



ALBERTA SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by Edward J. Fream, Secretary, Calgary, Alta.

Are We Known?

When out on a visit to some of the locals of the U.F.A. a short time ago and prior to the opening of one of the meetings, the writer was in conversation with one of the members and he remarked, half-jokingly, probably all in earnest, "What in the world have you fellows got to do, anyway? You just have to look wise and take advantage of your opportunities." I wonder now, have we? Well, if any who think so will kindly drop into the office for a time it will be quite an easy matter to convince anyone that the members of the executive are working all the time, and that many big questions are being taken up and fought for the benefit of the members. However, on that score more anon. Just at present among other duties which devolve on the office, the latest seems to be that of a general information bureau for people residing outside the country. For this the thanks, or otherwise, are due to a publication called "World's Work." A visiting card was not received from the representatives of that publication, so nothing further can be said about them, but they evidently have had something to say about the U.F.A. lately. Just to show what this means, the following extracts from letters received this week are given. The first is from a young lady residing in New Zealand (no, her name and address will not be attached thereto so do not be unnecessarily alarmed at present), and the other letter was received from England. Others could be given, but these will suffice to show that not only in Western Canada, but in all parts of the English speaking world the U.F.A. is known as a reliable source from which valuable information can be secured.

However, let the letters speak for themselves:

"Having read with great interest an article on 'Canadian Opportunities for Women' in the May issue of the World's Work, and seriously thinking of emigrating to Canada, I would be very much obliged if you could give me any information regarding the demand for labor there. There are several young women here who, I am sure, would be only too pleased for an opportunity to go to Canada, if they were sure of work on arrival. I shall wait with interest your favored reply, and if you advise us to go West I do not think you will be disappointed as we all know what hard work is and will make excellent domestic servants. I shall be glad to answer any questions you like to ask. We are all desirous of seeing a little of the world and will not hesitate at hard work if it will enable us to do so. I do not think I need say any more till I hear from you, and thanking you for your valuable advice."

Unless that letter rings false and the information given in reply is not satisfactory, I really think that several young ladies from the Antipodes will soon be making their residence in Western Canada, as there is evidently plenty of room for them.

The second letter reads:

"Will you be so kind as to send me full particulars respecting work for families? I am a butcher by trade, but have been unfortunate in business. Last year I was out of work for seven months. This year I have, and am now, out of work ten weeks. I am not afraid of work or what kind. Have been used to cattle. I have a wife, two daughters, one 23 and one 15; two sons, one 18 and one 9 years of age; also a sister, age 30, who wants to come to Canada. I was reading the book, 'The World's Work,' my cause for writing to you, so if you will be so kind to forward as early as possible full particulars, as it seems like starvation in England, we can then consider and let you know our future plans."

Probably some will think that it is not to the interest of the association to take up this kind of work, but the answer to such an argument should be that our motto is "Equity." We stand for the greatest good for the greatest number, and if we are to live up to our motto

we must be prepared to attend to everything which comes along. If we can help others who are not quite so fortunately situated as ourselves, should we not do so? It seems that there can be only one answer to such a question, and that is, as long as the U.F.A. can keep to the forefront, and echo says that will be for all time to come, then will the members be found taking up work which will show that the association is indeed entitled to be known throughout the world. No matter what the subject may be, we must be prepared to grapple with it when it is presented.

In the meantime, if any member would like to find out more along the lines suggested by these letters, the central office is at his, hers or their disposal at all times.

Are we known? It would certainly appear so, and further, we are apparently well and favorably known also.

E.J.F.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

I beg leave to answer some articles that at different times appeared in our organ, The Guide, under the above heading. If an excuse is needed for taking up space in your columns, it may be urged that it is a momentous question, and as a question the answer of which the future developments and well-being of the order will very much depend. An exchange of ideas is not only fully justifiable but necessary before it (the question) is taken up for final disposal at our annual convention.

