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Farm Women's Clubs

NOTE.—Any woman in Saskatchewan who feels that she would like to have a Woman's Section of the Grain Growers' Association in her district, should communicate with the provincial secretary, Miss Emma Stocking, Delisle, Sask.
Any Alberta woman who would like a Woman's Section of the United Farmers in her district should write to Mrs. R. M. Barrett, Mirror, Alta., who is the women's provincial secretary for Alberta.

SYMPATHY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

A week or two ago I saw a little article in the Alberta section of The Guide which amused me very much. Mr. Woodbridge mentioned hearing from a certain secretary who wanted information regarding the organization of women's auxiliaries, but was fearful lest when one was organized the women would try to run the men's union. However, he was brave enough to be willing to give them a trial. I am glad to say that all men do not share his lack of faith, for of the many requests for information concerning the organization of W.A.U.F.A.'s that I have received since we were born provincially, one-third have been from secretaries of unions who were anxious that their women should organize. This should serve to reassure the timid. But we have more comfort still to offer. After watching for some months the very successful working of the Woman's Institute, as it was then, the president of the Alix U.F.A. approached the secretary and myself and asked if we would not assist them in their work, as they found it very difficult to arouse any kind of interest among their members, to say nothing of outsiders. We considered the matter in committee, but decided that we could not then help directly as our own organization was new and would require the concentration of all our thought and energy to make it a success. However, we each promised to help indirectly thru the one man whom we each should be able to influence, viz., our husbands.

After the convention in January of this year we became an auxiliary to the United Farmers and the joy of the U.F.A. officers was good to see. But, to cap the climax, at the last meeting of the U.F.A. the members decided unanimously to change the date of their meeting, which was the same as ours, in order to be present at our meetings, particularly when we have men speakers, and to make it possible for us to be present at theirs and assist with their program. This was no suggestion of ours, but came as a surprise to us. Does that look as if they are afraid of us? Further, they assist us with the work of home relief, Red Cross Funds, Belgian Relief and anything else we project.

The union has grown wonderfully in the last few months and it is a great encouragement to the president and others who see beyond and above the financial side. So, my fellow workers, I do not think you have any cause for worry. Our auxiliaries are increasing very rapidly, every mail brings requests for information or reports of organization, but I am satisfied that the unions will find the auxiliaries what we find the unions, a wonderful source of strength and encouragement.

It seems from the letters that reach me that there is great need of clothing in some of the drought districts of Southern Alberta. Thru Mrs. H. C. McDaniel, Whittla, one of our provincial directors, and myself several hundred pounds of clothing have been distributed, but requests are coming in right along and we shall have to ask for aid. To a previous appeal, unions and other organizations, as well as private individuals, responded heartily, but at present we have not enough to supply the demand. Will those having clothing to spare kindly notify Mrs. McDaniel or myself and we will direct where they are to be sent. Do not ship to us except by request, as it means double transportation charges. Shoes, all sizes, are especially wanted, and in many cases bedding is requested.

In the past few weeks we have had many evidences of the sympathy felt for the unfortunate and we have no fear that our request will go unheeded.

(MRS.) LEONA R. BARRITT,
Prov. Sec. W.A.U.F.A.

A THRIVING CLUB

Dear Miss Beynon:—I am sending you a report of the work done during the last year by our Country Women's Club—now a branch of the newly organized Women's Auxiliary to the United Farmers of Alberta. We organized as a country Women's Club in February, 1914, starting with twenty-six members, a great deal

of enthusiasm, and not a great deal of knowledge as regards club work. We affiliated with the Women's Institutes under the control of the Department of Agriculture, with whom we worked satisfactorily until the new organization for farm women was formed at the U. F. A. convention at Edmonton, in January of this year, after which it was unanimously agreed that it would better meet the needs of our district if we joined the Women's Auxiliary. Our membership increased so rapidly that we had some difficulty in finding a suitable room in which to hold our meetings, but finally we were able to arrange to rent the vacant Methodist church, which fills our need splendidly, giving us a good sized hall, capable of holding about 200, and a small room, which we have arranged as a rest room, where we keep our library and serve tea.

Our library was a free gift, and is interesting in that it came from every part of the world. Not knowing how to raise funds to secure our own library when the club started, I wrote a letter to the English "Spectator" appealing for books, and to my surprise received answers from every quarter of the globe—Australia, Japan, Montana, Boston, Chicago, Great Britain and even far famed Mafeking. This gave us a good start of several hundred books, to which we hope to add year by year out of our own funds.

We meet on the last Saturday of every month for our regular business meeting, and are arranging for a second informal meeting during the month, when the Club choir will practise singing. The library is opened for exchange of books and a small charge of five cents is made for tea, which goes towards providing things needed for the rest room.

Among the subjects taken up during the last year are the following: The extermination of the house fly, co-operative buying of fruit from the producers in B.C., co-operation, beautifying the home surroundings, what a child should know before going to school, co-operation between home and school, preparation for motherhood, the country church and its place in the country's development, the value of cheerfulness, and how to keep young. We always have a certain amount of music at our meetings, and afternoon tea, provided by three members at a time, who take their turns alphabetically. We have tried to do a little towards helping provincial relief work, and when our new Women's Auxiliary is thoroughly organized all over the province, so that we know exactly where distress is most acute, and the kind of help most needed, we hope to be able to do a good deal more in that line. We have also done a certain amount of Red Cross work and up to the present have raised in the club for this purpose about \$50, besides what individual members have paid into the local Red Cross branch. Altogether we raised from February to our annual meeting at the beginning of December, \$135.50, and closed the year with \$11.80 to our credit. This year we hope to do better.

We gave an entertainment last week in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund, at which we had a very instructive lecture from Mr. Ottewill, secretary of the Extension Department, Alberta University, on the European war, illustrated with lantern slides, and several very pretty and appropriate tableaux. We only charged a small entrance fee for the entertainment, but realized \$45.25 from the proceeds. We are hoping great things from our new organization for farm women in the future. They will have many difficulties to combat, not the least being the apathy and indifference among many of the country women themselves, but there is a powerful women working amongst the more progressive and intelligent spirits on the farms, which is slowly but surely making itself felt, and if only every member of the U. F. A. and its Women's Auxiliary would come to regard themselves as missionaries to convert their neighbors to the great gospel of united effort, the speeding up of our organization and its future growth and power for good would be immense.

IRENE PARLBY.

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