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Alberta

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

THE ALBERTA SECTION

A brief explanation as to the aims and objects of this page and the regulations in regard to same may be of interest to our readers. Recently two or three letters of complaint have been forwarded to Winnipeg, and as the matter really referred to this office, have, of course, been sent on to me.

Having regard to the regulations in connection with the publishing of matter on this page, our secretaries will please note that all matter for publication in this section must be forwarded to the Central Office, where it is put up in proper form and forwarded to Winnipeg for the following week's issue on Tuesday of each week. Secondly, the amount of space allowed us, whether two, three or four columns, is regulated by instructions from The Guide office at Winnipeg. I might point out that the reason it is at times found necessary to cut down the space allowed us is on account of the cost. In the heavy advertising season, you will notice that The Guide runs sometimes to as much as forty pages, while in the slack season it is necessary to cut the paper down considerably, and the different portions of the paper are reduced pro rata. It is during this period that you will find the provincial sections, including Alberta, will only run to two or three columns. The idea, prevalent in some quarters, that the short page is due to carelessness, or even worse, on the part of this office is incorrect. We always use all the space which the management of The Guide is able to give us.

The aim and object of the Alberta Section of The Guide is to provide live, readable matter, showing what our most progressive unions are doing, how they manage to increase and maintain their membership, and in general make themselves a benefit to their members and the community in general. Our object is to disseminate this information among all our unions and the members thereof, so that those who are not so fortunate in having a live, up-to-date union may learn what other unions are doing who have made a success of things and in that way help themselves. There appears to be an impression abroad that this page should be run more in the form of an editorial page, or a Mail Bag column, where resolutions and discussions on various matters should be given full space. It might be well to mention that, while I am nominally editor of this page, the Executive of this Association act in an advisory capacity and from time to time make suggestions in regard to same. It is in accordance with their wishes that the present policy has been laid down.

In conclusion, we are anxious to make this Alberta Section as interesting as it is possible for us to do to the majority of our readers. We welcome any suggestions for its improvement, and the same will be given full attention at the next regular monthly meeting of our Executive.

P. P. W.

VETERAN LOCAL STRONG

One of the most active unions of the U.F.A. is Veteran, which has held six meetings during the winter, all being well attended, the average attendance being over fifty. The membership has more than doubled, and now stands at 145, all in good standing. Since the organization of the union three years ago, thru lack of railway facilities and also of the cash, they have been able to do very little co-operative buying, but have established themselves on a firm basis and since the organization of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company and the building of an elevator at Veteran, a practical demonstration has been given the members of what can be accomplished by organization and co-operation. With the return of the delegates from the Lethbridge convention the old enthusiasm was stirred up, and subsequent attendance at the meetings has convinced them that

it is most important that every local should send at least one delegate to the annual convention and more if possible, as the average U.F.A. member does not realize the strength of our organization until he has attended a convention. With increased attendance at the meetings, a number of lively and interesting discussions have been held, the principal ones being "Free Trade vs. Protection" (resulting in two votes being cast for Protection), "Co-operation or Competition," "Berrywater Local Resolution," and a general discussion at two meetings on the advisability of starting a local co-operative retail store at Veteran. Opinion on this question is considerably divided, but the consensus of opinion seems to be that with the Co-operative Elevator Company handling flour, feed, lumber and several other staple articles a venture on such a touchy proposition as a co-operative store at the present would be unwise and, in comparison with the setback the local would receive in case of failure, the risk would be altogether unwarranted. At the fortnightly dances \$51.70 has been cleared to date, while at a benefit dance given for a member in need thru sickness in his family, the hall and music being given free, exactly \$100 was raised and turned over to him. At the different meetings held by the union a number of local by-laws were instituted, in regard to the auditing of books, bonding of secretary-treasurer, etc. A blackboard five feet square has also been put up on the main street for the purpose of advertising U.F.A. meetings, etc. It was also decided to start a library in connection with the Department of Extension Work, Alberta University, Edmonton, and a committee was appointed to have same ready for circulation by next winter. A committee was also appointed to interview the Veteran Board of Trade and request their active assistance in a determined effort to secure the holding of a short course school of agriculture for Veteran next year. Arrangements have also been made to hold joint celebrations on July 1 with the Board of Trade and baseball team.

BUY WOVEN WIRE

Prominent Heights Local has decided to order a supply of woven wire from the Grain-Growers' Company, this action being decided upon at the last meeting. One new member was admitted to the local.

PANDORA ACTIVE

Pandora Local is an active one. Situated in the country nearly forty miles north of the main line of the C.P.R. the settlement cannot be described as an old one, and early in 1913 the farmers decided that the time had come for a branch of the U.F.A. Now, at its first anniversary, Pandora has over 60 members and is still growing. It was ahead of the Association in throwing open the doors to the ladies. A good dance was held a short time ago at which over 200 were in attendance, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

ROCKY COULEE SAVES \$700

C. Blunden, secretary of the Rocky Coulee Union No. 195, reports that they have now a membership of 44 and meet every two weeks. He states that they have saved the members the sum of \$700 since the beginning of the year, by co-operative purchasing. They have purchased coal, fence posts, bluestone, for mallehyde and hogs, and are now waiting for a carload of fence wire.

LOMOND PICNIC JULY 10

H. J. Duffy, secretary of Lomond Union No. 592, requests us to mention the fact that their picnic will be held on July 10, at Lomond townsite, on section 14-6-20, west of 4th Mer., and they hope to have as large an attendance as possible.

HINDVILLE CO OPERATING

John Fortune, secretary of Hindville Union No. 546, reports that there appears to be a growing interest among the members of that local, and that they are now beginning to realize that it pays to be united. They have purchased a carload of fence wire co-operatively and are now taking orders for a carload of lumber, thereby not only benefiting themselves, but showing outsiders what a good live union is able to do.

EDWELL DOING THINGS

F. J. Powell, secretary of Edwell Union No. 53, reports that that union held a well attended meeting in the schoolhouse on May 13, with President T. J. Walton in the chair. A letter was read from the president of the U.F.A. congratulating the organization on the splendid increase in local unions and urging the necessity of co-operation. The twine question was considered at this meeting, the members deciding to purchase Belfast twine thru The Grain Growers' Grain Co., and the secretary was instructed to communicate with all outlying unions as to co-operating with them in obtaining a carload. All members are requested to notify the secretary without delay as to the amount they will require. Four new members were admitted at this meeting. The agreements with the government re formation of an Egg Circle were ordered to be signed and the secretary was instructed to obtain the necessary stamps for marking the eggs. T. Kirtson was accepted as the collector of the eggs and ten members signified their intention of joining, which was a good start.

The Annual Picnic

It was decided to hold the annual picnic on June 11, on the old Heppel place, about one mile west of the schoolhouse, the secretary being instructed to obtain a speaker from headquarters, if possible.

The subject of the Red Deer weekly market was discussed during the evening, and the secretary urged the members to give it their support. He also said that he was writing to the various neighboring locals urging them to give it their support, for, as he pointed out, the buyers were there on the first day, but not the sellers.

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