Perhaps the principal plea put forward to exclude others than farmers, is that the farmers' organization has other interests than the general public and for this reason none but farmers should belong to it. That sounds plausible, but is it a fact? Our motto is, and we pride ourselves over it, "Equity," and we have repeatedly impressed on all those we have come in contact with that that is what we want and no favors, and that being so in what way do we differ from other right thinking men? If we, by letting these same right thinking men join our union, can strengthen our order and its influence, do we not distinctly gain thereby? Why it should lead us into political scheming, as Mr. Proctor asserts, is not at all obvious as long as we adhere to that very needful act in our constitution which prohibits party politics from being discussed in the union.

On the other hand, by strictly conforming our organization to one class, the tendency which always exists in class association of putting the value of the cause of the class before the cause and object of the union will have more unchecked opportunity to develop, and this in a greater degree as the organization grows in strength, and might eventually make the union an oppressor in place of a champion for the public good. We have set a high ideal for our goal, and much time and work must, of necessity, be spent before we hope to see it all accomplished, and therefore the more members we can enroll the more good men we can bring within the scope of our influence and sympathy, the sooner will we be able to see our striving accomplished.

But if we shut ourselves within ourselves and appropriate, or rather ascribe, to ourselves those virtues that exist as much outside as inside the farming class, we, in place of drawing toward our union that active sympathy which is so essential to any forward movement of reform, antagonize other right thinking men.

To intimate that only farmers are honest enough, or should I say disinterested enough, to accomplish the regeneration of the country, may be a very flattering unctious to our class, but it is not the truth. But if there are good men without, we, on the other hand, have as good men within, and for choice I am partial enough to see these good men represent us in Parliament, but that, as Kipling has it, is another story.

We farmers have, by our association movement, started as a leaven to raise

the tone of a sluggish or stagnant political dough, and in the process we have found a lot of hostile and evil smelling germs which have and still are retarding healthy development and which must be overcome and destroyed. This means time and much work, therefore the more quickly to realize results let us not exclude other useful germs simply because they are of another variety of the species that initiated the movement.

N. H. NATHORST.

Pincher Station, Alta.

INFORMATION WANTED

"We have been badly frozen-out here this fall and our wheat will not be worth shipping after threshing and our crop is going to be nearly a failure. We have been thinking of buying sheep and feeding our grain in the sheaf to them so that we could get something out of the crop. Being a member of the U.F.A., I am taking the liberty of writing you to see if you could tell us where we could get a thousand sheep and at what price."

The above letter is just to hand. Can any member put me in touch with reliable parties so that I can secure the information asked for?

E. J. F.

WHAT THE UNIONS ARE DOING

Namaka Union held meetings on September 2 and 9 for the purpose of dealing with backlying circulars from headquarters, the more important being those regarding farm help and rural municipalities. The latter was considered so important that the whole of the meeting on the 9th was occupied with the discussion thereof, and while it was thought that improvement might be made in several of the provisions of the Saskatchewan Act, the meeting resolved in favor of the plan of rural municipalities as adopted in Saskatchewan, the size of a municipality to be nine townships and the plan for the taxation of land values to be adopted. Regarding farm help, the members seemed to have no difficulty in securing in the ordinary way all the help required.

JOHN P. LAWRIE, Sec'y.

Namaka, Alta.

Dalroy turned out en bloc on Tuesday evening, September 12, to hear addresses delivered by E. J. Fream, secretary of the U.F.A., and T. L. Swift, Calgary manager of the Grain Growers' Grain company. "Union is strength," was the text given out by Mr. Fream and was boldly and clearly illustrated by what had already been done and what they were trying to do. Mr. Swift spoke clearly and convincingly on the advantages the farmers received through the Grain Growers' Grain company and dwelt on the obstacles which had been overcome in the fight for success, which had been so splendidly achieved. It was really a splendid meeting throughout. The school room was packed and all listened very attentively to both speakers for a period of over four hours. Our thanks are certainly due to them for the clear insight into the various questions which they have given us. