

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The executive meeting of the U.F.A. was held in the Central office, commencing on February 13, 1918, the business of the meeting being for the most part routine. The necessary arrangements were made in regard to the disposition of the life membership of the funds secured from the proposed effort to secure life membership subscriptions to the U.F.A. this year. A number of matters in connection with legislation arising out of resolutions passed at the convention were also attended to.

Secretary Woodbridge's Resignation

P. P. Woodbridge, general secretary, handed in his resignation as follows: "To the President and Members of the Executive of the United Farmers of Alberta: It is with the greatest regret that, after having given the matter careful consideration for some time past, I feel compelled to sever my connection with this association, and ask you to kindly accept my resignation as your secretary-treasurer. As you are aware the strain which I have at times perhaps imposed upon myself unnecessarily, has impaired my health to a very considerable extent and under the circumstances I feel that a complete change is necessary and in the best interests of all parties concerned. May I add that in taking this step I hope that the personal friendships which I feel have been established with the individual members of this executive may be continued and that, if in the future it should prove possible and advisable in our respective lines of work to render mutual aid in the effort to reach those ideals which we all have so much at heart, I trust that none will feel that there is any obstacle in the way of a whole-hearted and sympathetic co-operation in the work."

"Yours very sincerely,

"P. P. WOODBRIDGE."

After some discussion the executive committee agreed to accept the resignation with regret and authorized payment of three months salary, it being understood that the secretary would continue his regular duties in connection with the office until the annual report and other matters with which he was intimately connected were completed, or in such shape that they would not require further close supervision on his part.

The report of the legislative committee in regard to their visit to Edmonton was received and considered eminently satisfactory. The attitude of the premier of the province in particular came in for favorable comment.

The proposed amendments to the act providing for the establishment of rural hospitals was considered and endorsed by the executive with a resolution to the provincial government asking them to establish a few hospitals at places in the province which would appear to be suitable for the purpose, so that their practicability on a general scale might be demonstrated and that a guide for future methods in making them more effective might be secured.

FROM THE RETIRING SECRETARY

On the suggestion of many correspondents and callers at the Central office, I feel that I should perhaps at this time make a few remarks in regard to the severing of my connection with the work of the organization referred to in another paragraph on this page. It is fairly well known to most readers of this page that my health for the last two years has been none too good and from the time of my visit to Rochester, Minn., last summer, I have known that it would be necessary for me at no very distant date to take some steps which would probably mean a complete change of work with a view of rebuilding my nervous system in particular. It was not until recently, however, that I have begun to appreciate that that time might be nearer than I had thought, and I wish to give temporary expression to my appreciation of the many communications which have been sent in, both by individual members and locals. It has indeed made me feel that the six years that I have put in at the Central office, have not been altogether in vain, to know that so many regret my leaving the work. Particularly do I thank those who have in addition offered to give material ex-

pression to their appreciation of my past work.

As you will realize from the wording of my resignation as handed to the executive, I stand ready at any time to give any assistance that I can to the association. Just at the present time it is uncertain as to what my future movements will be, these naturally being influenced to some extent by my medical adviser. For a few weeks yet I still expect to be in direct touch with the work of the Central office and before I leave I am hoping to send out to the locals a formal farewell in which I may perhaps be able to express my full appreciation of all that my connection with the U.F.A. has meant to me both at the present time and in the past.

P. P. WOODBRIDGE.

MEETING AT STRATHCONA

The Strathcona Local U.F.A. held a meeting of February 23 to receive the reports of delegates who attended the convention. Very full reports were given, and great interest taken in same. All members present felt that the organization had now become a great factor in obtaining better legislation and causing more time and thought to be given to agricultural matters by our own members, both provincial and Dominion. A good discussion on the matter of co-operative marketing of livestock was entered into, and the secretary advised every member to, as far as possible, sell their stock co-operatively through the Edmonton stockyards, and a resolution was passed requesting Secretary Sheppard to write an article to The Guide on co-operative selling and buying through the Edmonton stockyards, and that we make a special effort to get every member to take The Guide; that the secretary get enough sample copies of The Guide with his article in to supply one to each member, that is not now taking the paper. The matter of binder twine was taken up, and it was considered that two carloads would be required for the local. The members expressed great satisfaction at getting more representation on the executive of the Central body for the northern part of the province and thought it would help in our organization work of the present year. About 20 new names were handed in by two members, viz., E. McDonald and J. Groves.

