Vice-Presidents

H. W. Woods 8. S. Dunham

# Alberta

P. P. Woodbridge, Secretary, Caigary, Alberta, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

#### W. D. Trego ec.-Treasurer-P. P. Woodbridge ... .. Calgary CIRCULAR No. 15

OFFICERS:

Presidenc -D. W. Warner .. ..

Official Call to the Convention To the Officers and Members of

Union No..... Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ladies and Gentlemen:—
Acting under instructions from the board of directors, I beg to advise you that the eighth annual convention of the U.F.A. will be held in the city of Calgary on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 18-19-20-21, 1916, commencing at 10 a.m. on the first day. Section 4 of the constitution reads as follows:—

"The Association shall be governed by the annual convention, to be held in the last half of January of each year, composed of delegates from each union not in arrears to the Association, elected in the ratio of one delegate for every ten and

major portion of ten paid up members."

By resolution of last year's convention the representation of all unions will be in proportion to the membership fees paid into the Central office during the current party land. year, i.e., between January I and December 31, 1915. Strict adherence to this resolution will be at the discretion of the convention, thru the credential committee, but to avoid unnecessary trouble and in-convenience to your delegates, all sec-retaries are asked to have full membership dues in at this office not later than December 31 next. Get your annual meetings together in December, square up your books and by so doing you will

enable us to do the same with ours.

Credential certificates are enclosed with this circular. Please see that your delegates are provided with these certificates. Additional certificates can be obtained from this office on request, and all delegates must have these certificates signed by the president and secretary of their union for identification. These certificates must be handed in with the railway certificate to the general secretary or his assistant and exchanged for the official delegates' badge.

Railway expenses will be pooled as usual. This means all delegates pay the same railway rate whether they come from far or near. The average rate in the past has been between \$5.00 and \$6.00 per delegate. This with an hotel allowance of \$2.50 per day for six days brings the expenses to about \$20.00 per head. Every union should have at least one representative whatever the expense might be. The special rates we are able to secure makes your failure to be represented inexcusable, especially under this year's crop conditions. Exercise your right to vote. Shoulder your responsi-bility and lend your aid in the control of

your own affairs. Don't stay at home and then get sore at the other fellow because he did not do all that you would have done yourself. Remember you are the people who make this Association what it is, whether good, bad or indifferent. If you want responsible government, pick your best men, instruct them and send them as your delegates. If you want the other thing, pick anyone who comes along, give them a delegate's certificate and then forget all about them, but don't kick if results are not to your liking.

### Instructions to Delegates

All delegates must purchase a single first class ticket from their nearest railway point to Calgary and secure at the same time a standard certificate from the station agent. If you get on at a flag station a conductor's receipt will do, but get a certificate whenever possible.

You may travel over two lines if you wish. That is to say, you may, for instance, cover part of the trip by C.P.R. and the balance by G.T.P. or C.N.R., but in such a case you must secure a standard certificate covering that portion of the trip on the C.P.R. and another certificate for that portion by G.T.P. or C.N.R.

These certificates must be secured not more than three days, not including Sunday, prior to the opening of the con-vention and are good for three days after the close of the convention. The certificates must be turned in to the office staff at the opening of the convention, and on being countersigned will enable the delegates to secure a free pass for the homeward journey (provided 100 delegates are in attendance).

The return journey must be made over the same route as the first.

#### **Payment of Delegates Expenses**

For the benefit of the new unions I am asked to say that the terms on which delegates are sent to our annual convention are optional with the union. As a rule no payment is made for time. Some unions pay railway and hotel expenses, some pay railway expenses only. I am afraid never pay anything at all. It is not a good plan to send a man simply because he can best afford it. A union should have at least one fully paid up delegate and if the treasury is low a very small effort in the way of a concert or box social will raise the necessary funds. This is only a suggestion, but please note the Central office has absolutely nothing to do with the appointment or payment of your delegate

# Special Notice to Women and Auxiliaries

All women delegates, whether from the regular unions or women's auxiliaries. will register with the men and will also share in the pooled rates with the men delegates. They must secure and use the special delegate's credential cards as supplied by this office. In a few words, they are delegates with the same standing and privileges as our men and therefore subject to the same rules and regulations.

# General

Remember all resolutions must be in not later than December 15 next and on the special forms already sent you, extra copies of which can be secured from this

The Central office is trying to make this the most attractive convention yet held. What we cannot do is to make it the biggest and the best. That is your end of the work. Remember Saskatchewan last year had 1,200 delegates and 400 visitors who made a noise that has been getting that Association results ever since. The powers that be say if you are not interested sufficiently to come to your annual convention you are either satisfied with present conditions or not really serious in your demand for betterment. Will you do your part and make our eighth annual convention the biggest and the best yet?

# Program

A program is being prepared and will be communicated to you. Watch the Alberta Section of The Grain Growers' Guide. To the ladies, I may say a special women's convention will be held with a separate program, but members of that separate program, but members of that

convention must be delegates to the general meeting and will enjoy the privileges of both.

Visitors

Visitors
If you are not a delegate you can attend as a visitor. Your railway instructions are the same as for delegates. You will not, however, share in the pool, but on surrendering your standard certificate it will be validated and returned to you securing a pass home again free of charge. Visitors, of course, will not be allowed to vote and need no credential card.

Trusting we may have a rousing convention.

Yours fraternally, P. P. WOODBRIDGE, ea Provincial Secretary.

