

United Farmers of Alberta

Free Transportation

IN connection with the free transportation of hay south and stock north, under the arrangements between the Dominion government and the railway companies, it is announced that application for the free transportation should now be made to the Markets' Commissioner of the Dominion Livestock Branch at Calgary and Edmonton, instead of through the provincial department of agriculture. Members desiring to secure this free transportation should therefore make application to E. Ward Jones, Dominion Markets' Commissioner, Stockyards, Calgary, or to C. E. Bain, Dominion Markets' Commissioner, Livestock Yards, Edmonton. The same applies in regard to the rates on haying outfits.

Fairacres Discuss Resolutions

At the recent meeting of the Fairacres local five resolutions were introduced by the president, C. Harris, which were discussed and adopted. Several members of the neighboring locals were present and took part in the discussion. The ladies from the Women's Institute served lunch, the proceeds going to the Red Cross Society. Two cars of coal were recently handled by the members.

Bring Your Banner

Locals which contemplate getting a banner for their local may be interested in the following description of banner which the secretary of Colinton local, J. C. Williamson, and another member made about three years ago:—

The banner or pennant is made out of blue baize cloth in the form of a shield, 24 inches wide and 30 inches long. The lettering is the same as the U.F.A. button, and underneath the name and number of the local. The letters are in gold paint and show to good advantage.

Central office has requested Colinton to bring their pennant to the annual convention; will other locals do the same?

The \$2.00 Fee

One of our secretaries who find some members objecting that \$2.00 is too much money to pay to belong to a farmers' union, says this answer always makes him feel that he would like to be a trained pugilist. There's no harm in feeling that way, so long as you translate the physical energy into the ability to persuade by reasoning. But it does make one feel sorry for the man who cannot see a thing till it hits him.

By the way, the shoe blacks in Winnipeg have an association into which the annual membership fee is \$3.00.

Influenza Epidemic

Owing to the epidemic of Spanish Influenza in Alberta, the Central office, at the request of the provincial health authorities, is not arranging for any public meetings during the continuance of the epidemic. Locals will kindly, therefore, not expect directors and other provincial officers to undertake meetings until the present embargo on public meetings is lifted.

Board Meeting November 18

A meeting of the board of directors of the U.F.A. is being called for November 18. This meeting will consider arrangements for the annual convention next January, and any other matters of importance requiring attention of the board at that time.

Hawking Farm Produce

There is no provincial or other restriction to a farmer peddling his own produce in the province. There is a provincial ordinance, being Chapter 58 of the Consolidated Ordinances of 1915 respecting hawkers and peddlers, and in the Village and Rural Municipality Acts power is given to the council to pass by-laws licensing hawkers and peddlers. In the interpretation clause, however, it is finally stated that the word hawker or peddler shall not mean or include any person selling meat, fish, fruit, agricultural implements, sewing machines or farm produce by retail.

As the law stands therefore, a farmer is at liberty to sell his own produce freely in the province.—U.F.A. Legal Department.

Conducted Officially for the United Farmers of Alberta

by the Secretary

H. Higginbotham, Calgary, Alta.



H. W. WOOD.

Should the Burden be Shifted?

By H. W. Wood, President U.F.A.

Under this heading Mr. Parsons asks, "Is the Farming Industry languishing to such an extent that in order to help it out there must be destroyed, or even impaired, its fellow producer, the manufacturing industry of the Country?" I think he hardly does himself justice in this statement. He certainly shows a lack of understanding of the farmers' position.

We believe that farming is the basic industry of this country, and has rights that the government of this country and every industry and institution of this country should fully recognize. These rights, as we see them, are not being recognized. We do not want the burdens of taxation to be shifted. We want them equalized. We do not ask anybody "to help us out." We do not claim to be the lame man of Canadian institutions, neither do we intend to submit always to being the beast of burden. Justice is all we are entitled to, and all we ask. Neither do we have any desire whatever to destroy any legitimate or necessary manufacturing enterprise. We believe there is sufficient legitimate need for the manufacturing industry to exist and prosper without everlastingly feeding at the public crib. But if it can not, it then, indeed, becomes a "National Institution," and we repeat, must be operated by the government for the benefit of the people. Under those conditions the "languishing" farmers will be perfectly willing to pay their share of the burden of navigating this lame duck.

But, Mr. Parsons does not seem to try to justify his position, that we should continue to bear the burdens, on the ground of justice and right, but he tries to persuade us that we are able to bear them. He bases his argument on an advertising bulletin which was sent out from The Grain Growers' Guide office, said bulletin containing some statements based on certain figures which the bulletin also contained. I will not discuss these statements except to say that they show many evidences of having been written by one who has not been engaged for the last ten years in practical farming in Western Canada. But Mr. Parsons is evidently much impressed by them for he refers to them again in an article in The Guide, of October 16.

Let us examine the figures on which these statements were based, for I assume there is truth in them, but I also assume that the author made the best possible showing he could.

According to these figures, based on data from 300 districts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the average size of farm is 382 acres; number of acres in cultivation, 195; average value of entire farm holdings, \$11,010; in 1917 average value of grain crop, \$3,725. Mr. Parsons reminds us that this is a profit of 32 per cent. But he is not satisfied with giving the farmers this modest amount of prosperity, but thrusts a lot more on them by linking the above up with a bulletin prepared by the Nor-West Farmer, from which he makes the statement that "A study of these reports gives the total value of farm products, other than cereals at a little larger figure than the total value of all cereals." And he estimates that products "other than cereals" pay all expenses, and the cereal value of \$3,725 is net profit.