All our old members present expressed their keen regret at the resignation of our provincial secretary, P. P. Woodbridge, and gave it as their opinion that so faithful a servant with so long a record in the work of the U.F.A. should in some way be recognized by the locals. It is well known that Mr. Woodbridge has made very considerable sacrifices in his zeal for the work, and it was thought that all the locals would be pleased to subscribe to a fund to give him a good rest and a better start in farm life to which we understand he has been advised to return on account of his health. A few dollars from each local would go a long way towards doing this, and Strathcona local voted \$5.00 to start the fund. Any local wishing to fall in line with this movement is asked to send their contribution to Mr. Rice Sheppard, secretary-treasurer, Strathcona local No. 1, Edmonton South, who will be pleased to acknowledge all receipts and turn over the funds to Mr. Woodbridge on behalf of the locals contributing. It is hoped that the response will be prompt as Mr. Woodbridge will be leaving the Central office before the end of March, and it is desirable that the presentation should be made beforehand if possible. Strathcona local, to say the least, is very sorry that our provincial secretary is compelled to leave the association and expresses the hope that he will soon recover his health and strength, also that in some way he will be able to keep up his good work on behalf of the U.F.A. It was hoped by many of the members that a large district meeting could be held in the near future and that the question of the

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

nationalization of our railways and banks could be taken up and pressed for. Every farmer present will work for greater production and it is felt the government must provide for the proper handling of the products and make the best possible arrangements for the financing of the farmers that they can do their very best in the matter. The meeting was the most interesting held for sometime. Adjournment took place at 6 p.m.

NEW LOCAL AT BLACKFALDS

E. C. Hukill, secretary of the newly formed union at Blackfalds, writes as follows:—

"Blindman Valley union is the result of a concerted spirit of progressive farmers of the Blackfalds community who wish to better their social and economic conditions, promote good fellowship and play their due part in the promotion of all things for a greater Alberta. The commercial advantages will be kept in mind, and already arrangements are being made to patronize the Alberta Egg Service. There are 32 paid-up members and 8 as yet unpaid, and before the end of March the number of paid-up members will be nearly doubled.

"The union bids well to be a great asset to the farmers, as in the past it has been difficult to get them out to attend meetings and express their views on important matters of mutual interest. All are boosters, and you may expect to hear more from Blindman Valley union in the near future.

FINE ARRAY OF SPEAKERS

We are in receipt of the following from J. A. Kearney, secretary of Olds local:—

"If anyone doubts the value of publicity and social gatherings, the doubts should be dispelled in view of what it has accomplished for Olds local. On April 3, 1917, we attempted our first banquet, and it was such a perfect success from every point we decided to have another social evening this year. On February 22, at the School of Agriculture, over 300 people gathered to enjoy themselves. The speakers were Mrs. F. L. Aylsworth, H. W. Wood, president of the U.F.A., President Reynolds of the Manitoba Agricultural College and Hon. Duncan Marshall. Our worthy president of Olds local, Jos. Stauffer, acted as chairman. The program committee were Messrs. C. K. Aylsworth, Geo. Clipperley and Prof. W. J. Elliott. Refreshment committee: Mrs. Clipperley, Mrs. Kearney, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fisher. Reception Committee: Messrs. C. L. Holmes, T. E. Smith, H. L. Echlin and J. A. Dodd.

"At the close of the program a resolution was passed unanimously, making this an annual meeting."

