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UNIONS SUSPENDED

Section 16 (a) of the constitution reads as follows: "A union six months in arrears for dues to the Central Office shall stand suspended without action of that office, and the name of the union published in the official organ of the Association. Such union may be re-instated on receipt of the proper dues, together with a satisfactory statement, properly signed by the president and secretary of such union."

Under the above section the following extensive list of unions from which no dues have been received this year is suspended:

No. 4, Vegreville; No. 5, Beaumont; No. 19, Nerbo; No. 30, Wavy Lake; No. 42, Prairie Park; No. 44, Spruce Grove; No. 50, Melville; No. 52, Milton; No. 70, Jumbo Valley; No. 81, Argyle; No. 84, Great Bend; No. 90, Clover Bar; No. 107, Pincher Creek; No. 115, Stavelly; No. 125, Mountain Peak; No. 139, Sunny Dale; No. 156, Eckville; No. 172, Iron Springs; No. 174, Tan-y-Bryn; No. 176, Twin Butte; No. 193, Pincher; No. 203, Wolf Hill; No. 219, Aldersyde; No. 220, Forestville; No. 226, Vulcan; No. 237, Leduc; No. 244, Rolling Green; No. 256, Brooksley; No. 268, Altorado; No. 285, Beaver Creek; No. 286, Bottrel; No. 288, Sunny Glen; No. 289, Strangmuir; No. 308, Coronation; No. 309, Blackie; No. 313, Buckeye; No. 316, Berry Creek; No. 317, Rosyth; No. 324, Sedalia; No. 325, Richdale; No. 328, Keoma; No. 329, Trout Creek; No. 335, Mellowdale; No. 338, Whitla; No. 340, Peerless; No. 349, Seven Persons; No. 351, Kneehill Valley; No. 362, Coaldale; No. 367, Sun Prairie; No. 371, Lake Thelma; No. 380, Exeel; No. 384, Perbeck; No. 385, Fraserton; No. 395, Midway; No. 400, Rumsey; No. 401, Haydon; No. 408, Clearwater; No. 409, Brownfield; No. 411, Deer Creek; No. 412, Champion; No. 418, Viking; No. 421, Lakeside; No. 425, Hope Valley; No. 432, Greenshields; No. 436, Kitscoty; No. 437, Kippen; No. 442, Great West; No. 445, Prominent Heights; No. 448, Munson; No. 455, Ellsworth; No. 458, Weybridge; No. 464, Woodbend; No. 467, Avalon; No. 469, Rores; No. 474, Solon; No. 475, Kitchener; No. 476, Phoenix; No. 478, Pakowki; No. 483, Drumheller; No. 491, Many Berries; No. 493, Ferry Point; No. 496, King Lake; No. 498, Neapolis; No. 501, Isle Lake; No. 504, Maple Leaf; No. 505, Sibbald; No. 506, Golden Chief; No. 509, Swallow; No. 516, Ranching; No. 517, Roselynn; No. 521, Winton; No. 524, Metiskow; No. 527, Corners; No. 532, Prairie Round; No. 534, Buffalo Bird; No. 535, Minburn; No. 539, Mayerthorpe; No. 548, Lakesend; No. 555, Little Red Deer; No. 556, Manfred; No. 558, Albion Ridge; No. 560, West Hope.

Even as it is the list is so large that I have hesitated to publish same until this week. Had the list been published in July as should have been done and if the attention of the unions had not been called to the matter two or three times in official circulars, we would have had to run the list in two issues. The extraordinary feature is that by far the greater majority of the above unions are in constant correspondence with the Central Office and may, therefore, be assumed to be alive. Several of them indeed have representatives on our board of directors and still more are always prominent when nominations are in order.

We have never tried to analyze the reason why the Central Office is always handicapped and sometimes positively crippled thru lack of funds and particularly at the beginning of the winter season when most of our work has to be done. The publishing of this list will go a long way towards showing why. It is evident that during the first nine or ten months of the year the only thing that enables us to meet expenses as we go along is the big increase in the number of unions, in other words, the new unions supply the bulk of the funds, while the old unions who have had an opportunity to study our constitution and know its contents and therefore should be the example and mainstay of the Association, fall down very badly.

