

SHOULD MERCHANTS JOIN U.F.A.

A Hanna correspondent sends us a report dealing with a meeting held at that point, at which a discussion arose in regard to the question of merchants joining the U.F.A. locals. There is nothing in the Constitution to prevent merchants becoming members of the U.F.A., in fact many locals like to have their local merchants associated with them in their work. The reading of the Constitution on this point is that any person directly interested in farming may become a member, but the admission of new members is a matter left entirely in the hands of the local itself. There appears to be a feeling at some points that the admission of local merchants as members is perhaps not advisable. The whole question no doubt rests upon the relations between farmers and the local merchants at any point, such relationship no doubt resting upon the kind of service rendered by the local merchants to the farmers. We do not hear of much friction between local merchants and farmers at points where there are real live merchants who are endeavoring to give good service and who are up-to-date and progressive in their business methods. We should be glad to have the experience of other districts in this respect.—H. Higginbotham.

The report of the Hanna correspondent on this point follows:—

"It was stated that merchants of Hanna wanted to join the U.F.A. and a discussion was immediately precipitated on the advisability of their admission. Some contended their presence would hamper free discussion and render the U.F.A. futile in its campaign of educating the farmer in his true economic interests. To the astonishment of some a member stated that on requesting a neighbor farmer to join the U.F.A. he was told he could not as he was in debt at the store where he traded, and he got a strong hint that he need never expect credit again if he joined the local, and as he was a married man and would in all probability need further accommodation, he did not feel free to join, much as he liked to do otherwise.

Farmers have been aware for a long time that they were not getting a square deal, and years ago they formed grain growers associations to try and get a square deal for their class. They had to fight a long and strenuous battle against grain dealers, manufacturers' associations, wholesale and retail dealers' organizations for every concession they have so far secured and members were afraid that if storekeepers joined the U.F.A. it was not to advance the farmers' interests but rather to protect their own. Would a farmer have any business to join the retail dealers' association?"

SEED GRAIN CERTIFICATES

Notwithstanding the publicity which has been given to the subject of seed grain certificates entitling farmers to special rates on seed grain, there still appears to be some confusion as to the method of securing this service. The responsibility for control of these certificates has been placed with the U.F.A. in so far as the Province of Alberta is concerned, and it is up to every local secretary and member of the U.F.A., to assist the Central office in carrying out the regulations regarding the issuing of these certificates. The certificate is made in duplicate form, one part of which should be filled in by the farmer stating the amount and the kinds of seed grain he requires, the acreage to be seeded and the location of his land. This portion is to be sent to the Central office for permanent record. The other portion consists of a certificate which is issued to the farmer and which bears similar particulars to the above, but which also has to have the signature of the U.F.A. provincial secretary and the local secretary in order to be valid.

Any bona-fide farmer who is requiring seed grain can secure this service whether he is a member of the U.F.A. or not. Applications should, however, be made in all cases to the nearest U.F.A. Local Secretary. U.F.A. local secretaries who are receiving applications from farmers for seed grain certificates can obtain a supply of these certificates from the Central office.

Alberta

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

The local secretaries particularly should endeavor to see that the certificates are issued only to those who are entitled to the seed rate. Farmers who are having their seed grain shipped by commercial seed firms should make the application for a special seed grain certificate themselves, as the Central office has no means of knowing the credentials of farmers for whom certificates may be requested by such commercial firms.—General Secretary.

CASH REMITTANCES

From time to time membership dues and payments on account of supplies are forwarded to the Central office in the form of cash. We realize of course that there are times when it is much more convenient to remit dues in the form of cash than by money order or postal note, but we would like to remind local secretaries that money so remitted is entirely at their own risk, and if it should be lost they have no recourse against the postal authorities and there is very little chance indeed of the money being recovered.

