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Rice Sheppard	Edmonton	
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Sec.-Treasurer—P. P. Woodbridge	Calgary	

### ABOUT OFFICIAL CIRCULARS

The number of letters reaching this office in reference to Circular No. 6 is very marked and in many ways most gratifying. Obviously, while we have not heard a great deal in the past from our unions as to what they think of our official circulars, there are some quarters at least where they are appreciated. Whatever else our reference to the circular may or may not have done, it has at least had in many cases the effect of causing discussion and thereby bringing more prominently to the front the fact that we are in the habit of issuing official circulars to our unions. One of our secretaries writes that if it was not for the official circular being sent to the local, at least three-quarters of their members would never see or hear of them. Others have written in asking for further information to enable them to give the matter proper discussion at the next meeting of the union.

It might be of interest to our readers to know that the postage on our circulars alone for the last two years has averaged nearly \$200 per year. At a conservative estimate it may be said that the paper, involving printing, etc., of the circular, costs another \$400, or that it costs each local of our Association approximately \$1.00 per annum for the service that they get. I believe that if these things were figured out by the local unions from the point of view of cost, they would often receive more attention than they do.

Another secretary raises a very good point when he says, that if the secretary of the local union does not voluntarily read the official circular at the general meetings of the union, the president or members of the union should take the matter up and see that it is asked for.

### A GOOD REPORT

I am quoting herewith in full what may be considered as a model report from the Alix Union, No. 569:

"You don't hear from us very often, but we are still very much alive. I enclose \$31.50 for 61 members, and I might say that most of these have been secured thru co-operative trading. We have shipped in three cars of flour and feed since Christmas. We have also \$1,000 collateral deposited in the Union Bank by notes of members, and the secretary is bonded in \$1,000. We meet the second Saturday of every month and are at present taking up the 'Course of Study,' which we find very profitable. At our last meeting, held on April 10, satisfaction was expressed at the establishment of a legal information bureau.

Regarding the reduction of the number of circulars sent out, and making more use of the Alberta section of The Guide, we agreed to leave it to the discretion of the directors.

The resolution from Gleichen Union regarding the U. F. A. nominating a parliamentary candidate for each rural constituency was unanimously endorsed. Regarding the resolution on war relief, we have a very live Women's Auxiliary here and they are endeavoring to do all they can towards that object and we are supporting them all we can, so we agreed to take up the Patriotic Acre scheme. Quite a number of our members gave in their names as willing to give an acre of grain. The question of shipping hogs was discussed and it was unanimously agreed to buy and ship our own hogs. The secretary was appointed hog buyer and an office has been rented in town for his use. We are also taking up the question of fruit and binder twine. I also enclose \$5.70 for supplies as per order form. The name of our president is J. E. Merrifield, P. O. Alix. We will keep you posted as to our doings more regularly thruout the year."

I publish the above report in full because it is brief, concise and clearly to the point. Without using many words it covers a good deal of ground. It tells something of the history of the union and at the same time deals with practically every paragraph of the last official circular, showing that same has received consideration. I must say that the improvement in the reports from our

secretaries all round has been very marked in the last six months or so. I do not think we have ever before received anything like so many quarterly reports as we have during this month, all of which were very much appreciated. The printing of this report in full does not mean that we have not had some excellent reports from other secretaries, but we are simply laying this one before you as a suitable model to help you in drafting your own reports in the future.

### MAKING THINGS HUM

La Coates Union, No. 589, in reporting for the first quarter, has sent in a number of membership dues for both old and new members. The secretary states that there are nineteen members in arrears at the present time, due to the hard times in that district. Most of these are expecting to pay up, however, in the near future. The union has purchased a consignment of axle grease from Calgary and at the time of writing were engaged in unloading a car of cordwood which had been secured, laid down at point of destination at \$3.75 per cord, as against a price of \$7.50 per cord which had prevailed before the union got busy. In concluding a very optimistic report, the secretary remarks "We will certainly make things hum soon."

### DUNMORE BRANCH

The farmers of Feldman Lake, Woolchester and Longfellow districts met in the Alexander schoolhouse on April 7 and organized a branch of the U. F. A., the meeting having been called for that purpose. Some twenty farmers were in attendance. Walter Ginnell occupied the chair and J. Sallows acted as temporary secretary. At the call of the president a number of farmers expressed their views as being in favor of organizing. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the organization should have taken place several years previously. The motion to organize having carried, a number of nominations for president were made and eventually J. A. Armstrong was declared elected. Lloyd Woolley was elected Vice-President and Messrs. Earl, Ballew, Sallows, Smith, Middleton and Johnston were elected directors. The branch is to be known as the Dunmore branch and meetings will be held at that place. H. T. Wilson was appointed secretary-treasurer for the year 1915. The next meeting will take place at Longfellow schoolhouse on Saturday, May 1, at 2 p.m.

### A VISITOR

Glenellen Union reports that arrangements had been made in March for the holding of a debate, "Rural Municipalities vs. L. I. D.," but owing to adverse weather conditions the debate had to be postponed. The union are indebted to Mr. Powell, secretary-treasurer of Edwell Union, for a friendly visit, when he gave a very instructive and interesting paper on "Co-operation." During the summer meetings of the union will be held once a month only.