The constitution calls for dues to be sent in every three months, whether the amount due is great or small. So far as

the Central Office is concerned, we would be satisfied if we could get them every six months. It seems too bad that year after year we should be handicapped as we have been in the past because we cannot get dues at the very season of the year when we need them most and when they would do most good.

PLANNING BIG THINGS

H. O. Klinck, secretary of the River Bend Union, No. 388, writes for information re purchasing a carload of hay, also potatoes. The union has just ordered a carload of flour and feed and expects to order another in a week or two's time. Mr. Klinck further remarks: "After a rather dull summer, our union shows signs of activity again. We are planning for big and beneficial times this winter. All who are benefitting thru co-operative buying thru the United Farmers of Alberta are members, otherwise they are penalized."

ADEN DOING WELL

O. B. Wickersham, of Aden, sends in a very encouraging letter. This union is purchasing a carload of potatoes and the secretary remarks: "Our union is going on very well, altho it seems hard to get many farmers interested enough to attend the meetings. We have fifty on the books, but only twenty-nine paid up this year, so far."

ARE IN DRY BELT

The above two unions are situated in the dry district and probably neither has any crop this year. It is encouraging to note that both unions are making use of their organization more than ever in these hard times, as is only proper. We hope that their example will not be in vain and that other districts who appear to think that their unions are only useful when times are good will take heart and do likewise.

CIRCULAR CONSIDERED

Thomas Partridge, secretary of Stonelaw Union, No. 655, reports another excellent meeting where a number of new members were signed on, including seven ladies. Orders were taken at this meeting for two carloads of coal, also some apples and onions. In the business session the resolutions submitted in the recent circular were considered and a vote taken on each. The union expressed itself in favor of government assistance in the destruction of gophers and a number of other matters including free trade and direct taxation, but went on record as opposed to the Asker resolution calling for the extension of the municipal hail insurance scheme to local improvement districts.

BIG NEW UNION

Beddington Local Union, No. 551, was organized last fall and has made excellent progress. As far back as last March last the secretary reported fifty-two paid up members. Later reports would tend to show that the union is still going ahead satisfactorily.

STEADY PROGRESS

Raven Union, No. 554, was organized November 27, 1913, and has made steady progress. The index card shows eleven members paid up last December and twenty-three full members and five additional on the family ticket for this year. It is more than likely that this number has been added to since the last report was received. The union is situated about twenty-five miles west of Innisfail and is handicapped in many ways, but this does not appear to interfere with their enthusiasm.

ARE PICNICS PROFITABLE?

Reporting on the above union reminds me of a very pleasing letter which has recently come to hand. I have heard the doubt expressed a number of times as to whether picnics are any use to the U. F. A. in the way of getting results. The letter has just come to hand from S. W. Milbank, of Dovercourt P.O., the first paragraph of which reads as follows: "One of our settlers happened along at the Raven picnic in July last and was very much impressed with your address

Alberta

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by P. P. Woodbridge, Secretary, Calgary, Alberta, to whom all communications for this page should be sent

He also obtained a copy of the constitution and by-laws, which same I have read and am now writing to ask you if you will kindly send me more detailed information as to the ways and means by which a local union of the U. F. A. would benefit us."

Mr. Milbank goes on to explain that their settlement is known as Prairie Creek and is about forty miles north-west of Raven P.O., or seventy miles in a direct line from the nearest railway station at Innisfail. Those of our unions who are only a paltry thirty or forty miles from a railway have yet something to congratulate themselves about as compared to others. This settlement is about twenty miles south-west of Rocky Mountain House, but there is no regular trail to that point yet. The district is trying to organize a rural municipality but there are many difficulties in their way. The settlement must be of considerable extent as when a petition was recently circulated for a post office, the names of more than fifty land owners and homesteaders were secured and there were a number who were not in the district at the time.