A curious point arose some time ago in this connection between two farmers. One farmer sent a ten dollar bill to another farmer to pay for some seed grain. The money landed alright but the farmer who received the money had sold all his seed grain and had to return the money, which he did in the same form in which it was sent. On the return trip the ten dollar bill was lost and could not be recovered. Whilst the man who had the seed grain to sell and returned the ten dollar bill claimed that he should not be held liable as he merely remitted the money in the same form as it was sent, nevertheless the responsibility was his as the other man's risk terminated when the recipient received the money.

On the whole it is much safer and better in every way to remit either in the form of a cheque, postal note, money order, express order or some other form which can be traced and identified in case it goes astray. There is also much less chance of making a mistake in handling money which is remitted in this form as the amount is clearly stated on the order, whereas cash sent loose in an envelope may easily become detached or mixed with some other remittance in the handling of the mail.—General Secretary.

ALLIANCE LOCAL FLOURISHING

A very encouraging report has just been sent us by F. H. Clements, secretary of Alliance local, in which he states that the farmers in their district are taking a great interest in the work of the U.F.A. and they have a membership of over seventy at the present time, which is an increase of approximately forty members over that of last year. At their last regular meeting, which was held on March 25, the matter of binder twine was discussed which resulted in the ordering of a carload from the United Grain Growers Ltd. The purchasing of Formaldehyde and Gopher poison was also up for discussion and these commodities are being ordered through the local druggist who is offering same at a reduced rate to U.F.A. members. Another important matter which was dealt with was the handling of hail insurance through the Central office, the union being heartily in favor of this, realizing that hail insurance is essentially a farmer's business, and that consequently he should see that it is handled as economically as possible and to the very best possible advantage as far as he was concerned. The members have made arrangements to ship another car of hogs to the United Grain Growers Livestock Department this week, which is the third shipment they have made since the business was taken up by them this spring. Those who have participated in these shipments are thoroughly well satisfied with the returns.

We were very please to receive a letter a few days ago from Wm. F.

Petersmeyer, formerly of Birdaholm, Alta., who now resides in Freeport, Flo. During his residence in Alberta, Mr. Petersmeyer was closely associated with the U.F.A., being at one time secretary of Hillview Local No. 410. Apparently he is still taking a keen interest in the work and in requesting that we send him a copy of our annual report remarks "I am a long way from Alberta in distance but not in thought, and am still wearing the button in my coat."

FREE IMPLEMENTS

Another encouraging report is that of Stainsleigh Local No. 794, which was organized since the beginning of the year. Their second meeting was held on March 22, at which there was a very satisfactory gathering, and six new members were enrolled. An interesting feature of the meeting was a discussion on the Tariff, at the conclusion of which the members went on record as being in favor of the removal of the tariff from all farm implements. Another matter which is well worth noting is the U.F.A. Sunday meetings which the local are holding. Mr. Thompson, a former minister of the Gospel, has agreed to conduct an informal meeting every second Sunday for the discussion and study of religious topics. The initial Sunday meeting was held on March 24, and while the attendance was not as large as it might have been, those who did attend considered that their time was well spent, and that the meeting was both interesting and instructive. Mr. Thompson conducted the service, and a portion of the Bible lesson was chosen for discussion in which those present took an active part.

Geo. Martin, secretary of High Prairie Local No. 156, reports a splendid meeting of their local which was held on March 21. Mr. Molyneux, organizer for the United Grain Growers Ltd., gave an address on livestock shipping and co-operative trading in a very comprehensive and convincing manner, leaving an impression that cannot but bear good fruit in the near future. The members wish to express their thanks to the United Grain Growers for sending Mr. Molyneux, and for the inspiration and information which they have derived from his visit.

