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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

District Directors:

Victoria—P. S. Austin, Ranfurly; Ed-
 monton—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.

SUPPLEMENT TO CIRCULAR NO. 7 Re Feed and Livestock Situation

We regret that we are not in a position to deal with any further applications from parties having hay to sell, or desiring stock for wintering purposes. The response to our last circular has been overwhelming, and in two or three weeks we have received offers of nearly 20,000 tons of hay and requests for something like 15,000 head of cattle. On account of the heavy rains, conditions have improved considerably thruout the South and it is not likely that we will be able to handle the number of applications already on hand without the addition of any further offers. We would, however, be very glad to hear from parties wishing to purchase hay, or from anyone having cattle to sell or place out on shares for the winter.

Women's Auxiliaries

We have received a supply of the "History, Constitution and Platform of the Saskatchewan Women Grain Growers' Association," together with a few general suggestions in regard to the women's end of the work. We would be glad to distribute these pamphlets in quarters where they will be most appreciated and made good use of. The pamphlet is a very useful little booklet and we hope that ladies interested in the formation of a women's provincial organization in Alberta will avail themselves of this opportunity and send for this pamphlet, study it and thus be in a position to discuss intelligently the formation of a constitution, etc., for a similar organization in Alberta which we hope will be organized at the annual convention of the U. F. A. next January. The supply of these pamphlets is limited and only one copy can be supplied to each applicant.

Co-operative Purchasing by Unions

We have been approached recently by a number of firms anxious to do business with the U. F. A., who have submitted to us what we believe to be very favorable quotations on lumber, coal oil, axle greases and paints, etc., also fence posts and corral poles of all kinds. The prices of these articles can be secured on application to this office by any union in good standing thru the recognized secretary of such union.

In the matter of supplying poles to our unions, we have in mind a cheap and effective form of shelter for stock of all kinds, which can be made very cheaply and effectively with the help of a little straw. A shed 18 ft. by 30 ft., with 10 ft. walls, enclosed on one side and two ends and the poles about 20 inches apart, which should be sufficient to catch the straw, can be built at a cost of around \$15 or less at the price we have been able to secure for the material. Such a shed would require from 50 to 60 poles, 20 ft. long, and at a rough estimate I would say that a carload of such posts would contain from 500 to 600 poles, so that a union desiring to avail themselves of this cheap form of shelter would need to get together orders for the construction of at least ten of these shelters. Many of our members will, of course, have their own ideas as to the shelter which they desire to build, but the above rough outline is given simply as a basis on which to work out your calculations. A shelter for stock is only too often conspicuous by its total absence, which is not only a hardship on the animals themselves, but in the end inflicts considerable extra cost of feed on the owner of such stock. We hope that with the means of building a cheap and effective shelter as outlined above, our unions will take advantage of same.

A UNION GONE WRONG

We are in receipt of the following inquiry from a farmer in the Southern portion of the province: "How is it that Avalon Local, of which I am a member, does not have any monthly, annual or any other kind of meeting in fact it has had no meeting but the first or organization meeting?"

Here is another union gone wrong. The union was organized in the early spring of 1913. Apparently from the

return sent in to us, not less than nineteen farmers paid one dollar to the secretary of the union, went home and from that day to this have bothered themselves no further about the matter. This has happened in a district where it is said that a number of the settlers have had to pull out of the country thru crop failure, and a proportion of those who remained are dependent on the Dominion Government for their food supply this winter. Unfortunately the above instance is only too common. The question which naturally arises in one's mind is how can the farmer expect to improve his position while he continues to be so careless and indifferent in matters of this kind. How long will it take our farmer to realize that he has just as much need of being businesslike in his methods as the dry goods or some other merchant? How long will it take him to realize that when he pays the sum of \$1.00 to the person appointed to fill the position of secretary at an organization meeting, that he is purchasing one dollar's worth of interest in the organization known as the U. F. A., that 50 cents of that dollar is supposed to come to the Central Office for which the Central Office is required to give value, and that the balance of the dollar remains in the hands of the local secretary, who also should be required to give value or at least a correct accounting for that money? The effect which such carelessness or indifference has on the organization itself is bad enough, but there is an even more serious side of the question, as to what becomes of the funds in the treasury of the local unions whose period of existence is limited in duration.

It is small wonder when so many of our unions and members show such an absolute indifference to ordinary business rules that the banks and other financial institutions are so slow to provide easier means for the borrowing of money, and are also often harsh in their methods of collecting. Our members in joining the U. F. A. should bear in mind that they have elected officers to do certain work for them, and that the officers are responsible to the members for their conduct in all matters affecting the union. If the officers who should call the meeting refuse to do so, then the members have full power under the constitution to call the meeting themselves and having got the meeting together they can very quickly make short work of the old officers and elect a new set who have the interests of their fellow farmers more closely at heart.

PONOKA DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

I recently received information from E. J. Bullock in regard to the Ponoka District Association. In view of the large territory this district association covers and the extent of its work, the details will prove very interesting. The district was organized in April of this year. There were present twenty-four delegates from nine different unions. F. S. James was elected President of the organization, L. Fleming, Vice-President, and E. J. Bullock, Secretary-Treasurer. The board of the district Association consists of the secretary of each local, with the above three officers. Each local in the district Association is required to hold its regular meeting on the first week of each month, and the board of the district Association is called together whenever it is considered necessary by the president. The secretary is required to furnish bonds for \$1000 in a reliable bonding company. The association sells hogs and charges a fixed price per load on all shipments. In purchasing carload lots a commission of 2 per cent. is added to the cost of the article. This commission is collected by the secretary as the goods are taken from the car. Since organized in April, up to and including August 31, the district Association has shipped over 3000 head of hogs alone at prices ranging from 15 cents to 50 cents per hundred above local prices. They have purchased one carload of wire fencing, one car of flour, two cars of binder twine, four cars of lumber, and orders have been secured and placed for still another car. The officers, largely thru the instrumentality of Mr. Bullock, have

organized no less than ten new unions in the Ponoka district since the first of the year, and districts thirty miles from Ponoka have recently sent in applications for information as to how to organize so that they may associate themselves with the work of this organization.

