consideration of the Unions in the Medicine Hat district. They are both of a very important nature, one dealing with the marketing of grain, and the other with the political question. Both these resolutions will be submitted to the directors at the next meeting, and will then be sent out in accordance with the request made, if they meet with the approval of the board.

WHAT'S A FARMER?

They have shown me the Kasimir resolution and a note by "E.J.F." asking for discussion. Now, I want to get my hay in and I haven't time to talk, but I see that "E.J.F." wants to throw a searchlight into the fog of mixed up ideas that has been blown over the subject. The first thing the Creator said was, "Let there be light," and we seem to want it

badly for we are still fogged at the first dimension. Now, the point on hand is that the king, or "Mr. Farmer," and nobody else, is the first dimension. It has been so ever since the world married and settled to work, and proved so time and again under heavy trial. It is high time we got to work on line—land—for "Hightoby" and his pals are ruling the road in that second dimension. Their faces and hands are all partly black and they make it tough work for simple folk to trade and travel on the King's highway. Kasimir's resolution is simple enough for a man on a galloping horse to read, but a lot of folk are taught to read and write who will never learn common sense or plain English, and it is about time for Kasimir to come along and tell them "it's just struck one." Everybody knows what a business man is, whether he runs a big general store on a corner or an agency in a third story back, a barber's shop across the way or just a sponging house for castaway sailors. The world uses all sorts and when there's a class for farmers I'm in it. It is a grand thing for Alberta to have a big union if its heart is strong enough to hold it together and wise enough to know what it wants. What I want to know is, if it is as Kasimir says? If so, I want to put in my dollar with the rest and help it along when the chance is handy. If not, there's a little chap starting in our township who'll sell you hay and produce at market rates and give you all the purchase money, or he'll sell you a saddle or a machine or bag of clean seed (and, mind, the last is none too common) at what they really cost. All he wants is a respectable living and he is earning that as well as anybody I know. If the union is a general philanthropic society with a mission to the heathen, well, sir, when I have a bit to spare I like to put it in the plate of a Sunday and I don't want to catch myself taking any out. So you see I'll try to mind my own business and that is all there is to it, as Mr. Trepolpen would say. Now I'll get to my hay, so I'll say good day.

JOHN FARMER.

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

The following circular has been issued by the secretary of the Alberta Local Improvement Districts association to all the local improvement districts in the province:

"At a conference held recently in Edmonton between the executive of the Alberta Local Improvement Districts' association and Premier A. L. Sifton, minister of public works, it was conceded that owing to the rapid growth and expansion of the province much of the work now done by the provincial government for the local improvement districts must, in the near future, be assumed by the districts interested. A bill is now under consideration for the organization of rural municipalities which will confer greater freedom and also greater responsibilities in the matters of taxation and self government. The executive of the Alberta Local Improvement Districts' association requests from every local improvement district in the province an expression of opinion as to the most convenient and satisfactory approximate area for a rural municipality, whether nine or sixteen townships, having due regard in all cases to natural barriers and boundaries.

"A further expression of opinion is requested in the matter of taxation, whether a uniform acreage tax should be continued throughout a rural municipality or whether the various parcels of land throughout a municipality should be assessed according to their respective values and taxes levied at a rate on the dollar according to the final revised valuation. As matters of considerable importance to local improvement districts are occurring from time to time, it is of the greatest moment that each local improvement district in the province should affiliate with the association in order that a true expression of opinion may be obtained in regard to all questions of interest to the rural districts of the entire province, and also that by united

effort the best interests of this new and growing province may be advanced."

Note.—This circular deals with the same subject as Circular No. 7, which has been addressed to the local unions of the U.F.A., but it is unfortunate that the council did not make themselves a little clearer upon the subject of taxation, as it is feared that many will think the proposed change is one which will mean the taxation of improvements, when what was really suggested is the taxation of land values only, or a further application of the principles of single tax.—E.J.F.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Under this head a letter from Mr. Nathorst appeared in the July 5 issue to which I take exception. I believe that the Farmers' Organization should be composed of actual farmers and not of every Tom, Dick and Harry who may sympathize with us. Sympathy is very nice and all right in its place but it will buy no bread and butter. Farmers, as a class, have interests apart from these other people mentioned by Mr. Nathorst and the battle for right and justice must be borne by the farmers themselves, who are interested personally, and not by other people. Sympathy never brought about any great world reforms but class interest. I know class distinction sounds bad to some people, but if it be an undeniable fact that classes exist, what then is the use of shutting our eyes to the fact? The laboring class of today, the proletariat, own nothing but their hands and brains which they must sell to the class who own the machinery. They have interests directly opposed to that class and must fight their battle themselves. The farming class have many things in common with the laboring class and still have different interests which they must fight to obtain themselves. Professional men and town merchants also have interests apart and often directly opposed to the farmers and will make poor fighting stock in a farmers' movement. If the farmers' organization is to be of any real benefit to the farmers it must be an earnest, real fighting class movement and not a sympathetic mutual admiration society. It is true enough, as Mr. Nathorst says, that some of these people have a better education than the men following the plow; but are we sure that they will use that education for the farmers' benefit or for their own? It is about time the farmers woke up and did their own fighting. A large number of the farmers' ills are caused by allowing these other sympathetic people to do their thinking and to represent them. We all know the old song and dance about these good professional people sympathizing with the farmers and being their friends before election, but what of them afterwards? Will the farmers never get sense? What are the farmers getting from the good lawyers and other fine people who are representing us in the provincial and Dominion Parliaments? Nothing! What can we expect from such people as Sir Melvin Jones? My advice to all the farmers' unions is this: Believe in yourselves and do your own kicking. Educate yourselves and be men. Don't trust your case to the sympathetic townsmen or professionals. A rough, everyday, common farmer with common sense, who knows what he and his class wants, who feels the oppression and injustice his class suffers from so-called upper class, such a man is much safer and a thousand times more desirable than any of the sympathetic professionals who have in the past misrepresented the farmers.

JOHN GLAMBECK.

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Ottawa, of the pa hypnotized ful answer an amaz people of tributors to be pub ably unde porations, the manu ence with and why terests pament, whi to protect injustice a terests are they seldo light, for thrown on antee \$35, passed the a dissentin hours disc later a bill to pay for tracks fail the men w are more l ple than l that curios of the "b which it e ced. Ther in this el party, the Canadian named beir pose of figl can news: approached of the Can asked him its funds. him in spe a minute out, "That And now t ing around National L zation, fori ada, the e hide their a grateful denies that funds admi ters of the who does n peculiar, d contributed back all th sions which themselves business ta titles or in the large co parties so : whoever wi way compan to divide th 60 per cent per cent. To But wher there are un at the dispe will be cand who will p penses and s cost of their quarters. A in the West, \$1,000 to \$2, other \$5,000 from the "b sity. The n money is spe comes from the campa know where They do kn does not gro hear that the ment in their from the nea fully supplie before the el ably guess y went to. O of the campa he nominated he must be t when he com to the peopl