



ALBERTA SECTION

Editor of the Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by Edward J. Fream, Secretary, Innisfail, Alta.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

From reliable sources it is ascertained that the price offered by the buyers for the choicest of Alberta beef at the present time is $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb., live weight, with a deduction of 5 per cent. for shrinkage. This price will net the consumer the sum of \$32.25 for a 1,400 pound steer, and assuming that the dressed weight of the steer is 55 per cent. of the live, making 770 pounds of beef, the price to the dealer is a little under \$4.20 per cwt. The average freight from Alberta to British Columbia is stated to be 54 cents for beef animals, so that it can safely be said that the dealer is able at the present time to land the Alberta steer in the Vancouver market for about 5 cents per pound. Yet the consumer in Vancouver has to pay as high as 25 cents per pound for his beef. Is there any wonder that the demand for government ownership in the meat business is growing more persistent from day to day? Another curious thing, and one which deserves ventilating is, that dressed fresh meats are now being consigned from Montreal to Vancouver over the C. P. R. in their special meat service refrigerator cars.

Returning from Vancouver a few days ago, the train the writer was travelling on was delayed for some time in the mountains by a rock slide. On the journey being pursued, after the line had been cleared, the next long stop was made at a siding called Hedgrave. On this side-track the balance of the freight train which had not met with injury in the slide was standing and noticing some refrigerator cars on the train, an investigation was made. To the big surprise of our party it was found that the car examined was billed from Montreal to Vancouver, and that it had been loaded on August 14th. The accident happened on August 22nd, so a fairly fast trip was being made with this consignment. The question naturally arose as to what the freight rate could be on supplies of this kind from Montreal to Vancouver and why it was necessary to have fresh meat shipped from that long distance, when the natural supply market for Vancouver was so much closer.

These are the facts. What do you think of it and what are you going to do about it?

UP AGAINST THE COMBINE

The members of the Loma Union would like to get the name of a firm or dealer who would be willing to sell lumber by the carload direct to the consumer. Some time ago one of our members tried to buy a carload of lumber from a firm in British Columbia and they referred him to a Calgary firm and this firm again referred him to a high River dealer, bringing the matter once more close to home. By this it will be seen that one B. C. firm at least will not do anything with an individual person, or order, although the order was for a carload lot. If anyone can give the name of an individual firm we shall be greatly obliged.

W. H. OLLIFFE, Sec.

Arrowood.

One more case of bucking up against the same old combine, and the demand for cheaper lumber. How this demand will be met it is hard to say, the lumbermen seem to think that the right way is by putting a larger duty on lumber coming from the United States. To me it seems as though this is only an excuse as I have been informed that the average price of lumber is as high, if not higher, across the line than it is here. One thing is known, that is the lumbermen of the States are doing all they possibly can to get hold of the Canadian logs, so the chances are the duty would not cut much figure, as all are in the same boat and are determined to hold out for the highest possible price that can be secured. Possibly when everything is figured out the lumbermen do not care much for this sort of thing as the old patient consumer has to pay every time. Wonder what kind of a case could be worked up under Mackenzie King's anti-combine law? There is no doubt the present high prices are

hindering development on the prairies and something must be done in the matter.

A short time ago some B. C. lumber firms advertised as independent firms and asked for orders in carload quantities from the consumers. The advertisements have not been running lately, but one member of the U. F. A. wrote for quotations and received them. The answers showed that the firms were not quite independent of the combine, for although the quotations showed that a saving of nine dollars per thousand could be made there was a little sting in the quotations which reduced the saving to nothing. This was a clause to the effect that in no circumstance could lumber be shipped to towns in which there were regular lumber dealers. Another firm wrote that they only supplied the consumers at points where there are no regular retailers or where mill owners operate retail yards. What is the good of quotations of this kind? The retailers are all over the country and in fact some of them are so determined to have everything that is going that they have opened up yards many miles away from the railway. There is nothing left for the poor consumer unless the combine can be smashed. They are firmly entrenched and are reaping big pockets from the profits of the consumer. Their stories are generally pretty well told too, for the mill owner on being questioned says that he is not making a living out of the business; everything goes in wages, freight rates, etc. The retailer says he can hardly make ends meet as the lumberman is taking too big a slice out of the gingerbread. The farmer knows he has to pay everyone and kicks, while the railway company says nothing but takes everything that comes along. Something is radically wrong and an adjustment must be found somewhere and at some time. Can Mackenzie King do it?