This is the district Association referred to a week or two back from which we had not received any regular report as to its activities. While we knew that considerable work was being done in the district, we did not appreciate the extent of the organization. Now that we have received a report of the work in that district, we hope that they will continue to come in from month to month. The Central Office feels no less proud of the Ponoka district Association than do the members of that organization themselves. The district can claim full credit for all the work that has been done to date, but we hope nevertheless that they will remain in touch with the Central Office so that if the time should arise when we can be of assistance, we will be in touch with their work and will know how to act.

Now that the Ponoka district has sent in a report and set the example, perhaps some of our other district organizations who have been so active this summer will follow suit. We shall be glad to hear from them, for we look upon the district organizations as being just as much a part of the U. F. A. as the local union, and we want to hear from the district secretaries just as frequently, or even more often, than we do from the locals.

CLAYSMORE UNION

A report to hand from the secretary of the Claysmore Union, No. 660, states that at their last meeting, August 28, 22 members were present. President Steele was in the chair. Sundry business was put thru, after which the president announced that the Mannville District Association had a large quantity of twine on hand, owing to one of the unions, after having placed their order with the district Association, obtaining their twine from another source. Those members requiring twine were asked to send in their orders at once to the district secretary, in order to absorb the amount on hand if possible. The secretary was given an order to purchase certain supplies from the Central Office and was also instructed to open an account in the bank in the name of the union, all cheques to be signed by the President and Secretary. Any members desiring to order apples were instructed to place their orders with the secretary as soon as possible.

WHO WON?

Gretna Union, No. 599, organized in February of this year, sixteen out of twenty-one farmers present voting for the organization. A second meeting was held on March 2, when additional members joined, 19 having paid in their dollar. At this meeting it was decided to start a membership campaign by dividing the union into two sides, the side securing the smaller number of new members to entertain the remainder of the union with their families. Ben Rombough was elected captain of the one side, while Mr. O'Reilly headed the other. We have not heard anything from the union in regard to the result of this competition, but when last heard from the union was proposing to purchase a carload of wire. We trust that their membership competition was successful and that we may soon hear that the union largely increased its membership thereby.

BISMARCK ALIVE

In February also a meeting was called at the Bismark schoolhouse for the purpose of organizing a branch of the U. F. A., a number of farmers joining and some seventeen paying in their dues. Since then dues for four others have been sent in. Correspondence with this union has been carried on regularly.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

The Drumgrow Union, No. 597, was organized in the Consort district, with a paid up membership of eighteen farmers,

early in February. W. Mather is secretary of this union. We have not heard from them since March last and would appreciate a line if this paragraph should happen to be read by any member of the union.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

On February 23 a meeting of the farmers was held at the Springburn schoolhouse, resulting in the organization of a local of that name with the number 596. The union started out in a very energetic and businesslike manner with W. H. McGaffan as secretary. Since March, when dues for thirteen members were remitted, nothing has been heard, and when recently in the district, altho the union had been advised, to the best of my memory, no members of this union were in attendance at any of the meetings held.

A REPORT WANTED

Leith Union, No. 591, was organized on February 17 last with thirteen fully paid up members. The secretary reported a number of others intending to join at an early date. We have had practically no correspondence with this union and there has been no increase in the membership reported to this office up to the time of writing. H. W. Wood, director for the Calgary constituency, was in the district this summer and reported having attended one of the most successful picnics he has ever been to which was held under the auspices of this union, so that we may assume that things are in good shape and that we shall be hearing from the union again before long.

MORE NEW UNIONS

Arbor Park Union, one of the Ponoka District Association unions, was organized in February with twenty members.

La Coates Union, No. 589, was also organized early in February with eleven members enrolled at the time. The union is greatly interested in purchasing in carload quantities. The total membership paid up on our books at the close of the first half year is thirty-three.

Jas. G. McKay, of Provost, organized Strand Union, No. 588, in the Cadogan district in October, 1913; the union starting with 18 fully paid up members. The union was, however, not reported until February of this year and since the report of the organization nothing further has been heard from the district. Murray Colton is secretary.

A meeting at Cabin Lake under the auspices of L. P. Snyder, of Delano, resulted in the organization of a union there on February 7 of this year. The union is credited with thirteen members on our books. We have not, however, heard from the secretary for some time past.

Away back on March 18, Messrs. Petty and Livingstone journeyed up to the Dowling Lake district and organized Chain Lakes Union No. 629. We have not had a great deal of correspondence with the secretary, L. A. Winans, but the union seems to be going along nicely, and dues for four new members were remitted as lately as the month of July.

The secretary of the Mannville District Association, Percy Fielding, journeyed to Turkey Hill on March 25 and organized a union there. A meeting was held at B. Powell's house. A. J. McGillivray was appointed president and C. B. Hawley, secretary. The union is credited with thirty-four paid up members on our books at the present time. A considerable amount of bulk purchasing has been done since organization.

Horseshoe Lake Union No. 631 was organized on April 7, with E. F. Medley, of Innisfail, president, and Harold Jacobs, of Mayton, secretary. Fifteen paid up members is the total for this year.

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—E.J.T.