

mention a few of the subjects which have been taken up during the past year and the results which have been obtained. By this means it will be seen that the secretary is at the disposal of all, no matter what the subject might be. The cases mentioned are not given in the order they were received nor are they anything like the full number which have been taken up. They are jotted down at random simply to show what has been done.

A shipper of live stock forwarded a complaint as to the length of time he had been compelled to keep his cattle on the cars without feed and water and as to the quality of hay provided at feeding points. This was taken up with the railway commission with the result that an inspector is now at work thoroughly investigating this matter and there is every prospect that when the case is finally adjusted not only this shipper, but also all other shippers will be benefited.

Several enquiries have been received relating to the organization of Local Improvement Districts, how the taxes are collected, how the money is expended and the powers of a district generally. This information has been supplied in every instance.

Letters have been received from colleges, debating societies and others asking for information in regard to the association and for any information which would show what the organized farmers are doing in Canada, and the part taken in the work by the Alberta farmers. In some instances this information has been required as subject matter for debates, in others for articles dealing with various subjects and in a few instances for permanent record in magazines or books.

Elevator Case

At the request of one member his action against an elevator company was watched and a promise was received from his counsel that when the case was set for trial the U.F.A. should be notified so that a representative could be present. However, contrary to the promise made, no word was received and the case was concluded and the decision announced before any word came to hand. Repeated efforts have been made to ascertain the cause of this breach of faith but without avail.

Several enquiries have been received in regard to rural telephone lines, and the necessary information and petitions, together with the instructions required, have been forwarded.

Two loading platforms have been erected in answer to petitions sent in and another petition was forwarded asking that the capacity of an already existing platform should be doubled.

At the request of one member the matter of securing a private farm crossing over the railway running through his land was taken up with the railway company. The crossing was forthcoming in a very short time after the first letter was written.

The members of one local union were having trouble with regard to the gates supplied for farm crossings and the way in which they were swung. This was taken up and rectified.

Several enquiries have been received as to what constitutes a legal fence and how to organize pound districts. This information has been supplied.

Several petitions have been received with a request that they be forwarded to the proper authorities. These petitions included requests for new roads, deviations from already existing roads, changes in the boundaries of local Improvement Districts, petitions for bridges and ferries, petitions for telephones, and numerous other requests. These have all been forwarded to the proper authorities.

Helped Homesteaders

A few members have sent in requests for assistance in the matter of securing the patent for their homesteads and other trouble in connection with the filing on homesteads. This assistance has been given and two cases are still in abeyance at the present time as all the information required is not forthcoming.

Some members have had trouble with machine companies in regard to the payment of notes. As far as possible assistance has been given in this direction and at the present time an effort is being made to ascertain the reason why an extra charge is made when a note is renewed, as has been done in some instances.

Many enquiries have been received in regard to hail insurance. The information asked for was generally in regard to the system of insurance in vogue, where it could be secured and what it consisted of. This information was supplied. In

a few cases enquiries regarding this matter were received from the United States.

Early in the year correspondence was opened up with an English machine company in regard to flour milling machinery. As a result of this correspondence a large number of their circulars describing the machinery were distributed to parties interested, and it is believed that some of the mills have now been erected in the West. At the request of one Union correspondence was opened up with several firms and quotations received for platform scales and a set were eventually purchased.

Stock Killed

Several complaints in regard to stock being killed upon the railway track were received and this was possibly the most disappointing kind of work handled, for it seemed almost impossible to get results. No matter in what manner the claim was made the answer would be received from the claims agent that the stock killed were running at large contrary to the provisions of the Railway Act and therefore the company was not liable for any damages, in fact in some instances the agent would go further and write the applicant for damages a homily showing what a crime he had committed in allowing his stock to run at large and what a calamity would have occurred if a passenger train had been wrecked. No doubt he thought this would be a good plan of frightening off the applicant for damages. It seems almost impossible to do anything until this vexatious Act is amended and the clauses under which the railway companies can and do hide are eliminated.

It will be of interest, however, and possibly it is something that is not generally known, that according to a letter received from the railway commission during the time that one of these

an answer received that the superintendent of forestry had been instructed to make a thorough investigation at once with a view to bettering the prevailing conditions.

Assistance has been given to the live stock commissioner in regard to the establishment of regular stock shipping days on the lines between Calgary and Edmonton, and for the providing of better facilities for handling stock at places where the trains are often tied up for hours. It is hoped that some definite workable arrangement will be secured at an early date.

Direct Legislation

Several enquiries have been received asking for information relating to Direct Legislation and to Single Tax. This has been given as far as it is possible to do so in a letter and besides this in some instances extracts have been made from books and pamphlets on the subject and sent to the parties who made the enquiries.

An effort was made to open up an information bureau for the purpose of bringing buyer and seller together at no expense to either party. The number of responses were not very great, especially from those who have feed stuff for sale, but enough was done to establish the fact that the association can carry on a very useful work in this direction. Several cases have been reported where through the information furnished by the central office sales were made of either hay, oats or potatoes without the middlemen claiming his share of the selling price.

An effort was also made to establish a labor bureau, but owing to the crop shortage the demand was not very great and there were not many calls for assistance. Arrangements had been made, however, to fill the demand should occasion have



This Team has broken seventy-three acres of scrub land and sowed forty-eight acres up until Aug. 16. They are the property of H. H. Huggins, Shellbrook, Sask.

cases was being taken up, that no railway company have ever received permission to remove their cattle guards during the winter and that consequently when this is done it is an infraction of the law.