Let us analyze a little:—

Average farm	382 acres
Average portion under crop	195 acres
This leaves portion not under crop	187 acres

We will take minimum amount of equipment necessary to stock and operate one of these farms:—

Not less than 10 work horses, value	\$ 1,650.00
Fifteen cattle, including enough cows to furnish milk for family	900.00
Farm machinery, binder, drill, plows, wagons (no buggies or automobile), harness, etc.	1,000.00
Seed, feed grain, and hay to put in crop	750.00
Total of these farm essentials	\$ 4,300.00
Subtract this from value of holdings	11,010.00
We have left a land value of	6,710.00
This gives us a value per acre of	17.56

I assume that these farmers are intelligent and are trying to keep up the fertility of the soil and to keep down the weeds. If so, they are summerfallowing one-half as much land as they are cropping, or in round figures 100 acres, this leaves 87 acres for pasture land.

Ten work horses and 15 mixed cattle are not enough stock on these farms, but is all that the 87 acres of pasture land will carry, and all that the total valuation of entire holdings—\$11,010, will allow for. Can Mr. Parsons tell us how he sold a little over \$3,725 worth out of this bunch annually? He not only did it, but did it without feeding them any of the farmer's grain. But how? Can he explain why, when a farmer is doing such miraculous, financial stunts, his land, which is giving such bountiful returns, is only worth \$17.56 per acre? Such land in other countries is selling at five to ten times that price.

Most of these farms have mortgages on them. Why have they not been paid? It is not because the farmer was too shiftless, because, we are told, he had \$3,725 worth of grain to sell and a little more than that much products other than grain.

Why are many of these farmers dependent on the government for next spring's seed? Why are many of them living in uncomfortable houses, and practically all of them in houses without modern conveniences? Of course there are the minor questions of labor, harvesting, twine, threshing, taxes, interest, depreciation of buildings, fences and machinery, loss of stock, hail, frost, wind, flood, drought, support of family, education, etc., but I think the "languishing" farmers will try to work these "non-essential" things out themselves, if Mr. Parsons will just give us answers to the more important questions above. Especially if he will tell us how he gets an annual income of a little more than \$3,725 from the increase of 10 work horses and 15 mixed cattle on 87 acres of pasture, and this pasture only worth \$17.56 per acre.

U.F.A. Briefs

"We have passed a resolution when by the treasury is to receive two per cent. profit on all commodities purchased through our locals; our first act only purchase to date being a car of oats which netted treasury the sum of \$35.38."—L. M. Mansfield, secretary, Harvest Vale local, Howell, Alta.

Jas. Miner, of Hawlf, and Mr. Mrs. Knight were the speakers for the occasion at the annual picnic of the Rosebush local, which was very successful.

F. L. Wilson, secretary of Clyde local, reports that the recent membership drive resulted in quite a lot of farmers promising to join the U.F.A. in their district. The members recently held a picnic in aid of the Red Cross.

Director C. H. Harris visited Compton local on July 27 and gave a very fine address on the principles of the U.F.A. which was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. At the close, 12 new members were enrolled. Future meetings will be held on the last Saturday in each month.

Elvin Lee, secretary of Coal Lake local, reports that the local has not been doing very much this year, but efforts will be made to renew the interest of the members this winter by means of programs, entertainments, etc.

Round Hill local held a meeting on August 13, at which 13 members and five visitors were present. The shipping of stock was discussed and arrangements were made for O. L. Waterman to handle livestock for the union in the future.

A. S. Ongland, secretary of the New Kilo local, reports that most of the members of the local have joined the Eye Hill local. He remarks: "So you see the Kilo local is dead but the members are still alive."

Under the U.S. government plan for standardization of farm machinery approximately 3,000 surplus types of plows and tillage implements have been discontinued. For example, out of 303 types of plows only 65 will be manufactured after December 31, 1918, and 107 types of harrows have been reduced to 44.

The Central office is anxious to secure a list of those locals which have built their own U.F.A. halls. Will all locals having a building of their own kindly send particulars to the Central office, giving us the size of the building, the value, and how the money for the hall was raised and is maintained?

Colinton local is now arranging a program for the winter months, and at the next meeting the program calls for five-minute papers, these having been found very entertaining.

Don't despise the day of small things, for, as J. Smith, secretary of the McCafferty local, would remark, "Les petits ruisseaux font les grandes rivières." (Little streams make big rivers).

Central office has been pleased to note that Mrs. Paribby, ex-president of the U.F.W.A. and D. W. Warner, of Edmonton, a former president of the U.F.A. have been appointed on the Board of Agricultural Education, by order of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. Mrs. Paribby's appointment is for a term of three years, and Mr. Warner's appointment for one year.

Harry M. Pike, secretary of the Earle local informs us that the Earle Red Cross Association held a very successful auction. The farmers of the district co-operated and donated a number of stock. As a result of the auction the sum of \$355 was raised, which is considered very good, particularly as there were no crops in the district this fall.

The greater part of Mrs. Paribby's address to our secretaries' convention has been reproduced in the "Nebraska Union Farmer," which is the official organ of the Nebraska Farmers' Union.



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