

# 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.

## A COMPETITION FOR LOCALS.

As announced at our secretaries' convention in June last, your Central office has been working on the proposition of giving some form of recognition for merit among our local unions. You will remember at that time it was stated that probably some awards would be given for merit in special lines of work and that in addition, there would be a prize for the best all round local, this award to be made on points for different activities. The Central office of course could not afford anything in the way of prizes for merit in special lines of work which our locals take up, and in that not much progress has been made as it will have to be worked out on a self-supporting basis, which means of course co-operation with other institutions. The general all round local however, is a matter which belongs specifically to the U.F.A. as an organization, and where we would look for the bulk of the benefits which might be derived in a competition of this kind to come to ourselves. The following is offered by way of suggestion as a preliminary division of points awarded under the various headings. These headings are not necessarily final and we are open to suggestions from any local or member of the organization for additional headings or ideas which might be incorporated into our work:

	Points
1—Total number of members in the local	100
2—Total number of women members in local or U.F.W.A.	100
3—Number of meetings held during year and regularity of same	100
4—The general program for meetings during year	100
5—Regular correspondence with Central office and remittances of membership dues	75
6—The distribution of annual reports and other Central office literature	75
7—Incorporation of co-operative trading activities of local	75
8—Livestock shipping activities of local	50
9—Egg circle and poultry shipping by local	50
10—Insurance work of local through Central office	50
11—General work of local in the community, such as co-operation with fairs or other local organizations, including patriotic subscription work	50
12—Assistance to members or people requiring same in the community through use of legal department or as the occasion may require	50
13—Existence of community library, literary or debating society, or work of a similar nature	50
14—Holding of annual picnic	25
15—Building of U.F.A. hall	25
16—Beef ring	25
<b>Total points</b>	<b>1,000</b>

It is suggested that the competition along these lines would start on January 1, 1948, and run throughout that year, but some recognition may be given to the local which comes closest to filling the bill this year. We would like to hear from any local that is willing to take up a contest along these lines between now and December 31. The idea of a competition along these lines would of course be not only to introduce a spirit of friendly competition among the locals, but it has a dual purpose in suggesting to the more backward locals ways and means by which they can make their work more comprehensive and such as is likely to appeal to a larger percentage of the people in the community, and recognizing that in drawing up this list we have likely overlooked a number of activities which some of our locals have already found very profitable to themselves in the way of interesting their members, we have merely thrown this out as a tentative suggestion and hope that readers of this paragraph will write us offering any suggestions for its improvement that may occur to them.

P. P. W.

## WHY YOU SHOULD BE A U.F.A. MEMBER

1. Because without the U.F.A., the Alberta Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company would never have come into existence. The U.F.A. was the only organization in the province to take up the elevator question, investigate and discuss at its annual convention the whole situation, and finally bring pressure to

bear on the government to secure the charter which brought the elevator company into being, and then through its executive undertook the work of organization until that work had reached a stage where it could be turned over to the shareholders themselves, to be managed by a board of their own selection. The U.F.A. was the first organization to make a serious effort to give you increased service and truer co-operative principles by the amalgamation with The Grain Growers' Grain Company, thus creating the United Grain Growers Limited.

2. Because the U.F.A. through its Central office is doing everything possible to increase the business of the company, particularly through the co-operative and livestock departments. The Central office is doing everything possible to assist the head office of the United Grain Growers, and has consistently brought its influence to bear on the government whenever an amendment to its charter has been required. In other words, the U.F.A. is exercising in the fullest possible manner its functions as the parent body in which the company originated.