E. J. F.

RESTRICT THE SUITS

The members of Millet Union believe that nothing is gained by taking cases before the privy council for argument, and when discussing the killing of cattle on railway tracks at the last meeting passed the following resolutions: "Whereas, the province of Alberta is suing the C. P. R. for the sum of twenty-six million dollars, due on taxes, such suit now pending before the privy council of Great Britain, in view of past decisions of like nature will be reversed in favor of the C. P. R.; We, the members of the Millet Branch of the U. F. A., believe and will hereby urge upon our provincial government that it is not judicial but political argument that is needed and that henceforth no case of purely Canadian import should ever be carried beyond the Supreme Court of Canada."

ROBERT C. YOUNG, Sec.

Millet.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT SUGGESTED

The last regular meeting of Cowley Union drew a large number of members to Cowley in spite of the busy season. The union had an interesting discussion on the subjects of district conventions, farmers' candidates, meeting Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the Lighthart railway case. Fishburn Union, having taken up the first two subjects, had written asking our views and while the district convention idea met with general approval and was specially referred to our general purpose committee to arrange with the other unions for, the second subject was turned down, it being agreed that such action was not to the best interests of the U. F. A., and that we should not meddle with politics further than pledging any candidates who may run, to support the demands of the U. F. A. The standing committee was also instructed to arrange about the delegates from this union to the deputation which will meet Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. Lighthart was asked if he had any further information or correspondence

about his railway case. He told the meeting he had placed the matter in legal hands for advice and that he had not heard from his lawyers yet. While this statement brought no new information to light it resulted in the following motion being adopted: "That this union is of the opinion that the U. F. A. should raise a fund by special assessment of all the members for the purpose of retaining a legal adviser and for fighting cases which appeared to be of general importance to the farming community. It was pointed out that as long as we confine ourselves to resolutions and protests little notice will be given of our grievances, that no individual farmer can afford to fight corporations in the courts and the mere fact of our having such a backing ready to use if necessary will at all times compel at least respectful treatment of our appeal.

Complaint was made about the state of several fields and localities here. Weeds are growing unchecked in these spots and inquiries were made about the weed inspector. The secretary was instructed to write the department of agriculture and enquire if anyone had been appointed and also to state that his presence was needed. The members report fair crops of wheat, but hay and oats will be short.

J. KEMMIS, Sec.

Cowley.

UNIONS PRESENT CASE

During the two full hours allotted for the purpose at Edmonton, from 12 till two o'clock, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the recipient of addresses, petitions, and requests from numerous deputations at the Board of Trade rooms in the King Edward Hotel.

The first deputation to meet Sir Wilfrid was from the farmers of Edmonton, Clover Bar and Strathcona districts. They were introduced by F. H. Herbert, of Strathcona, and presented their requests in a most business-like manner, which was very favorably commented on by all present.

F. C. Clare, of the Edmonton Local Union, A. F. A., forwarded resolutions dealing with the encouragement of the chilled meat industry, and the grievances arising from the mixing of grain at lake elevators. Rice Sheppard, Strathcona, presented a memo of arguments in favor of the government control of terminal elevators in order to remedy existing conditions. J. E. Jackson, of Clover Bar, presented a petition asking for stricter laws governing the liability of the railways for cattle killed on the tracks and for better cattle guards.

