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E. J. Fream	Calgary	
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Alberta

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

Official Circular No. 11, 1912

Gentlemen:—

Acting under instructions from the Board of Directors, I beg to advise you that the annual convention of the United Farmers of Alberta will be held at Calgary, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 21, 22 and 23, 1913. Full particulars regarding the convention will be sent you at a later date, but this preliminary announcement is sent out so that you may be prepared for same. An interesting program will be prepared and will include, if at all possible, an open meeting on Wednesday evening, January 22, when some prominent speakers will deliver addresses. Please make your regulations accordingly.

Resolutions for Convention

At the meeting of the Board of Directors the following resolution was adopted:—"That we request the local unions to submit all resolutions for consideration at the annual convention to the Central office at least ten days before the annual meeting to enable the resolution committee to deal with same and have them in readiness to submit to the delegates at the opening of the convention, the only exception to this to be those resolutions which of necessity belong to the work of the convention."

No doubt you are aware that considerable difficulty has been experienced in the past, owing to the fact that many resolutions are brought to the convention by the delegates from the local unions. These are handed in to the secretary about the time the convention is opened, with the result that instead of having their work finished up prior to the convention, thus giving them an opportunity to take part in the deliberations of the convention the members of the resolution committee are compelled to work hard to get the resolutions in shape for presentation, many of the resolutions are of necessity held over till the last minute and there is general all round dissatisfaction. You can help by having the resolutions come to hand in plenty of time and we would ask for your co-operation to this extent. As in former years, resolution blanks will be sent out from the Central Office to all unions. These will be mailed at an early date, together with the formal notice of place of meeting and the credential cards. When dealing with resolutions do not forget that under the constitution any proposed amendments to the constitution of the association must reach the General Secretary at least 60 days prior to the convention. This means that any such notice of motion must be in my hands not later than November 21 next.

Organization Work

The following resolution has also been adopted by the Board of Directors and is submitted for your consideration: "That in connection with the organization work, the local unions be asked to assist as much as possible in getting the ground covered in their particular districts by appointing local representatives to get out and see that the adjacent country is organized, as well as the already existing unions being thereby thoroughly reorganized and revived."

There is no doubt that in every district good men are to be found who, with only the slightest encouragement, are prepared to go into their respective districts and boost for the U.F.A. Every member of the U.F.A. should be an organizer ready to tell his neighbor what can be accomplished if all will join hands and help the work along. Your Board of Directors therefore suggest that you should see to it that no corner of your district is left untouched and that every farmer is given the opportunity to enrol under the ranks of the U.F.A. We are strong today, but we can be made immeasurably stronger by some systematic work on the part of our local unions and members. We

have reached the point where numbers count, and the numbers mentioned in the annual balance sheet, the dollars and cents of the membership fees collected, are the ones which those who try to belittle us use.

Will you help in your own district by boosting and organizing? You can do it if you only try and can make our numbers increase rapidly. Please give it a trial, anyway.

Farm Help

Under instructions from the Board of Directors the following information is sent you: A reliable firm in England, located in the midst of one of the chief agricultural districts of England, is constantly receiving applications from men for work in Canada; stockmen, milkers, plowmen, general farm workers and such like. Many of these agricultural hands have never travelled before and are therefore a little afraid of the journey unless they know beforehand that a place awaits them, while many more are not in the position to make the journey unless a portion of the passage money is advanced. In cases where a draft is sent to this firm by a farmer for a man's passage money, this firm draws up and takes the man's signature to repayment agreements for the amount to be repaid from his wages, and a copy of this agreement is sent to the employer. In this particular it is worthy of note that in not one single case has a man failed to reach his employer or to repay the amount advanced for passage. Many of the men who are anxious to secure positions on farms are married and would be prepared to bring their family. Further information in this regard will be supplied you on request, and if you are interested we shall be pleased to give you the name of the firm and place you in communication with them.

Direct Legislation

You will remember that about a year ago petitions asking the government to introduce an effective Direct Legislation act into the Legislature was rather extensively signed in all parts of the province. This petition was presented to the legislature on behalf of the U.F.A., and as a result thereof a resolution was unanimously adopted by the members of the Legislature, agreeing to the principles of Direct Legislation, and the impression was conveyed that we might expect some further action in this matter at the next session of the Legislature. It is probable that for that reason we have been resting quietly during the past few months, but that has caused an impression to go abroad that we are not quite so keen on the subject. This is not true, but now that the winter season is before us again would it not be as well to immediately start another campaign on this subject? There will be no need to circulate further petitions, but what is required is some decisive action by the members at their meeting. This can best be made effective by introducing the subject at an early meeting and passing a good, strong resolution on same. Then send a copy of this resolution to the Hon. A. L. Sifton, Premier of Alberta, Edmonton; to your local member in the legislature, and also get it printed in your local newspaper, so that we can get publicity in all directions. If this plan is followed out the result will be that Direct Legislation will once more be prominently before the public and we shall no doubt be in the position of being able to do something toward accomplishing our objects when the legislature is in session.

The Grain Growers' Guide

When the Board of Directors was in session considerable discussion took place on the most effective plan of campaign for organization work during the ensuing year, and all present agreed that without doubt the most effective method

of getting the farmers interested was by securing subscriptions to The Guide. It has been found from experience that in the districts where The Guide is attaining a good circulation the interest in the work is greater, and there is more permanency in the work. Another point in connection with this is that of patronizing the firms which are using the advertising columns of The Guide. Every farmer is a purchaser of many commodities. He is influenced to a great extent in his purchases by the advertisements which are constantly brought before his attention in the columns of his papers, and it does not require much effort to decide where he will buy. In four years the farmers of Western Canada have been able to secure a paper which now has the largest circulation in the Prairie Provinces. We should do all we can to give it the highest circulation of any paper, farm or news, in Canada.

