



ALBERTA SECTION

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

AGRICULTURE IN THE SCHOOLS

At the convention of school trustees for the province of Alberta, held at Wetaskiwin recently, one of the main subjects up for discussion was "Agriculture in the Rural Schools," by Mr. G. H. Hutton, of Lacombe.

In the course of his address Mr. Hutton said: "The awakening is at hand when rural schools shall do much to aid in solving agricultural problems. Education shall prepare for citizenship, make men intelligent and happy, and prepare them for service-work. The only approach to preparation to any life work has been toward what are commonly known as 'the professions.' These callings have been exalted, while the farmer has simply been known as the 'hay-seed.' The trend of education has been to belittle agriculture as being for those lacking in culture. Ninety per cent. of our boys and girls never got further than the public school, so their training did not fit them for their life work. Those who went to the farm were lacking power and lacking insight into the growth of plants and animals, and so deserved to be classed lower than the so-called professional man to whom culture and a trained mind had given power. The introduction of the study of agriculture to the rural schools would add immeasurably to the child's equipment for the battle of life in training the mind and the hand to the practical."

The inspectors should be in sympathy with and further the movement. As an example of what one inspector is doing Mr. Hutton referred to the excellent work of J. H. Smith, M.A., rural school inspector of West Kent and Chatham. A corn fair was held where prizes were given for garden products exhibited by the pupils. President Murray, of Saskatchewan, was also quoted as favoring the tincturing of the school course with agriculture for the boys and a course in cooking and sewing for the girls. The consolidated school solves the problem but in the single school the elementary course can be supplemented by a garden plot. Mr. Hutton considered that the teachers should be educated for the proper teaching of agriculture in the public schools; that the text books should emphasize the importance of such study, socially, financially and as a profession, and that there is nothing in agriculture combatable with refinement and culture. Having trained and sympathetic teachers and inspectors with text books having a vocational hinge, much would be accomplished in promoting the 'back to the farm' movement; because having a knowledge of their work the workers would possess an assurance of success, and a dignity which would mean character. Drive home to the minds of the future farmers of our land that through knowing of the forces of nature with which they have to deal they may be conscious of a power to direct these forces to their own advantage. Such a man will not look enviously upon the professional portion, nor upon his earning power, for he will realize that upon a quarter section of land he can develop himself socially and morally, and at the same time earn a competence above the average earned by the professional man. If agriculture is introduced into the school it will do great good to all classes and will have a far-reaching effect. The old story is still true as when first written, "A little child shall lead them."

BOWELL TO THE FRONT

The executive of a very recently organized union, namely, Bowell No. 218, have reason to feel elated at so much enthusiasm being displayed in connection with the work of their union; fifty-two persons being present at the second regular meeting held on the 28th inst., and eight new members joining, bringing the membership up to forty-seven. Arrangements have been made for an entertainment to be held on February 10. Following the program refreshments will be served, after which the floor will be cleared and those desiring may enjoy the light fantastic go their heart's content. A report was given by our delegate to the convention, and although it was necessary to render it in a condensed form, giving us a very

intelligent and instructive summing up of the work undertaken during the three days in convention, in something like an hour's discourse, Mr. Darraugh deserved and received the thanks of the union in the manner in which he acquitted himself in this, no easy task. He will take up subjects of interest in meetings that follow, and go into them more fully. Mr. Darraugh in reply to a question by our president as to how he felt toward his treatment while in attendance at the Calgary convention said that he was well pleased. When he saw the body assembled he was glad the opportunity of attending the convention had been afforded him, and as the business of the association was transacted he felt highly honored that he was a member of the U. F. A.

L. M. MANSFIELD, Sec'y.
Bowell, Alta.

OUR SLOGAN: UNITE

The annual meeting of the Lake View Union, having been postponed from last month owing to the absence of the secretary-treasurer, A. R. Stewart, was held at Lake View on Saturday, January 28th, D. McKay presiding. Wm. M. Graham, our delegate to the annual convention at Calgary, reported with regret that owing to the severe weather conditions and unforeseen business engagements, he was unable to attend the convention.

The election of office bearers for the year 1911 resulted as follows: President, J. R. Quinlan; vice-president, H. Main; secretary-treasurer, Donald Cameron. Directors: Messrs. W. M. Graham, L. McComb, J. McNiece, L. McConnell, J. M. Hay and S. Robinson. John McNiece, our delegate to the great convention at Ottawa, having not yet returned, his report was not presented, but enough has been gleaned from the press and other sources to convince the members of this union that very little redress for farmers' grievances can be looked for from the "powers that be" at Ottawa. When Mr. Green made the statement at Ottawa that the average capital invested by the Western farmer was in the neighborhood of \$10,000 (half of which he might have added is mortgaged) Sir Wilfrid thought the Western farmer was in pretty good shape; but when a more recent deputation of Eastern manufacturers representing, according to their own statement, individual wealth to the amount of, approximately half a million dollars, Sir Wilfrid does not think they are in pretty good shape, or at least if he does, he did not, on this occasion, say so. Nor yet did he tell those wealthy plutocrats that seeing that they had to their credit the new little nest egg of half a million dollars each it was time they were able to do without so much "pap" in the shape of bonus, protection, etc.

