

Alberta Directors' Report

The following report was presented to the annual convention of the U.F.A. by Vice-President H. W. Wood

Your Board of Directors elected at the last convention and your Executive Committee beg to report as follows:

It is with sincere regret that we have to report for the second year in succession the loss of a president of this association thru death. We have, at the same time, to mourn the loss of yet another of our colleagues in the person of George Long, of Namas, director for the Edmonton district. Both Mr. Speakman and Mr. Long were mainstays of the organized farmers in this province before most of us had entered the fight, and were actively engaged in the work before the U.F.A. was organized. In the death of these two men, your directors feel that the association has lost two of its most able workers and staunchest friends.

As your board have not met since the death of Mr. Speakman, his place has not been filled, but F. C. Clark, of North Edmonton, the former director for that constituency, was appointed at our September meeting to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Long.

Mr. Speakman's Work

Early in the year, your directors had decided that in view of the many important problems requiring our close and constant attention, it would be advisable that our chief executive officer, who also held the position of chief organizer, be asked to devote the whole of his time to this special work in the Central Office, and in response to our request the late Mr. Speakman moved from his home at Penhold to Calgary on April 10 last, remaining in residence there until his death on December 21. Some of his work while at the office is already known to you thru the medium of the circulars and articles from his pen, published from time to time in the Alberta section of our official organ, the Grain Growers' Guide, and the daily press. At the time of his death Mr. Speakman was engaged in gathering information for use in the solving of many of our most important problems. Just how far he had succeeded in this work will now never be known, and needless to say his sudden passing away so close to the time of our annual convention,

taking with him his ideas and much of his information on these various subjects, has seriously interfered with the preparation of this and other reports.

During the year your Board of Directors has held five full meetings, and your Executive Committee has also held five meetings in addition. As far as possible our meetings have been timed to fit in with those of the Co-operative Elevator Company, and joint meetings between the officers of the two organizations for the discussion of various matters have taken place on several occasions.

Agreement with the Elevator Company

One of the first problems confronting your directors was the carrying out of your wishes as expressed at our last convention in regard to the establishment of a co-operative wholesale department. Your directors went into this matter very carefully and tried to consider it from all viewpoints. The spirit of the resolution was obviously to provide for the establishment of a co-operative wholesale society which would be owned and controlled by the members of the U.F.A. thru its local unions. Your directors are of the opinion that the organization is not yet sufficiently far advanced to offer any considerable prospect of success in such an undertaking at the present time. It might also be pointed out that early in the year an important meeting of the managers and provincial secretaries of the western farmers' organizations took place, and an outline was drawn up for a closer understanding among all our organizations in connection with their co-operative purchases with a view to arrive at some standard system for carrying on the work and to prevent unnecessary overlapping as well as creating a more effective purchasing power. The committee working on this plan has made considerable progress, and it is hoped that a definite outline will be agreed upon shortly, when it will be submitted to all the organizations concerned. Meanwhile your directors with a view to carrying it out as far as circumstances would permit, after a series of meetings with the executive and board of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Com-

pany, entered into a contract with that company to act as purchasing agent for our unions. The main terms of this agreement were forwarded to you by circular letter last spring.

The Re-mount Question

At the request of several of our unions this matter was considered by us and a memorial was drafted, with certain recommendations and forwarded to the Minister of Militia. This memorial was published in The Guide at the time. The Hon. Sam Hughes congratulated us very highly on our "very temperate and intelligent memorandum on horses," and went on to say that our suggestions were "splendid." The minister claimed that he was entirely in sympathy with our views, and that they had, in fact, exactly coincided with his from the start. This was early in March last, and we not unnaturally concluded that some improvement might make itself evident in the near future, but such was not the case. In July, therefore, another letter was addressed to the Minister of Militia. The reply in this case came from Senator Lougheed, acting minister, expressing the hope that "a satisfactory answer would be secured from the government at an early date." Still nothing developed, and in September another letter was addressed to the Minister of Militia. The reply on this occasion came from an official of the headquarters of the militia council. This letter, dated September 23, stated that the Canadian government was then out of the business, and referred us to the British Re-mount Commission, and a reply received on October 9 to the effect that the commission had arranged for all the horses of the quality it required and had no wish to extend its purchases. The correspondence in regard to this question throws interesting light on the matter, and may be taken as a fair example of how difficult it is to secure reforms which the government or department responsible is not anxious to give.

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U.F.A. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 1915



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT—GEO. LONG, NAMAS; J. A. BISHOP, REDDINGTON; D. BUCKINGHAM, STEPTLER. SECOND ROW—C. W. BUCHANAN, COWLEY; E. E. SPARKS, JENNER; F. P. WOODBRIDGE, CALGARY; SECRETARY, TREASURER; P. S. AUSTIN, SANFURLY; P. S. VICKERY, STROME. FRONT ROW—W. D. TREGG, SLITCHER, FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT; S. S. DUNHAM, LEYTHRIDGE, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT; D. W. WARNER, EDMONTON, NOW GRARY PRESIDENT; JAMES SPEAKMAN, PENHOLD, PRESIDENT; H. W. WOOD, CARSTAIRS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT; RICE SHEPPARD, EDMONTON, THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT.

President James Speakman, of Penhold, and Director George Long, of Namas, have been called by death since the last convention.