Your Returns

The coming winter will be one of the most important in the history of the U.F.A. It is probable that many subjects in which we are greatly interested will be introduced in the legislature, and if we are to be assured of having our interests as farmers protected we must be in the field all the time, and must have our men at the legislative halls finding out what is being done and advising us as to progress. To do this we must have finances in the treasury. Have you made your returns yet? We would like to receive same at an early date.

General Questions

There are other matters which will have to be submitted to you at once, the navy question, elevator policy, fire-guard question, and others, and these will form the subject of special circulars which will be issued within the next few days.

Your obedient servant,
EDWARD J. FREAM,
Secretary.

THE CASTOR BRANCH OF THE C.P.R.

On the morning of November 30 Mr. T. L. Swift and Mr. P. P. Woodbridge left Calgary on one of the most extensive organization trips that have as yet been undertaken. They were due to leave for Lacombe at 8 a.m., but the C.P.R. with its usual consideration held the train till a little after nine before permitting it to get under way. At Lacombe the famous "Star Express" was still waiting and the passengers for that line immediately climbed aboard. It was hoped that the final stage of the journey would be safely accomplished, but we were destined to disappointment. As pointed out in a previous report, this line has been in constant service for nearly four years, but it has not yet been ballasted, and again the train was derailed, this time between Gadsby and Halkirk. As usual there was no proper equipment for putting the car on the track, but having by means of fence posts and odd pieces of wood and by starting the engine forward and then quickly reversing, got things into such a mixup that there was no way out of it, and having displaced the forward track entirely, the train crew decided to go to Castor for a wrecking outfit. The passengers were, of course, left to their own amusement and some employed their time in walking the five miles to Halkirk, while others made for the nearest farm in search of supper. About 8 p.m. the wrecking crew put in an appearance, having taken some two hours from the time they were phoned to make the 18 miles from Castor. Eventually the train started on its journey once more and delivered its passengers at Castor at 2 a.m. Thus Messrs. Swift and Woodbridge were unable to keep their first appointment at Castor, and while the members there were disappointed, still they realized that the fault lay entirely with the C.P.R. and not with the speakers or the Central office.

After a two-hour wait at Castor the train was made up again for the journey

District Directors:

Victoria—P. S. Austin, Nanaimo; Edmonton—George Berrington, Spruce Grove; Strathcona—J. R. Pointer, Strome; Red Deer—E. Carewell, Penhold; Calgary—H. Sorensen, Strathmore; Macleod—O. W. Buchanan, Cowley; Medicine Hat, W. S. Henry, New Island.

to Coronation, which place was reached at 6 a.m. At this point threshing is in full swing and the result was shown in the small attendance at the meeting held on Friday afternoon. It was a pleasure to meet some of the Federal members, however, and to realize that they are very enthusiastic in the cause and are striving hard to overcome the pressure which is being brought to bear throughout that neighborhood in the effort to prevent the farmers from being anything other than pawns in the games as played to the tune supplied by special privilege.

To one who travels over the Castor branch of the C.P.R. the thought often arises as to how long can the people of Canada continue to stand for the negligence and lack of consideration shown by so-called public servants, such as the railway companies, to the travelling public generally. Much comment is made at times on the inefficiency of government-owned railways, but it would be impossible to put on a worse system than this branch of the C.P.R. It would be an insult to the worst bunch of addle-headed politicians possible to get together to imagine that they would make a worse mess of any system than this one is. Four years penetrating 108 miles of the richest country in Alberta, and no ballast yet! It would seem that the well organized departments of the C.P.R. are—its legal department, which was able to put through a deal whereby the settler pays the taxes; its claims department, with the various devices to avoid and delay payments of damages and that best and most famous one of all, its melon department, which can apparently take a slice out of the public melon whenever it wants to. Such is life and such are the thoughts which comes to the surface when compelled to travel on the Castor branch of the C.P.R.

WHAT ABOUT THIS ROUTE?

At the present time, when all eyes are looking towards the West and to the possibility of securing the best available route to the seaboard for the farm products of Alberta, it is only natural that every opportunity should be taken of looking into the feasibility of every proposed route, for every scheme should be investigated so that once the Panama Canal is ready for business full advantage may be taken of any good route thereby eliminating as far as possible the excessive freight rates which now have to be paid.

One route which is coming into considerable prominence at the present time is that of the Columbia River. It is claimed that this can be made navigable at little expense as far north as Robson, B.C., and if that is so it means that a water outlet is presented to the farmers of Southern Alberta at a distance of only 333 miles from Macleod. For some time the Columbia River has been used by the C.P.R. and in high water their boats have reached Robson, while in low water the boats were pulled up the rapids from Trail with chains. If it is possible to open up this route by the expenditure of a little public money then it would seem as if this was a good outlet. Our neighbors to the south are already studying the route and surveys are being made. Could not the Canadian government do likewise? It would be as well to keep this in mind and watch developments during the next few months.

Elnora Union has gone on record as being strongly in favor of the recommendations made by Stettler Union for the taxation of farm lands in town or village municipalities; also that machinery notes should be changed so that they would fall due on January first. We are also in favor of the farmers getting together and erecting their own flour mill, and of the government taking the necessary steps to advance money to settlers. We are greatly interested in the question of grain shipments at the present time and at the next meeting hope to have considerable information to submit to our members on this subject.

R. BARCLAY, Sec'y.
Perbeck, Alta