

Alberta Section

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by
P. P. Woodbridge, Secretary, Calgary, Alberta.

The following letter was received from W. H. Shield, secretary of the Rathwell and McBride Lake Union, No. 221:

A meeting of the Rathwell and McBride Lake Local Union, No. 221 was held on October 15, 1913. The following resolutions were passed:

Moved by J. Stenson, seconded by W. J. Purdy: Be it resolved, that this Local do place itself on record as being heartily in sympathy with the aim and object of the Consumers' League of Calgary, the Executive of the U.F.A., and the Grain Growers' Grain Co., viz., in trying to establish an open public market in Calgary, and do urge their members to show this in a practical way by shipping their surplus produce thereto.

Moved by Wm. Presley, seconded by Wm. Davis: That this Local do endorse the resolution of Strathmore Union urging the Dominion government to consider the matter of payment by them of taxes on C.P.R. land exempt from taxation for local purposes by the legislation of a former Dominion government.

Moved by Wm. Scott, seconded by Wm. Damon: That this Local do endorse the resolution of Rowley Union No. 497 asking the Alberta government to enact legislation giving farmers and stockmen re railway cattle guards.

Moved by Wm. Damon, seconded by J. Stenson: That this Local do endorse the action of Gleichen Union, No. 96 in making the matter of crop reports a part of the order of business in their regular monthly meetings, and do join with them in asking the general secretary to try and have this form a part of the proceedings in all unions during the next season, the same to be forwarded to him for publication in The Guide; also that steps be taken to induce the adoption of a similar plan by the Grain Growers' Associations of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The secretary was requested to write to the Produce Department of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. for information re shipping of produce to Calgary market. The question of securing flour supplies for the members was laid over until the next meeting, to be held on October 29.

RESOLUTIONS FOR NEXT CONVENTION

The following are a few of the resolutions which are to come before the annual convention at Lethbridge in 1914:

- 1.—The Resolution of Carlton Union, No. 253

Whereas a great deal of ignorance and misunderstanding exists among the farmers of Alberta re the constitution and management of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., partly owing to a wrong impression being created by certain capitalistic newspapers working in the interests of other grain firms, and directly aimed at the farmers' movement, in order to create confusion among the farmers themselves, and partly owing to the farmers not having any information whatever on the subject; therefore, be it resolved: That we, the members of Carlton Union, request the farmers of Alberta to study the source of such information before taking it seriously; and also be it resolved, that pamphlets be issued by the Grain Growers' Grain Company and sent to every local, to be distributed among the people, setting forth: (1) Particulars of the Grain Growers' Grain Company. (2) How their existence is a benefit to the farmers. (3) And, especially, how they can in no way become a trust or monopoly.

- 2.—Resolution of Strathmore Union, No. 58

Whereas numerous schools have had to be closed down, due to the Canadian Pacific railway vacant lands and farms being exempt of taxation, and whereas we find it unjust that certain districts are alone to bear the burden of the exemption of taxation which the Dominion government has bestowed upon all lands held by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; Resolved: That we respectfully request the Dominion government to pay the taxes upon these vacant Canadian Pacific Railway Company farms and lands to the rural school districts and likewise the various municipalities which contain C.P.R. lands, as these municipalities are laboring under great

hardships when building roads and other improvements; and, be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Dominion government, and also the provincial government of Alberta, with a request to bring about immediate relief.

- 3.—Resolution of Balfour Union, No. 222

Whereas there seems to be a large surplus of labor in the province, due to provincial and municipal industries being hampered by scarcity of money, it is the opinion of this Local that there will be a great shortage of work when harvest and threshing operations begin; Therefore, be it resolved, That the standard wages for harvest should not be less than \$2.00 per day and for threshing, no less than \$2.50 per day.

- 4.—Resolution of Parks Prairie Union, No. 472

Whereas the homesteaders located in this district who own pre-emptions find it impossible, under the present conditions, to meet the annual payments of interest and principal on same, and whereas, owing to lack of transportation facilities we have to pay a much higher cost for the necessities of life and all other materials, due to the cost of hauling same, and to the present indication of a crop failure in this district, owing to drought; Be it therefore resolved: That this Union of the U.F.A. urge the Dominion, through the Minister of the Interior, to abolish the three years' interest on pre-emptions, and to alter the terms of payment so that it will not be necessary for the settler to pay the required three dollars (\$3.00) per acre for the pre-emption until making application for the pre-emption patent, and that whatever interest has already been paid be applied on the principal.

- 5.—Resolution of Rowley Union, No. 497

Whereas the present cattle guards now in use on railways (in our humble opinion) are deemed inefficient, and

stock is suffering through guard defects, and whereas the small owner has no chance of a speedy and fair remuneration from railways for stock killed; therefore, be it resolved: That the members of the Rowley United Farmers of Alberta request all unions to take this matter up and petition our honorable members of parliament to give us a measure more protective to the farmer and stockman, re railway cattle guards.

- 6.—Resolution of Blackfoot Union, No. 76

Whereas the enormous area of vacant land held by speculators, with the sole purpose of securing the unearned increment, in the shape of increased land values, works a great hardship on farmers, such as long hauls to market, closed schools, and by making social and intellectual life almost impossible, and whereas it is the opinion of this convention that it should be made more profitable to work land than to hold it idle, in order to encourage those who are not using land to sell at a reasonable price to those who ask it; Therefore be it resolved: That this convention request the government to pass legislation authorizing rural municipalities to collect a surtax of not less than \$10.00 per quarter section, from all vacant land.

- 7.—Resolution of Carbon Union, No. 378

Whereas it is known that there are railway charters in the province of Alberta of fifteen years standing, with no construction work commenced at the present time, and whereas we are of the opinion that failure to build these railways is holding back the development of this district for which these charters are granted, and whereas we believe that these charters are taken out for speculative purposes, and are working a hardship with the people in general, and whereas we believe that were it not for these charters being granted, that other railway companies would come in and construct a line through the districts; Therefore, be it resolved: That it is the opinion of this local that new legislation is required, regulating the granting of railway charters in this province, and we would ask our provincial government to amend the acts now in force, making it compulsory for a company

applying for a charter to build and operate a certain minimum mileage each year. We would further ask that our central board of directors take the matter up and forward its progress to the best of their ability.

- 8.—Resolution of Rathwall and McBride Union, No. 221

Whereas it is advisable that all actions taken at the annual convention should have the support of a majority of the membership in order that they may carry their due weight and influence, and whereas many resolutions are received at the Central Office at too late a date for submission to the Unions before the convention; Be it resolved, therefore: That it is the opinion of this Union that no resolution should be placed before the convention that has not been referred to the Local Unions for consideration, and to give them an opportunity to instruct their delegates on their attitude.

- 9.—Resolution of Gleichen Union, No. 96

Whereas we, the members of Gleichen Union, No. 96, U.F.A., in meeting assembled, do consider that the crop reports, as they are published in the press throughout the West, are entirely unreliable, and often misleading, and whereas the market values are gauged to a large extent upon these reports, and our crops are as a rule sold for lower prices than would warrant, therefore Resolved: That we make the matter of crop reports a part of our order of business in all our regular monthly meetings through the season, and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be mailed to our general secretary at Calgary, with the request that he include it in his next circular and request all other unions within Alberta to adopt this plan, so that he can in turn furnish a correct crop report for publication in The Grain Growers' Guide, and be it further resolved: That we request the Grain Growers' Unions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to adopt the same plan, in order to have a complete report each month of all the western grain growing provinces.

Yours Sincerely,
P. P. WOODBRIDGE,
Provincial Secretary.

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