ALBERTA SECTION

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

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

PRESIDENT:
JAMES BOWER - - RED DEER

VICE-PRESIDENT:
W. J. TREGILLUS - - CALGARY

SECRETARY-TREASURER:
E. J. FREAM - - - Innisfail

DIRECTORS AT LARGE:
James Speakman, Penhold; D. W. Warner, Clover Bar; L. H. Jelliff, Spring Coulee.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:
T. H. Balaam, Vegreville; George Long, Namao; F. H. Langston, Rosenroll; E Carswell, Penhold; J. Quinsey, Barons; E. Greisbach, Gleichen; A. Von Mieleicki, Calgary.

FARMERS' PICNIC BIG SUCCESS

The basket picnic held under the auspices of the United Farmers' of Alberta on the Genge property, across the Mackenzie bridge, on Victoria Day, was such an unqualified success that the picnicers by an unanimous vote decided to make it an annual affair hereafter. So appreciated were the efforts of the speechmakers too, that it was likewise voted to have them come again next year, and they all promised to be there either in person or in deputy. Fully 1000 persons were on the ground at one time or other during the day. Not all at one time, but coming and going from early morning to moonrise saw the last buggy, comfortably holding two beings so deeply interested in each other's remarks that the horse took advantage of the opportunity to browse unrebuked on the brush by the roadside, slowly jogging along towards town.

It was typical picnic weather, warm and sunny with a suspicion of rain that was never justified. Farmers came from miles around with their rigs loaded with wives and children, eatables and drinkables. While the horses munched their oats the families, under the shade of the grove, enjoyed the refreshments provided by the careful housewife. Out in the open the boys played baseball; their mothers seized the opportunity for a long deferred bit of gossip with some neighbor, while their fathers talked about crops and politics until the speaking began from the platform which had been built under the trees. Everybody had a good time and everybody said he or she would go again next year.

The speechmaking began shortly after one o'clock. First the McBride Lake band rendered a few selections which were much appreciated. "They're all farmers," said President J. R. McLean, who presented them, and the crowd cheered. "They have only been organized three months," he continued, "and you must be patient." The band needed no apology, however. Their work was excellent and a credit to Mr. Edgar who is their instructor. Mr. McLean read a letter from Mr. Robert Patterson, who was expected to be one of the speakers in which the writer regretted that a previous engagement would prevent his coming. The chairman said that he voiced the general regret of the assembly at Mr. Patterson's enforced absence.

The first speaker was W. J. Tregillus, of Calgary, vice-president of the United Farmers of Alberta. Mr. Tregillus urged upon his hearers the necessity of organization and co-operation. He eloquently extolled the ancient calling of agriculture upon which, he said, all the others depended. "The farmer is the man who brings into existence that which never existed before, he extolls wealth and adds to the world's golden store," he said. "Yet the farmer is the only man who cannot put a value on what he produces. The department store, the elevator, every other kind of business fixes the price of whatever it deals in. It is not a fair condition. If the farmer must pay the price these others demand let him have the privilege of naming the price of what he has to sell."

"The farmers of Macleod have set an example to the whole province. They have gone to the root of things. They have said, 'We want better laws and we will send a representative to parliament who will help to make the kind of laws that we do want. We don't want any hidebound politician. Let us take a man who is the best to be found, who cannot be bought or driven, who knows what is right and will stay by it, and I understand that you have him right here in this district.'" (Applause) In conclusion the speaker urged his hearers to read, observe and think, especially to think for themselves.

T. L. Swift, of Calgary, manager of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., made a speech which held everyone and devoted his time for the most part to an attack on the present system of grading grain. He dwelt especially upon the difference in grading in and grading out of grain and charged the terminal elevators with shipping to Europe as No. 1 Hard grain which really has been graded as No. 1 Northern, which was full of wild oats and dirt. It was for this reason he said, "That your No. 1 Hard does not have the reputation on the markets of the world that it should have. Private interests are tampering with your grain and you get none of the profits. They slipped out last year 606,000 bushels more of so-called No. 1 Hard than was graded into the elevator, and they sell as No. 1 Hard grain that never should have been put into the elevator at all. At a profit of from one to two cents a bushel this means something like $12,000 they have made in this instance alone. They can well afford to pay the $5,500 fine assessed against them in Winnipeg on the charge of making false returns. Mr. Swift urged the election of legislators who should stop this sort of thing and compared the present members at Edmonton to samples of grain and insisted that they should live up to their certificates.