NEW HALL AT WHITE SWAN

E. T. Williamson, secretary of the White Swan Local No. 56, reports as follows:—

"Bounded on the west by Griffin Creek district, on the north by Bear Lake, and on the east and south by the mighty Peace, is that region known as the White Swan district of the U.F.A.

"Transformed from a veritable wilderness into a land of fertile fields with numerous herds of horses, cattle and swine feeding upon the luxuriant wild grasses with which the country abounds, and a contented, happy and prosperous community, is the change wrought in this section of country within the space of five years.

"White Swan U.F.A. was organized in 1917, with Joseph Walters as president. However, it was not until the beginning of the present year that the local received an impetus which knows no bounds. The local has had a number of social gatherings during the winter, and it was at one of these gatherings that the spirit of optimism broke loose, and right on the spot the money was subscribed for the erection of a new hall at an approximate cost of \$1,200. The building will be erected on the

corner of E. Oberg's farm, which is centrally located, and will be a credit to the country at large. Aside from its usefulness as a hall for the local U.F.A., it will be utilized as a public meeting place, for which the district has long felt the need.

"Although for the past two months the roads have been all but impassable, the roll of members has been steadily mounting up, and it is the ardent hope and expectation of the new president, R. J. Lee, that the 75 mark will be reached before the spring operations commence."

With such a brilliant beginning we bespeak for White Swan a pleasant and prosperous future.

BEAR LAKE MARKET CONDITIONS

H. L. Dundas, secretary of Bear Lake local reports:—

"A small quota of our members was present at our regular monthly meeting on the 16th ult.; the marketing of wheat deterred many from attending. The greater part of the wheat has now been sold by the farmers, the grading varying considerably. In no case has No. 1 grading been received, but several have been favored with No. 2. The dry weather of last summer affected more or less most of the crops, so that although the wheat in many instances contained merits which would have warranted a No. 1 grading, still the shrunken kernels prevented the higher classification. Less than a quarter of the marketable wheat still remains in the granaries, and this inside of a few weeks will be stored in elevators, leaving only sufficient grain for seed purposes. Oats are very high in price, the elevator people paying 72 cents per bushel at present, but very little of this cereal has as yet been marketed, the farmers demanding in some cases 75 cents per bushel at the granary and in some cases obtaining this price. As the oat crop was comparatively light in yield and as the construction of the railway will cause a demand, the farmers are probably justified in refusing to sell at present except at the figure quoted.

"Pork is bringing 18 cents per pound at Peace River, but not much is being offered. With the returns from the sale of his produce, the farmer is discharging old debts, buying machinery and stocking his farm with cattle. As a result of his prosperity the individual farmer is becoming not only optimistic as to the future, but more independent and self-assertive.

"At our meeting it was decided to at once proceed with the building of a stable for the accommodation of the teams of those who attended at the functions of the hall. To raise funds towards further completing and equipping the hall a box social and dance will take place next month. Some discussion ensued as to the possibility of embarking more extensively in the hog industry, but those at the meeting felt that they were doing as much as they could to produce bacon, etc."

Red Rose and Hanna locals gave a complimentary dinner to the Women's Institute of Hanna on March 1. A splendid entertainment was provided, the songs and musical numbers being well received. The mayor of Hanna gave a kindly welcome, J. K. Sutherland gave a rousing address, which showed the president of Hanna local will be a useful man in our great campaign for organization. John Sim also spoke, pleading for a better system of co-operation between all parties, and showing how much we depend on each other in every walk of life. A very happy time followed in dancing and some games of cards. It was agreed to have a similar meeting in about a year.

Selby U.F.A. held its regular meeting in the school-house on Tuesday evening, and by way of diversion had a debate on the feasibility of Mechanical or Horse Power for farm work. Messrs. Lee Hunt, J. H. Hauser and E. M. Kreig supported mechanical power and R. F. Gaume, J. T. Rattray and N. Titus spoke in favor of horses. The mechanical power won out on a narrow margin. Tractors like automobiles have gone through the experimental stages and are finding their way everywhere just as autos have done.