Referring back to the picnic idea, I have noticed when out on organization work that little or no effort is made to increase membership at the time, which might well be done, but being in close touch with things thru this office, I have also noticed that very often months and months afterwards a letter will come to hand with the report of a new union, and on tracing back the cause of the organization it will be found that it started thru some stranger hearing a few remarks made by a U. F. A. organizer at some big picnic or other the summer before.

NEWS WANTED

A union was organized last December in the Big Prairie country, but does not appear to have made any progress at all, nothing having been heard of it this year. H. Willoughby Greenhill was secretary.

Manfred Union, No. 556, was organized on November 22, 1913, and in December forwarded membership dues for twenty-eight members, which looked like a first class start. We heard from the secretary, O. T. Smiley, in March last, but do not seem to have heard anything since, nor have any dues come to hand.

A RESPECTABLE MEMBERSHIP

One of our most painstaking secretaries is L. A. Fetz, of Highland. Mr. Fetz is always very particular to keep his union right up to date in the matter of membership dues. The union was organized on December 17 last, reporting in January this year. In the first three months of the year the membership was built up to the respectable total of sixty-two fully paid up members. The union is evidently in the habit of purchasing supplies in considerable quantities, but details in regard to same are not to hand.

OFF THE ACTIVE LIST

Another union organized last December by Mr. Quinsey was Albion Ridge, No. 558, with W. C. Davies as secretary. Apparently organization was never completed at this point as membership dues for only eight members were sent in last December and nothing further has been heard.

A union was organized last fall at Jarvis Place schoolhouse, but afterwards amalgamated with Manfred, No. 556. At the time J. D. Murdock, secretary of the union, expressed fear that party politics were likely to break up the organization in that district. We wonder if this has anything to do with the fact that neither union is now on the active list.

Another union organized by Mr. Quinsey was Diamond City, No. 559, who reported in January last and dues for seventeen members were afterwards paid in. No correspondence, however, has taken place with this office since and we presume that this is another union which will have to be looked up at an early date.

W. L. Simmons, of Jackville, reported the organization of West Hope Union, No. 560, on December 29 last, forwarding

District Directors:

Victoria—P. S. Austin, Ranfurly; Edmonton—F. C. Clare, North Edmonton; Strathcona—W. G. Vicary, Strome; Red Deer—D. Buckingham, Stettler; Calgary—H. W. Wood, Strathmore; Macleod—J. Quinsey, Noble; Medicine Hat—W. D. Trego, Gleichen.

dues for eleven members. The union was organized in the previous February, but as was not expected, under the circumstances, we have heard nothing further of this union either.

GOLDEN VALLEY UNION

Owing to the old Buffalo Bird Union having been disorganized, a few of the members thought it advisable to organize a new union in that district and on September 26 a meeting was held at which a union to be known as Golden Valley Union, No. 662, was formed with twenty paid up members. J. H. Smith was appointed secretary-treasurer and reports that they intend to do all they can in the way of co-operative purchasing, orders enough for one carload of coal having already been taken, and they expect to order several more in the near future as the union grows. Owing to the fact that crops in the district are poor this year the members are unable to build a hall of their own, but the Norwegian community have very kindly given them the use of their hall for the present, where they will hold meetings until such time as they can afford to build. The next meeting will be held on October 10 and every alternate Saturday for the winter months. It is the intention of the members to enter into an active campaign for new members and make this one of the best unions in the province.

GARDEN PRAIRIE UNION

Garden Prairie Union, No. 552, reported in November last year and has been growing steadily if slowly, with twelve members joining last year before our books closed. Eighteen have been added since. We do not know very much as to what this union is doing, but know that they were interested in the establishment of a local unit of the Co-operative Elevator Company and that when last heard of they were contemplating purchasing binder twine in bulk.

EYE HILL GROWING

Eye Hill Union, No. 553, organized in November last year. A report of this union was published in The Guide in July last. While the membership is not much, consisting of fifteen members joining last year and seventeen added this year, as part of the Provost District Association we understand they are doing good work.

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