W. R. Stevens, provincial live stock commissioner, described in detail the proposed government pork packing establishment and the steps which were being taken to establish it. For one thing, he insisted, it was not to be, according to the plans, a government owned and operated plant. It was to be co-operative. The only thing the government would do would be to advance the money to build and carry it on. The farmers were to guarantee 50,000 hogs a year and the government was to retain one-half a cent per pound, live weight, out of the profits to re-imburse itself for its expenditure. The rest of the money came to the farmers who had signed the contracts. "Eventually," declared the commissioner, "the patrons will own that plant themselves." Mr. Stevens answered a number of questions which were put to him, after which the vote was taken to make the picnic an annual one.

Then the stage was cleared for dancing and the usual occupations and diversions of a holiday out of doors filled the day. It was a fine picnic.

W. J. GLASS, Sec.
MacLeod.

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ASK FOR ELEVATOR

Okotoks Union held a meeting on May 28th which was very largely attended. The meeting was addressed by George Hoadley, M.P.P. and Thos. Swift of the Grain Growers' Grain Company. The latter gentleman spoke at some length on the grading of grain, in and out of the terminal elevators. He quoted the Manitoba Grain Act which said that all grain carrying a certificate with dockage should be cleaned before being stored and that the mixing of grades was prohibited. "Notwithstanding this," said Mr. Swift, "According to C. C. Castle's report, the Empire and Port Arthur elevators had graded 23% of their elevators 605,884 bushels more number 1 Northern than they had taken in." "This was No. 1 Northern wheat grown while you wait," said the speaker, and this was received with laughter.

"This is the wheat which reaches the Old Country markets and has to compete against wheat from other parts of the world. It has been proven to certain that as much as 4 per cent. dockage (dirt), and the producer has to pay any penalty for this dockage which the inspector inflicts. A staff of seventy men is employed to see that the grading is done properly in the elevators yet they see nothing wrong."

He told of the case where the privately owned elevators were fined and said that it was tried behind closed doors. This was not right. The case had been tried on April 22nd but the reports did not appear in the papers until the 27th. Publicity was dreaded by these people.

After Mr. Swift had finished, Geo. Hoadley was called upon and he made a few remarks. He said a great percentage of capital invested in terminal elevators came from across the line. He also explained the Initiative and Referendum and said that wherever it had been tried it had worked admirably.

A resolution was passed favoring government ownership of elevators under control of an independent commission.

THE INFORMATION IS HERE

The following letter, which has just reached me from Mr. E. G. Palmer, needs no explanation as it gives the information we asked for and shows the personnel of the company known as "Meat Exports Limited":

Dear Mr. Fream:

I note your further comments on the chilled meat question in the issue of THE GUIDE of the 11th inst.

You appear to take the view that we are too secretive, whereas, the mere fact of forming a limited liability company to carry out the necessary preliminary work necessary to the inauguration of the industry is surely pretty conclusive proof of our desire to have the aims and objects and work of the oragni ation quite open and above board.

I may, however, say that the company was registered on the 26th February last with a capital of $50,000 in 500 shares of $100 each. The directors are as follows: Dr. A. W. Bell, and Mr. John Crawford, of Manitoba, Mr. R. J. Phin, of Saskatchewan, and Mr. J. L. Bell and Mr. James Tough, of Alberta, forming a board of live representative men who, I think you will agree, will certainly see that the industry is initiated and developed on a sound, business-like, and permanent foundation, and with the interests of the producers adequately protected.

