

A BUSINESS MAN'S VIEW

On this page is a complete list of Life Members of the U.F.A. from its organization to date, which will doubtless be of interest to many. This list should be very largely increased within the next few months, if you read how this thing appears to a business man as indicated in the brief address by J. R. Murray, Winnipeg, to the delegates to our annual convention in January last:—

"There is one point, one most important phase that appears to me, of the development of the farmers' organizations that was brought forcibly to my mind by one point in your discussion this morning. It is true, of course, and we cannot help but realize it particularly just now, after listening to the inspiring address from Mr. Cressy, that the first and greatest problem ahead of us all is the bringing of this hideous war to a successful conclusion. This is put forcibly before us also in the address of your president, H. W. Wood, and also by Mrs. Paribby.

"Now, when the day comes when this first problem that we have on our hands is brought to a successful conclusion, and that day will come—it is the day we all long for, and the day we hope for, the day after the day—there are going to be other problems. I notice in the letter from Hon. T. A. Cressy, which your secretary read to you this afternoon, that he mentioned the problems of reconstruction. I notice on your program that Prof Swanson, from Saskatchewan, is going to speak to you to-morrow on 'The War After the War.' I think I have an idea of the line along which he will speak. I believe that when the day comes that the autocracy across the water has been vanquished that we here in Canada are going to have another war of our own on our hands, we are going to have the fight between the common people and the forces of special privilege. I believe, and the common people, the democratic people in the cities believe that the farmers' organizations of Western Canada are the greatest hope we have in that struggle. These organizations are willing and ready, yes, anxious, as your president has so often pointed out, to co-operate with any other class or interest in this Dominion, but at the same time we must be ready to fight if we have to. How are we going to do it? Strengthen our organizations in two ways, more members and more money. I do not know that we all realize the necessity of the latter, the need of more money. You know you cannot farm without money; probably some of you have often wished you had more capital that you could get certain results. You knew you could get them if you have more capital.

Life Membership Fee

"Ladies and gentlemen, your leaders are in just the same position in their organization work; they cannot work without funds. There are two ways of providing those funds: one is to pay more to the United Farmers of Alberta, and the other, to build up your commercial organizations. You have taken one step to-day towards the first in increasing your membership fee; your annual membership fee. You had another one under discussion and, as I have asked the permission and received it from your president, to mention this latter one, the one you had under discussion that you did not finally deal with this afternoon, I would like to refer to it briefly just as it appears to me from a business viewpoint, just as a business man, if you will, looking on it from the outside. I have a deeper interest than that in it, but just looking at it from that point of view, your life membership fee has been \$12. Your secretary explained that your executive had never felt inclined to make a hard drive for a great number of life members because the amount they would receive—the amount they would have coming into the treasury continually into their permanent fund, was not very great. If you will figure for a minute you will see that a return of six per cent. on that investment would bring in 72 cents a year into your Central. You voted this morning to raise your annual fee to \$2.00, one of which would go to the Central, I believe. Now, from a business point of view you cannot expect your executive to canvass hard

for life members when that life membership will bring them in less annually, 72 cents, 28 cents less than the dollar they would get from your regular annual fee. Their proposal to increase that life membership fee to \$15 this year. Six per cent. of that would bring them in 90 cents, 90 cents coming in every year, still less than the annual fee that you would pay, if you weren't a life member. Now, it is only ten cents less and that difference would be more than offset by the fact that that would be coming always for all the years to come. Their further proposal was that, starting January 1, 1919, that life membership should be raised to \$25. Six per cent. on that \$25 would bring in \$1.50 a year to the Central; that would be just 50 cents more than would come in in your annual membership fee. Now, if there is a need for money as well as men in building up your organization, and I firmly believe that there is, then surely it would appear to be good business to very carefully consider that suggestion of your executive and, while I do not want to give you any advice, I would say from a purely business point of view that it would be the right thing to adopt it.