ORGANIZATION No. 4
"Better living" suggests a lot of good work for our unions. We may divide work for our unions. We may divide this theme under three heads—better education, better homes, better social life. To promote better schooling, to improve the homes, to work out a pleas-anter, happier, kindlier social life, surely all this provides interesting and useful work for the best men and women in any community. Any union that can raise the life in its community in these three directions is surely doing splendid work. We have done a little in the social line and thru the year hundreds of picnics and social meetings in connection with the U.F.A. have increased the joy of living and helped to brighten the somewhat monotonous farm life. But we have hardly touched the other lines of

The most important doubtless is education. What more interesting topic can you find to discuss at a union meeting than the better education of our children on the farm? Do you consider the education in the rural schools satisfactory? If not, why not? And how can it be made better? Isn't it rather strange to find, when you read thru the school ordinance, that it hardly deals with education at all? The school ordinance deals almost entirely with the organizing, carrying on and financing the schools, but the really vital questions of education, what and how the children are taught, are excluded from legislation and in that sense from public control; they are handled autocratically in the department. It might be an improvement to make the curriculum of teacher training and school lessons part of the school ordinance open to the fresh breezes of public thought. You are interested in the education of your children; I know no place in the rural districts where this question could better discussed than in a U.F.A meeting. It is my impression that all our education is modelled too monoton-ously on the basis of city life; altho in these last years there is a visible improvement in the interest shown in rural education and the department of education is doing some good work in this direction, for example, in the summer schools where teachers are being trained to teach agri-cultural subjects. The chief factor in any educational progress must be the personality and equipment of the teachers. But I think the department and the farming community have a right to look to the

country schools. Consolidation of country schools is one of the greatest educational reforms that the U.F.A. can concentrate on. So far as I remember the U.F.A. convention a number of years ago was the first public body in Alberta to call for this consolidation and for years our conventions in-sisted on it. It is a very difficult matter to carry out, but the school ordinance now makes provision for it; nine consolidated school districts are now existence and others are in process of formation. If any union wants to discuss this question thoroughly, I think the department of education would be willing to send information and, so far as possible, speakers to help in the discussion.

U.F.A. for help in building up better

Better Homes I hardly dare try to open up the many lines of improvement that our unions could work at to make the farm homes The first and chief more comfortable. thing that generally strikes me about

DISTRICT DIRECTORS: Victoria-P. S. Austin .. .. .. Ranfurly ..... Namac Strathcona-H G. Vickery .. .. .. Macleod-G. W. Buchanan .. .. .. Calgary—J. A. Bishop . . . . . . Bed Red Deer—D. Buckingham . . . . . . Beddington Medicine Hat-E. E. Sparks .. .. .. Jenner

the farm home is the overwork of our women, the heavy, never ending, monotonous drudgery of house work. It would ous drudgery of house work. It would be an eye opener to many a thoughtless man, who really cares for his wife, to have her sick for a week, not seriously you know, but just enough to give her a rest and him a lesson, so that he would have to do the cooking and the dish washing and floor scrubbing and all the rest. Many a day it has made my back ache worse than a day's hoeing. Now that our women are members, with equal power, I hope these things will be stirred up in our unions. Why could there not be many labor saving devices? I have even heard co-operative laundries and bakeries mentioned. Save labor wheever mentioned. Save labor wherever possible so that we may have more time to And make the home and its surroundings nice, interesting, beautiful.

The home should be the most attractive place in the world to the most attractive place in the world to the children as they grow up; with books (what is the use of teaching them in the school to read if when they can read they find nothing in their home to read?), with pictures, with music, the telephone, with flower gardens and fruit bushes in the summer. I saw one of our farmers the other day preparing a small tennis lawn, made in such a way that he could turn it into a skating rink in winter, so that the young folks could have fun at home. And he wasn't a wealthy farmer either. Better homes! What a grand lot of work there is here for a live union to do. The Central office will be about the below the same and the same will be glad to help every union in this

Better social and community life is the last topic under the head of "Better living." That includes diminishing the sorrows as well as increasing the joys of life. No poor, sick, sorrowing man or woman or child within reach of a U.F.A. union should be without sympathy and help. I heard a great text the other Sunday that fastened itself on my mind as a great U.F.A. motto: "Woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for there is no one to help him up." The U.F.A. ideal that thru the length and breadth of Alberta no farmer shall be alone when he is down; there shall everywhere be some United Farmers to help him up.

And what a lot the unions could do to enrich life. Could we not have libraries everywhere, either our own, or from Edmonton from the university extension department, or by arranging to use the rural school libraries? There are many musical people among the farmers; could we not promote singing clubs and small orchestras? But if you once set your mind working you can easily think out ways of your own for improving the social

ife in your community.

And so, basing on the thought that the U.F.A. Union should be the great life centre of a farming community, I have opened out work for all kinds of men and women on the forms. Some will be reset women on the farms. Some will be most interested in promoting better farming, some will be business organizers, seeking to save and make more money. And as we get easier in our pecuniary position we shall take more interest in better education, more comfortable homes and a more satisfying social life. And there a more satisfying social life. And there are several big lines of work that I have not mentioned. Some may object that I am making too much of the U.F.A., that I am almost making a church of it. Well, I am almost making a church of it. Well, why not? Is there any branch of the work that I have sketched out unreasonable or unpractical work? Is there any part of the work that we could not do better as United Farmers than as isolated farmers? And even in the direction of the church I can see that the U.F.A. might help to bring about better things. we satisfied with the work of our churches in the country life? In one way at any rate the churches are doing harm rather than good. We are split up into sects; the one thing that should bind human society together more than anything else can do is separating us into little cliques and factions, often unsympathetic, someand factions, often unsympathetic, sometimes hostile. I am hoping that the
U.F.A., gradually drawing us nearer
together, creating a better community
spirit, will melt away all these divisions
in the growing warmth of brotherly love.

LAMES SPEAKMAN

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