The Hon. Duncan Marshall, minister of agriculture for the province of Alberta, at the recent dairymen's convention held at Innisfail, made a statement (and we heartily agree with him) that any industry that cannot pay its own way and become a successful business enterprise without being nourished and nursed by a paternal government should go to the wall. We as farmers claim that what is sauce for the goose is also sauce for the gander. The farmer with average intelligence who has carefully studied the attitude taken by the powers at Ottawa recently will not have much difficulty in noting how the wind blows in that quarter. Then, farmers, let our slogan be 'Unite! Unite! Unite!' The big delegation to Ottawa, if it has accomplished nothing else, has at least demonstrated the fact that the farmers united are a power to be reckoned with. Even the manufacturers admit this. The government will have to admit it sooner or later—sooner we believe. If this much can be accomplished while we are yet in the green blade what shall we say of the time in the near future when the green blade will have become the full ear? Let every farmer worthy of the name be up and doing and hasten that time. In this Eastern country of ours there is room for quite a few more branches of the U. F. A. What of Elnora, Perbeck, Curlew and Milnerton? I know good farmers in all

these districts who are in sympathy with the U. F. A. Get together, gentlemen, talk the matter over; if you want to know how to organize drop E. J. Fream, Innisfail, a post card and that gentleman will be delighted to put you on the right track. Now I had better finish this report, otherwise it may run a very good chance of finding its way to the waste paper basket.

DONALD CAMERON, Sec'y.
Lake View, Alta.

HUSTLING ALL THE TIME

Bowell Union No. 218, barely a month old, is adding laurels that speak wonders for its future prosperity. Offended by workers for the good of the cause, holding regular meetings which it is desired will be a benefit in every respect, especially in keeping its members in touch with the commercial world in an educational manner, and bringing the families of the different members together in occasional social gatherings, that they too may become acquainted and helpful to one another; Bowell Union already has a membership of over fifty enthusiasts. The first social gathering, and one that will be long and favorably remembered, was held on the 10th inst., when 433 adults and a large number of children attended the entertainment and supper provided by local talent, winding up with a splendid dance attended by about 40 couples.



E. J. FREAM
Re-elected Secretary of the U.F.A.

Financially, a success it was turning into the treasury \$200. The audience was called to order by Chas. Richardson, who proved to be the man well chosen to fill the choir, making a few brief remarks all to the point he introduced our president, H. Johnson, whom he called upon for the opening address. Mr. Johnson responded in an ably rendered appeal for an increased membership and co-operation in an effort to bring unity in its fullest meaning to perfect working in our midst, and so to become a monument to the association, assisting in all ways possible to further its cause. If space could be had we would be glad to quote him word for word. Then followed in order the fifteen numbers on the program, consisting of songs, recitations, music and comedy sketches, all so splendidly and capably rendered as to make a pen description do justice would be impossible were we allowed the space. We cannot even pick a number or performer for special praise, all did so extremely well. The whole was perfection and the union is under obligation, and proud to admit it, to all those who took part. Then came the refreshments, and if anything was needed to perfect this part of the entertainment, what was it? Everyone came prepared with an appetite whetted for the occasion, and the good things piled in the kitchen looked hardly sufficient to satisfy; but you cannot tell by the looks of a frog how far it will jump, not from the size of the package and the amount it contains, and all that were afraid of a shortage agreed their eyes were larger than their stomachs. The

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, Edmonton; J. Quinsey, Noble.

District Directors:

P. S. Austin, Banbury; George Long, Namsan; J. R. Painter, Strum; E. Carswell, Penhold; M. E. Rly, Strathmore; S. W. Buchanan, Cowley; J. E. Ostrander, Gleichen.

ladies deserved and received a full measure of praise for the ample provisions made to make this, their first on the program, a success. A dance followed the serving of the refreshments, and some eighty remained for this and kept it up till 3.30. At our regular meeting of the 18th it is expected arrangements will be made for another social evening, when outside talent will be brought in, and another night of pleasure given all.

L. M. MANSFIELD, Sec'y.
Bowell, Alta.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

At the last regular meeting of John Knox union the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, A. Cummings; vice-president, T. Lahl; secretary-treasurer, Otto Schoening. G. H. Manner of Lewisville was in attendance and gave a very instructive address on the farmers' delegation to Ottawa.

OTTO SCHOENING, Sec'y.
Wetaskiwin, Alta.

CHIN IN LINE

A meeting was called at Chin on January 24, by J. P. Thom, for the purpose of forming a local union of the U. F. A. After the work of the association had been explained the election of officers was taken up and resulted as follows: President, J. P. Thom; vice-president, M. J. Bohmer; treasurer, M. J. Barhar. Ten signed the membership roll and it is expected that many more will be received at the next meeting. After a little further organization work had been done the meeting adjourned.

M. J. BOHMER, Sec'y.
Chin, Alta.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE

The regular fortnightly meeting of Blackfoot Union was held at Jarrett's, there being a larger attendance than usual to hear the report of our delegate to the Calgary convention, who gave them practically the essence of the business done, and much satisfaction was expressed that matters are moving so satisfactorily. The delegate emphasized the educational benefits to those attending the convention and I think I can safely predict that quite a contingent will attend the next convention from Blackfoot Union. It is a matter of satisfaction to us that the conveniences this union has taken the trouble to acquire in the way of loading accommodation are so largely helping to push the farmers' cause along. In 1909 only five cars of grain went from this point; in 1910, although a poor year, thirteen cars were dispatched, mostly, if not all, to the Grain Growers' Grain Co. More than one man who has consigned grain to that company have expressed their pleasure at the way they have been treated. In one case a premium of a quarter cent per bushel was sent above the price asked. On the day following, January 26, a very successful box social was held at Flowerdale school house, dancing and music being kept up till 4.30 a.m. A surprise was sprung on your correspondent in the shape of a very complimentary address and handsome desk bookcase, for which he rendered thanks in a more or less effective little speech. We have received an order from the railway commission that on or before May 1, 1911, the C. N. R. must install proper crossings, signs and cattle guards along its line of railway between Lloydminster and Aberfeldy, a distance of 5.6 miles, and that the company will be liable to a penalty of a sum not exceeding \$25 a day for every day it shall be in default in complying with the requirements of this order. It has taken us a year to get this order effective and it does not apply