Correspondence has been carried on with one machine company in regard to faulty machinery supplied one member. This matter is still under consideration.

Information has been secured in regard to the formation of co-operative companies, co-operative stores, co-operative flour mills, and farmers' elevator companies, and forwarded to the parties enquiring about same.

The Lumber Graft

Information was secured which proved that the oft repeated statement of the lumber manufacturers that the Prairie Provinces were the dumping grounds for cheap American lumber was a falsehood as far as Alberta was concerned, for out of about forty enquiries addressed to different towns in Southern Alberta, all of which were answered, it was impossible to find any cheap American lumber on sale at any point. In fact some stated that they wished the lumber could be procured if it would be the means of reducing the present high prices of lumber they would like to get some American lumber, while one answer received from a man who is in the business stated that it would be impossible to get the lumber as the price was considerably higher across the line. This rather conclusively proves that on one statement at least the lumber merchants have not been sincere.

The matter of the preservation of timber and the prevention of forest fires on the headwaters of streams in the foothills and mountains was taken up with the department of the interior at the request of the parties interested, and

arisen for same, and just enough was done to demonstrate that this is another field which can be of immense advantage to the members.

Several members in one locality have suffered severely through a prairie fire started by a train. An effort is being made at the present time to secure an adjustment of the losses and a settlement, of some from the railway company.

Co-operative Petitions

In the matter of co-operative legislation it should be observed that the petitions which are now in the hands of many of the unions were prepared by THE GUIDE. The petitions are now being returned and in the majority of cases are well signed. It is expected that they will be forwarded to Ottawa, along with the petitions from the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, at an early date. It is hoped that when the petitions are all collected there will be enough signatures to them so that they will command immediate attention.

The spread of the co-operative idea has been responsible for many requests for information relating to co-operative systems in force in other countries, more especially in Denmark and Ireland. This information has, as far as possible, been procured and forwarded to those enquiring about same.

Many enquiries have been received for information relating to agriculture, from the growing and harvesting of flax and information relating to the conservation of moisture and about irrigation, to securing rules for holding plowing matches. Although it cannot be said that the secretary's office had the information on hand at the time the different enquiries were received, still it did not take long to secure bulletins and circulars and forward them to their correct destination.

At the present time negotiations are under way with a view to securing better post office facilities in some localities where the present arrangements are far from satisfactory.

Technical Education Commission

During the visit of the Royal Commission on technical education to Calgary your secretary received a request to appear before the commission and give evidence on this question from the standpoint of the organized farmers. In answer to the questions put at that time it was stated that as far as it was possible to judge the present system of education was far from satisfactory, that it tended to take the children away from the farm instead of instilling a greater love for the country in them, and that the tendency seemed to be to turn out a large number of teachers with a theoretical education rather than with sound and practical views which would be of material benefit to them at a later stage in life. The suggestion was made that those who desired a teacher's certificate should first be required to take a course in practical agriculture, that the study of agriculture should be added to the curriculum in the schools and that it should be taught from the primary right through to the higher grades. By this means it was suggested that the present tendency of looking down on farm life as the lowest rung in the ladder would be eliminated. A request has since been received from the commission that if this convention should express any views on the matter of technical education the commission would like to have a report of same.

During the year many invitations have been received from local unions that the general secretary should pay them a visit, but, unfortunately, the amount of work which has to be done was so great that a large number of these kind invitations could not be accepted. To all who were kind enough to invite me and for the cordial wishes and greetings contained therein I wish to convey my most sincere and heartfelt thanks. It is a pleasure indeed to feel that the little bit that is being done is meeting with approval and I can assure you that so long as you honor me with your confidence and entrust me with the correspondence of your work will my energies be devoted to furthering the interests of this splendid association. To those whose kind invitations it was not possible for me to accept permit me to state that if possible when the next invitation comes round, although it is said that opportunity never knocks a second time at the same door, if it is at all possible it will be accepted.

Meetings Attended

Meetings attended during the year have included one at Olds, where the delegates to the stock judging school at that point arranged for a meeting so that the aims of the U.F.A. could be explained to them, and others at Okotoks, Wetaskiwin and to the local union picnic east of Wetaskiwin. Besides this, the conference at Lethbridge held at the time of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's visit to that place was attended and an invitation was accepted to assist in the work of securing signatures to the pork packing plant agreement. Two weeks were put into this work among the local unions adjacent to the Castor branch of the C.P.R., and eighteen meetings were addressed. At every point visited the same splendid enthusiasm and confidence in the future of the U.F.A. was displayed by the members present.

Association Assists Members

It seems, after glancing over what has been written so far, that this might be taken as a rather peculiar report but it is given in all sincerity in an endeavor to show that the work of the association is increasing, and to bear out the statement which has been made public at many times—that the central office is at the disposal of the members at any time and for any legitimate object—is correct. It can confidently be stated that many members of the U.F.A. are finding the association of material assistance to them in fighting their fights and straightening out some of the tangles, as well as saving a few dollars occasionally by the purchase of needed commodities through the local unions. I wish to once more repeat the statement that so long as you see fit to honor me with your confidence my services are at the disposal of every member to assist them along the ways outlined in this report.

The Guide's Work

It is only fair that some mention should be made to the splendid work