3. Because the U.F.A. is a great voluntary organization absolutely dependent on voluntary subscription in the form of a membership fee or donation, preferably the former, and has for its object ideals which a purely commercial institution such as the elevator company can never achieve even if it were within its powers as a company. The U.F.A. is organized with a view to representing the people themselves. It may not be all that you might wish or think that it should be, but if that is the case it is because you are not doing your share to make it what you think it should be. The U.F.A. is a protective body. It stands for the protection of the weak against the strong. It stands for the protection of the individual against the corporation. It has exercised these functions for years. It would be even more prominent in this regard if its financial circumstances would permit of more work being undertaken. The U.F.A. is a general information bureau. It stands to help you in the local problems which confront you from time to time, whether they be purely a matter of organization or whether they be social or economic. The U.F.A. stands to bring all the sections of the province together, not with the idea of forcing the views of any one section on some other section, but as a medium for the general information of the whole, and for providing united action on matters in which the great majority are in complete accord.

## Some Things The U.F.A. Has Accomplished

(a) The U.F.A. alone of all the farmers' organizations in Canada commenced the fight in 1910 for a general reduction on all freight rates charged by the railways in Western Canada. The fight resulted in a general all-round reduction of Western freight rates.

(b) The U.F.A. after a hard two years' fight secured the passing of the act respecting the sale of farm machinery in 1913. Prior to this the province was over-run with a large number of unreliable machine companies and the farmer had no protection however unfair the contract he may have signed. The act gave him protection and compelled the machine companies to stand by the representations of their agents. As a result the mushroom companies that had flourished so mightily beforehand, went out of business and left the province.

(c) The U.F.A. secured the Co-operative Trading Societies Act. Prior to the passing of this act the only way in which farmers could incorporate for business purposes was under the joint stock companies act, which was designed specifically for use by private corporations. The co-operative act provides a simple method of incorporation at low cost on a purely co-operative basis.

(d) The U.F.A. secured the passing of the Direct Legislation Act. The principle of direct legislation was first introduced into Western Canada at an annual convention of the U.F.A. No one was able to explain what it meant at

the time, but the Central office took the matter up and education along these lines spread at a very rapid rate. The present act is not satisfactory, but was used successfully in the prohibition campaign, and constitutes a very important step in the movement to secure recognition of the wishes of the people in the matter of legislation.

(e) The U.F.A. was one of the first to take up the matter of agricultural credit. The U.F.A. has given an immense amount of publicity to this question through its debates and through the work of the Central office in making public the particulars of what has been done in this regard in other countries. There is no doubt that without the work that has been done by the U.F.A., this most important question would not have received the attention which it has received from our governments, and that the present tendency of both federal and provincial governments to give special consideration to the question of farm mortgages on long terms at a low rate of interest would never have materialized. We still have much work to do in this line and continued organization and agitation alone will do it.

(f) The U.F.A. has played its part in all the different matters of Dominion wide concern that have been taken up by the interprovincial farmers' organizations, such as parcels post; amendments to the Canada Grain Act, the Bank Act, Railway Act and other important measures. The U.F.A. was responsible for the improvement in the regulations governing the maintenance of fire guards by the railway companies, and much other work of a similar nature. These are things which benefit every farmer in the province and they are some of the reasons which we feel justify us in asking every farmer in the province to become a member and pay his dollar membership fee.

In general, the U.F.A. stands for enforcing by united effort the recognition of the interests of the people on governments and private corporations. Its objects are as broad as the people who ally themselves with the U.F.A. as members choose to make them. It stands for closer organization in all matters which form part of the farmers' business, both in producing and marketing. It stands for an improvement in the conditions under which he has to conduct the financial side of his business; it stands for an improvement of the economic conditions under which he has to work; it stands for an improvement of the political conditions under which the people have to live. In a few words, it aims to be a great voluntary organization of the farmers, standing for their protection in whatever direction they choose to use it, and offers itself as a medium whereby every farmer can make his opinions heard and play his part as a farmer and a citizen in regulating conditions under which he has to live and work.