Joshua Fletcher, Strathcona, expressed the views of the deputation on the tariff and endorsed the views expressed by the Grain Growers' Association at Brandon. He asked for duty-free farm implements.

The Premier's Reply

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply, thanked the farmers for the businesslike manner in which they had presented their views, and made the same answers to the requests as at other points.

A delegation from the Retail Merchants of Edmonton with H. Y. Burnett as spokesman, presented a protest to legislation for the co-operative companies which he said had been a failure in Eastern Canada. Sir Wilfrid, in reply, said that there was co-operation and co-operation was of enormous benefit. All depended on the conditions. To a general law of which all could take advantage with favor to none, there could be no objection.

CROPS ARE GOOD

In sending in the second report of Ethelwyn Union I have to report a membership of twenty-five fully paid up, and every prospect of the number being considerably increased at an early date. We will have a good strong union in this district. Crops are being harvested now and there will be a good yield considering the year we have had.

H. A. L. MACDONALD, Sec.
Ethelwyn.

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

PRESIDENT:

JAMES BOWER - - - RED DEER

VICE-PRESIDENT:

W. J. TREGILLUS - - - CALGARY

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

E. J. FREAM - - - INNISFAIR

DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

James Speakman, Penhold; D. W. Warner, Clover Bar; L. H. Jeliff, Spring Coulee.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

T. H. Balaam, Vegreville; George Long, Nampa; F. H. Langston, Rosenroll; E. Carswell, Penhold; J. Quinsey, Noble; E. Griesbach, Gleichen; A. Von Mieleicki, Calgary.

FORMING CEMETERY COMPANY

Dewberry Union is trying to secure from the Dominion government a grant of land for cemetery purposes, as there is no burial place nearer than about thirty-five miles from where we propose having it. We have been advised by the department that the grant will be made subject to certain conditions, one of which is that we must furnish evidence of incorporation under the provincial statute. We do not quite understand what will be required or what the cost will be, so we have applied for assistance in the matter.

W. H. ANDERSON, Sec.

Dewberry.

(I understand that what will be required is a certificate of incorporation under the ordinance respecting cemeteries, and have sent the members a copy of same for their guidance. E. J. F.)

TOFIELD GETS CONTRACTS

Tofield Union is keeping up the good work in securing contracts to the proposed co-operative pork packing plant, and has just forwarded a second supply aggregating a further guarantee of 295 hogs per annum. This makes over 500 hogs that Tofield members have promised. If all the unions would do the same thing how long would it be before we secured the plant and had it in proper working order?

JAMES FLETCHER, Sec.

Kingman.

HOLDEN GETTING BUSY

The members of the Holden Union send greetings, and at a meeting of the Union held on August 6th it was decided to ask the general secretary to pay us a visit sometime during September, and give us a talk on the work of the association. The railroad question as described in Circular No. 7 was adopted, and the tariff question was thoroughly discussed and we are not in favor of the duty on any articles as we believe it only helps the rich.

G. F. STORY, Sec.

Holden.

SENDING A DELEGATE

At a special meeting of Robert Kerr Union held recently it was decided to send Mr. John Hewcott, our local president, as a delegate to meet Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Lethbridge on August 31. Our membership is now sixteen but there are several yet who seem to be satisfied with their present conditions and have not joined the ranks of the U. F. A. The pork packing plant has also been up for discussion but it was laid over until we got more of our members together.

D. JAMES, Sec.

Pincher Creek.

MORE RAILWAY TROUBLES

The following resolution was adopted at a meeting of Stettler Union, held on August 6th last. "Whereas, the crops along the C. N. R. lines running north and south of Stettler are exposed to damage by live stock, it has been resolved by the Stettler Union to urge the said railway company to erect fences, cattle guards and provide fire guards along their line as the provisions of the Statute of Alberta calls for. Such work to be done at once, as many farmers are already suffering considerable loss in consequence of the failure of the railway company to comply with the Act."

H. A. STEELE, Sec.

Stettler.

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