NEW LOCAL STARTED

A new Local, to be known as Duchess, was organized at that point on April 1, and the Secretary, E. A. Faucher, reports as follows:—

April the first was certainly a very stormy day, but it did not prevent the farmers of this neighborhood from turning out and attending a meeting for the purpose of organizing a branch of the United Farmers of Alberta. Our Director, G. A. Forster, of Nateby, was in attendance and gave an interesting address on the objects and benefits of becoming a branch of this great farmers' organization. Richard Welch, who was the first settler in the neighborhood, was unanimously elected president, Chas. B. Price, vice-president and E. A. Faucher, secretary-treasurer. The election of directors was left over for the next meeting when it is expected that several other farmers will be in attendance. Thirteen members signed the roll, but it is expected that every farmer in the district will become a member in the near future.

INTERESTING MEETINGS

J. E. Blore, late director for the Bow River constituency, visited Stanmore local on March 26 to assist them in completing their organization. On his way to the meeting he met Vice-President Baker on the train, the latter being scheduled to address a meeting at Youngstown on Greater Production, under the auspices of the Provincial Government, on the same date. This proved to be a happy coincidence as the Youngstown meeting was to be held in the evening and Stanmore in the

afternoon, so Mr. Baker agreed to come and address the latter, arriving just as they were completing their organization. He spoke for an hour and a half, making a deep impression on the farmers who were present. A collection was taken up at the meeting in order to cover the expenses of the organizers, which is to be forwarded to the Central office. We very much appreciate their thoughtfulness in this matter.

On leaving this point, Messrs. Blore and Baker proceeded together to Youngstown. The meeting there was very well attended, over one hundred people being present. After Mr. Baker had addressed the gathering, Mr. Blore spoke for a few minutes in regard to the financing of the U.F.A. in a more efficient manner.

The following letter has been received from the Red Cross Society:—United Farmers of Alberta, Calgary, Alta.

Dear Sirs:—We have pleasure in acknowledging your letter of the 27th inst., enclosing the splendid contribution of Two Hundred and Fifty-nine Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$259.50) to the general funds of the society, being amounts received at your Central office for our society, and I enclose our official receipt No. 6633.

With grateful thanks and with kindest regards, I remain

Yours faithfully,

M. Pinkham,
Hon. Treas. and Joint Secretary,
Alberta Provincial Branch.

U.F.A. BRIEFS

T. Bruce Taylor reports the organization of Bowmantown Local No. 803 on March 27, of which he has been elected secretary-treasurer.

Allan Mercer, secretary of Sexsmith local at Clairmont, reports that during the past twelve months the local did a business in co-operative trading amounting to about \$15,000.

Panoras local expects to greatly increase its membership during the next quarter. Their co-operative society are buying out the general store in the town.

A. R. Hoag, secretary of Bowden Local No. 9, reports that they have twenty-two names on their roll and hope before long that they shall be able to increase this number to at least fifty.

The old Oyen Local No. 606 has re-organized and W. A. T. Walker, who has been elected secretary, stated the prospects for a real live local are very bright. They have started off with 20 members.

Another new local reporting this week is Tolland No. 808, which was organized on March 10th, seventeen members signing the roll. F. A. Metcalf was elected secretary-treasurer. Meetings will be held in the Ganton schoolhouse on the last Saturday of each month.

The first visitor to the Central office this morning (April 5) was Alex Felton, of Bassano, who announced that he had successfully organized a local in his district, to be known as Countess Local. The farmers in the district have felt the need of a branch of our association for some time and it is felt that same will be of very material benefit to the members.

C. A. Harris, director of the Medicine Hat constituency, has just organized a new local under the name of Mount Pleasant, beginning with a paid-up membership of fourteen, of which D. Gibson, of Mulbach, has been appointed secretary. Mr. Harris thinks there is every indication of this becoming a real live local.

At a recent meeting of Nilrem Local No. 741, the matter of Mr. Spencer's recent circular re convention of locals in Battle River constituency was taken up, and the members were in favor of same. They have also decided that they will hold U.F.A. Sunday on May 5. Their competition for new members is still proving a success. Other matters which were discussed at this meeting were gopher poison, telephones, and farm help.