"You know, I heard more than one delegate this morning agree their organization work could not be carried out into the furthest districts, speakers could not be sent out without money; that is true. You know that from your own experience; you need money and you must have it if you are going to carry on organization work; it cannot be done with anything else. I would urge you, ladies and gentlemen, not, for the sake of saving a few dollars now, to prevent yourselves building up a fund that will be needed in a few years to save you from a system that will collect from you in hundreds of dollars. You have the United Grain Growers Limited with three and a half million capital, paid-up capital and surplus; that is a pretty strong company; you have reason to be proud of the point to which it has advanced and the strength that it occupies in the financial world. I wonder if you know that just ten—and they are picked at random—of the members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association represent two hundred million dollars paid-up capital and surplus; you know where their interests lie. There are hundreds of members of that association; you know the way this money power has been used in the past; it has been used for its owners, always, and it always will be in the future. I believe that it must clash, of necessity, the interests behind it must clash with our ideals. Resolutions by themselves and organization alone by itself cannot stand up against that. Those things cannot combat the power of money, not alone. You know you cannot fight the devil with rose water; you cannot fight machine guns with rifles. You have got to have money to fight money. If the time comes when you need to, I would urge you to strengthen your organization on this side as well as on the side of getting additional members so that if the day comes when you have to fight for the square deal that you want you will be there healed ready for it."

LIFE MEMBERS

For 1910: Rice Sheppard, Strathcona, \$12; G. A. Dixon, Spring Ridge, \$12; T. Housley, Strathcona, \$12; J. A. Lennox, Granum, \$12; M. R. Matheson, Granum, \$12; T. B. Goodall, Lea Park, \$12; W. J. Moran, Lake View, \$12; G. E. Bentell, East Clover Bar, \$12; E. J. Fream, Calgary, \$12.

For 1911: J. R. Boyle, Edmonton, \$12; H. Sorensen, Strathmore, \$12.

For 1912: Emil Torgrimson, Dalroy, \$12; W. J. Tregillus, Calgary, \$12.

For 1913: F. C. Claire, Edmonton, \$12.

For 1914: F. S. Jacobs, Calgary, \$12.

For 1916: W. D. Trego, Gleichen, \$15; J. W. Leedy, Whitecourt, \$12; L. G. Chapman, Friske, Sask., \$12; D. J. Miller, Crossfield, \$12.

Alberta

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by F. P. Woodbridge, Secretary, Calgary, Alberta, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

For 1917: D. W. Warner, Edmonton, \$25; J. H. Chandler, Nanton, \$15; N. C. Neilson, Craigmyle, \$12; Joseph O. Weiland, Hildeford, \$12.

For 1918: S. S. Dunham, Lethbridge, \$15; W. A. Hamilton, Lethbridge, \$15; H. E. Spencer, Edgerton, \$15; J. E. Hore, Craigmyle, \$15; Herbert Spencer, Edgerton, \$15; Omar Lyon, Barons, \$30; Mrs. Omar Lyon, Barons, \$30; W. E. Ross, Clive, \$15; C. R. Miller, Staveley, \$15; P. H. Donkin, Ardenode, \$15; Theo C. Larsen, Claresholm, \$15; Andrew Anderson, Mere, \$15; Mrs. Andrew Anderson, Mere, \$15; W. J. Bertrand, Queenstown, \$25; E. A. Best, Carbon, \$25; Hans Lausen, Carleton, \$15; Sam Nelson, Carleton, \$15; Alfred Anderson, Carleton, \$15; W. A. Freeman, Ardenode, \$15; Jas. Horrocks, Ardenode, \$15; A. F. Neilson, Gleichen, \$15; J. C. Buckley, Gleichen, \$15; F. Daw, Gleichen, \$15; J. R. Allgood, Gleichen, \$15; W. McPhee, Gleichen, \$15; J. A. Blackburne, Gleichen, \$15; Merlin A. Steel, Stirling, \$15; Donald A. McLaren, Vermilion, \$15.

HOLD SOCIAL EVENINGS

In an interesting letter from W. Brackenbury, Jr., secretary of Nilrem Local, he states: "The regular meeting of the above local was held February 22, all members did not get along, but I am glad to state that we did more and better business. We are installing a travelling library in the community. Regarding the hog question, our president represented the question as a patriotic duty, and seeing that the farmer is exempted it is only right we should help the boys in the trenches as far as possible. Members were of the opinion that a doekage on hogs, 250 pounds and over is excessive.

"After a fair trial we find time is too limited to have a social evening the same day as our meeting of business. We have therefore decided to have socials two weeks in advance of our meetings, not forgetting the effort to enlist new members, in proof of which I may state we have divided the present members into two sides, the side bringing the fewest members on May 24 will have to provide a supper.