As an organization promoted by the U.F.A., the United Grain Growers has certain definite objects of a purely commercial character which it is pledged to carry out, but the U.F.A. as the parent body has only just started on the work which it has to do, and that work is of a nature which a commercial body can never accomplish. The work for which the farmers have organized in Canada can never be accomplished until their full strength has been mobilized as a class, that is to say as a body of men, all of whom are engaged in the same class of work. No commercial body, even though composed of the farmers themselves, can act for the farmers in adjusting their relationship with other classes (using the term in the same way as defined above) or with governments, or other commercial institutions. The only organization in the province which is constituted in such a way that it can carry out this difficult yet most essential work is the U.F.A. For these reasons, as set forth, we have no hesitation whatsoever in calling on every farmer, particularly shareholders in our commercial organizations, local and otherwise, to play his part in helping to carry on the work of the parent body. We trust that you will do your share.

P. P. W.

## PEACE RIVER CROP GOOD

Mr. H. L. Dundas of Bear Lake in the Peace River district, sends a very interesting account of harvesting conditions and operations as they were existing upon date of writing, September 20. He reports that only late oats remained to be cut, while the fine weather has enabled farmers to stack their crops in the best condition. Wheat will be classed in the first three grades, it being of good color and hard, and will yield on an average 25 bushels per acre. In the case of oats, while those which were sown on poorly cultivated land suffered much from drought during the hot spell of the past summer, those sown on well cultivated ground or on summer fallow will return from 70 to 80 bushels per acre, from which the farmers are learning that it pays to summer fallow after a rotation of three crops, and also that to ensure high yields the land must be well tilled. The results of the satisfactory returns being now secured are shown in the straightening out of old obligations, and confidence with regard to the future is manifested in the outlay which is taking place in cattle and machinery, and the amount of new breaking that is being done. Altogether the farmers in that country appear to be facing the future with every confidence.

The annual gathering and picnic of Vale Local Union No. 398 was held recently at the grounds of the Rush Lake school. A very large number of people attended from surrounding districts as well as a number of representatives of business firms from Medicine Hat. A good list of sports were put on, including horse racing, foot racing of all kinds, catching the greased pig and climbing the greasy pole. A tug-of-war was held in which the Medicine Hat team, after a hard contest, were defeated. The Waddington baseball nine also suffered defeat from the Vale team. In the evening, a very successful dance was held. The proceeds of the refreshment booth, which was conducted by the ladies, were donated to the Red Cross fund, the amount being \$59.86.

## ALBERTA NONPARTIZAN LEAGUE

The executive of the Nonpartizan League of Canada, Alberta branch, met early in August and approved of plans for organization. A staff of field organizers had been built up under the direction of H. W. Johnson, of Alderson, as head organizer for the province. As a result of organization work the membership of the league has rapidly increased. The number of members joining in July was approximately 150, in August 450 and in September almost 900. As the staff has been increased it is expected that the league will be able to make October a record month.

A small Calgary paper entitled "The Nut Cracker" has been re-christened and is now known as the Alberta Nonpartizan. A section of this paper will be devoted to nonpartizan politics. One of the league's activities is the conduct of a forum in one of the Calgary theatres in which lectures are given relating to progressive measures. Recently Dr. Bland lectured on "Canada at the Cross Roads," and on "Labor and Christianity in the New Age." The league expects to enter candidates in several of the federal constituencies in the forthcoming election.

## ALBERTA SHORTHORN BREEDERS TO ORGANIZE

A call has been issued for a meeting of the pure bred shorthorn breeders in the province of Alberta, to meet at the School of Agriculture at Olds on Monday, November 12, at 10 o'clock a.m., for the purpose of organizing an Alberta Provincial Shorthorn Breeders' Association. All the breeders of pure bred shorthorns in the province are urgently invited to attend. Notices have been mailed to as many addresses as were available, but as a complete list is very difficult to secure, the parties who are calling the meeting are very anxious that every breeder of pure bred shorthorns who sees this announcement will be sure to attend the meeting. W. A. Dryden, president of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, will be present and will address the gathering, and it is expected that he will bring with him one or two of the prominent shorthorn breeders of Eastern Canada. This will be a very important gathering of shorthorn men and it is expected it will be largely attended by those interested in the breed in Alberta.