I may further add, if the executive of the U. F. A. would like to nominate one of their number to act on the board, I feel sure it could be arranged and would doubtless meet with the approval of the present directors.

Yours very truly,
MEAT EXPORTS, LIMITED.
E. G. Palmer, Secretary.

MAPLE LEAF IS GROWING.

At the regular monthly meeting of Maple Leaf Union, the following motions were passed:—

"That the hail insurance question be left to the executive committee for settlement. That this Union is in favor of consolidated schools. That this Union favors the Flour Mill Question."

New members were called for and six names were added to the roll.

Stewartwyn C. KINNEAR, Sec'y.

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BINDER TWINE ORDERED.

The regular meeting of Penhold Union was held in the school house on May 21st with the president, T. P. Parcells in the chair. The business of the meeting was the hog wire contract, and binder twine. The wire contract was thoroughly discussed, but no action was taken as a body, it being left to the individual members to order as they saw fit. Several quotations on binder twine were received, and the one generally considered the most favorable was accepted, the terms being eight cents per lb. for 500 feet and nine cents for 600 feet, f. o. b., Penhold. All members wishing to take advantage of this offer are asked to send in their orders to the secretary as soon as possible, as the supply of twine is limited. The resolution re Hudson's Bay Railway, sent in by Rose View Union, was brought forward and the following passed on motion of E. Carswell and R. Dixon. "That we approve of the principal advanced by Rose View Union that no land grants or subsidies be granted to privately owned railways, but we cannot subscribe to their resolution as we believe that private enterprise would thereby be crippled to the detriment of the public good." On motion of J. Oldford and R. Dixon, the railway expenses of the delegates to the Edmonton Convention were paid. The meeting then adjourned till the third Saturday in June.

Penhold A. SPEAKMAN, Sect'.

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CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY FORMED.

The regular monthly meeting of Robert Kerr Union is now past and we have fifteen members on the roll. The members strongly endorsed the action of the government in fining the terminal elevator companies, but we are at a loss to know why the case was not tried in open court. It was the opinion of this meeting that the government should take over the elevators as early as possible. In regard to the Co-operative Company which is being formed, good progress is being made and the by-laws have been drawn up and accepted by the shareholders. Each member takes three shares at ten dollars per share and no person can become a shareholder unless he is a member of the U.F.A. As soon as the Company is incorporated building operations will be started.

Pincher Creek D. JAMES, Sec.

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FERRY WANTED OVER RIVER.

The regular monthly meeting of Clover Bar Union was held recently, there being a good attendance of members. After reading and disposing of the minutes of the previous meeting, the twine question was brought up but was laid on the table to be finally dealt with at the next meeting. A letter from the general secretary, in regard to labor bureau was read, but as this locality is well supplied with help at this time, the secretary was instructed to inform the central executive of this fact, but we greatly approve of the scheme and will be pleased to avail ourselves of the opportunity and assistance of the central if necessary.

The hail insurance question was then brought up and all the plans re-read and discussed. It was thought by a number of the members that anything over $4.00 per acre was too much, and that where anyone insured for as high as $8.00 per acre that it was speculation and it paid well to be hailed out, for after all expenses, from cutting to marketing inclusive were deducted from the crop it was very few crops that were worth $8.00 per acre. Finally the resolution which appeared in the May 18th issue of THE GUIDE was drawn up and forwarded to the Central.

The secretary was instructed to write the general manager of the G. T. P., requesting him to build another loading spur and platform at the west end of the Clover Bar siding. Messrs. Wm. Daly, Wm. Keith and J. O. Parmenter were appointed a committee to interview the Department of Public Works and the Edmonton Board of Trade in order to secure assistance in having a ferry placed on the river at or about the mines. If this ferry can be secured it will be a great convenience to Clover Bar and points lying east in reaching the J. Y. Griffin packing plant. It will also be a shorter and better way to Edmonton and will to some extent relieve the congested traffic of the Edmonton bridge.

Clover Bar. E. KEITH, Sec.