### ROLL OF HONOR

I am giving this week a list of the unions with the largest number of paid up members, based on membership dues received between January 1 and March 31. It may be that these figures do not show the actual paid up membership on the books of any of these local unions, and it may be that there are some other unions whose actual paid up membership is as large, or larger, than any of these, on account of the fact that there are many of our unions carrying their members from one year to the next and who would, therefore, not be required to renew membership in the first quarter of the year. The figures merely show the amount received from these unions during the time specified. In the case of the Veteran Union, their remittance came to hand just after the books were closed for the quarter and stand to their credit under date April 1, but should really have been credited to the month of March. We have, therefore, included

this union in the list below. It will be noted that both of the leading unions for this quarter, namely, those at Nanton and Cayley, are unions who have not hitherto found their way onto a list of this kind. In passing it might be mentioned that these unions are still going ahead. Some of the unions that we have been in the habit of seeing at the head of the list do not appear here at all, but we quite anticipate that with the publishing of this list some of our friends will be making a special effort to see that the order in which these names appear on the roll of honor is considerably altered before the half-yearly report becomes due:

Union	No.	Members
Sunprairie	367	100
Cayley	259	94
Veteran	363	92
Travers	188	89
McCafferty	415	67
Highland	557	60
Queenstown	160	57
Pandora	472	56
Empress	673	56
Stony Plain	593	56
Craigmyle	242	54
Pickardville	685	51

### CASTOR GOING STRONG

A donation of \$10 to our Organization Fund has just been received from Castor Union, No. 229, together with a report from the secretary, I. Pickles, in which he states that the union is going strong this season, having nearly sixty members paid up so far, and a considerable number of old members who have not yet paid in their dues but will undoubtedly do so in the near future. The annual spring horse show was held in the town of Castor on April 6, and at the suggestion of their president, A. H. Dean, the union invited Mr. Speakman to come and address a farmers' meeting. The day was fine and the meeting was very successful. Mr. Speakman gave a splendid address, in which he spoke on co-operation as well as on the pork packing question, and the frequent applause which punctuated his remarks gave abundant evidence of the interest of his hearers. The Hon. Duncan Marshall, Hon. W. Gariepy and M. F. White-side also spoke, and their addresses were very much appreciated.

The union has just formed a district association, which it is hoped will prove a great benefit to the surrounding unions, especially in regard to co-operative purchasing.

### MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

W. H. Anderson, secretary of Dewberry Union, No. 98, has just forwarded dues for twenty-three male adult members, two women and two juniors. This union appears to be making good progress, and it is hoped that more members will join before the year is out.

### OPTIMISTIC

The secretary of Colholme Union, No. 508, reports that altho the union has been growing slowly in numbers they have gained a great deal of strength during the past six months. Owing to the hard times prevailing in the district it was impossible for them to do a great deal of co-operative buying, but they are looking forward to a good crop this year, having more moisture in the ground this spring than they have ever had before, and as soon as the new crop comes in the members hope to go ahead and make their union a good live one. This union, with eight others tributary to the town of Chinook, has recently organized a district association at that point. All the unions have taken a live interest in the organization, and it is hoped that it will prove a great advantage to every farmer in the district.

### TO HELP THE COMMUNITY

Pleasant View Local, No. 541, has held some very interesting meetings during the past three months, discussing many of the important questions

of the times and the various ways in which they, as a body, can help the community at large as well as themselves individually. The union has now forty members, and the attendance at the meetings is good. The directors meet a week previous to each meeting to draw up resolutions, etc., to be voted on at same.

### COWLEY DOINGS

Cowley Union has just sent in one of the largest remittances ever received at one time, consisting of a donation of \$170 for the U.F.A. Patriotic Fund and \$30 membership dues. From the bulletin issued by this union we gather that they enjoyed a splendid address from Mr. Fairfield, of Lethbridge Experimental Farm, on March 13, when he addressed the members on "Forage Crops and How They Grow." The union has also arranged for registering the brands of the various farmers and ranchers in the vicinity of Cowley and district for their own convenience, and the idea seems to be meeting with general approval. The union is busier than ever purchasing goods in carload quantities. We gather from the same bulletin that the union has cheese, flour, cereals, chop, bran, shorts, salt, formaldehyde, seed grain and gopher poison, timothy, rye grass, alfalfa and feed oats stored in their warehouse for distribution to such members as may require same. The date of the semi-annual horse and cattle sale, which is a regular affair with the Cowley Union, has been set for Saturday, May 15.

### ENGLISH SPEAKING SETTLEMENT

We wish to make the following correction: In a recent issue reporting the organization of Yeoford Union, No. 693, the statement was made that the majority of the settlement being Scandinavian, Mr. Edblad, who had come over from Westeros for the purpose of organizing, was able to address them in their own language. The circumstances were exactly the contrary. The meeting was composed almost entirely of English, Scotch and Canadians, and as Mr. Edblad could speak very little English he was not able to do more than answer two or three questions which were asked him. We regret that in our previous report the facts of the case had got somewhat twisted round.

### CASH AND CROPS

Killarney Union, No. 449, has sent in \$25 to the Relief Fund, and has in addition over ten acres of crop promised for this fall. It is expected that this amount will be further increased in the near future.

### BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$2,318.90
Mrs. N. N. Hayes, Gleichen	46.50
Killarney Union, No. 449	25.00
Dalroy Union, No. 149	15.00
Partridge Hill Union, No. 583	3.50
Alex. Moore, Bottrel Union, No. 286	4.25
George Watt, Bottrel Union, No. 286	4.25

Total.....\$2,417.40

### U.F.A. PATRIOTIC FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$339.95
Beddington Union, No. 551	80.00
Riddellvale Union, No. 617	23.00
Cowley Union, No. 106	170.00
Warwickville Union, No. 614	6.00

Total.....\$618.95

### RED CROSS FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$317.05
Wilkinson Union, No. 636	8.00

Total.....\$325.05

### PATRIOTIC FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$143.45
Partridge Hill Union, No. 583	6.50

Total.....\$149.95