"Our next social evening will be held March 15, and St. Patrick will be remembered. We also intend to try and enlarge the Red Cross Fund at the same time. Neither are debates being shirked. On May 12, Free Trade and Tariff came under discussion. As another item of interest we have decided to store a suitable quantity of ice for summer use.

The activities of this local and some of the ideas they are putting into practice, may contain some suggestions that should be of use to other locals."

LIGHTEN WAR BURDEN

At a meeting of farmers the Stettler U.F.A. decided to carry on more vigorously and effectively than had been done during the past year. The officers for the year are: President, J. T. Gray; vice-president, J. R. Hare; directors, L. W. Tench, A. Verdon and Paul Geish; secretary, Geo. Day.

Mr. Gray reminded the meeting that the work ahead of the U.F.A. was likely to be more strenuous than at any other time in its history. The cost of the war would be enormous and while the farming community was willing to bear its share, and more too, in the work of reconstruction that was to follow, it did not intend to carry the whole of the burden that would fall upon the country. If agriculture was to flourish it must not be over-burdened, and to this end the individual farmer must give his moral and material support to those who are so energetically and successfully upholding his rights.

Mr. Tench suggested that in order to bring home to the farmer the advantages accruing from membership, that each director should take as his territory a portion of the Stettler district wherein he resides and canvass his neighbors for this purpose. The secretary, too, should, with the secretaries of school districts request their support and that

their friends. The secretary was instructed to get prices on blinder twine, formaldehyde and strychnine, wire and fence posts.

LONEBUTTE LOCAL ACTIVE

The Lonebutte local held their first meeting of this year on February 9, at which a good number of members were present, including a number of visitors, a very successful meeting being the result.

The meeting was called to order by the president, W. W. Sim, and the secretary was asked to read the balance sheet of the past year, which was done, showing the local to be in a good financial position. Several communications were also read by the secretary, giving quotations on articles needed by members of the local, such as formaldehyde, gopher poison, blacklag remedy, barb wire, feed oats and blinder twine. The quotations were carefully considered by the meeting and a number of orders were taken, after which it was decided to leave the matter open for further orders until March 1.

Another letter from the livestock association, asking for the feeling of the local in regard to the encouragement of an increased pork production, was read and replied to. J. Higginbottom also read a number of letters from the Government Horse Association, which were also considered by the Local Horse Association.

A number of new members were then enrolled, bringing the number up to a total of 45. It was then proposed that a social evening should be held by the local some time in the near future, and after a very interesting discussion a committee was appointed to make arrangements for a dance and entertainment.

A couple of very interesting and instructive addresses were then given by W. W. Sim and J. O. Higginbottom, two of the delegates who represented the local at the annual convention.

A SONG OF AGRICULTURE

We are in receipt of the following song from T. A. Reynar, secretary of the Maleb local, which he states one of their members sang at their recent meeting, all members joining in the chorus. The song seemed to take so well he thought it advisable to send it for publication:

Glory, Glory, Agriculture

(Tune: John Brown's Body)

Agriculture is the burden of our song tonight,

We're here because each one of us has seen the shining light;

But all our learning has not yet impaired our appetite,

We're better farmers now.

Chorus:

Glory, glory, agriculture,

Glory, glory, agriculture,

Glory, glory, agriculture,

We're better farmers now.

We farmers realize that we cannot safely plow

Without a scientific man to show exactly how;

We study more, we plan ahead, we encourage our brow,

We're better farmers now.

Our function is to multiply the blades of grass by two,

To raise some better livestock and to study markets too;

And by co-operating we are sure to get our due,

We're better farmers now.

G. T. Skinner, secretary of the Riverton local, reports that at their November meeting they decided to raise the membership fee to \$2.00, one dollar of which to be sent to the Central. Their delegate, in his report of the first convention he has attended, showed them that he was very enthusiastic, and is of the opinion that the fee should be further raised to \$5.00.

The Lake Isle U.F.A. held a most successful basket social and dance recently. All neighboring centres showed their interest in the local by their participation. Bidding on baskets went lively and a neat sum was realized for the erection of a hall at Lake Isle. Building of the hall will be commenced in March.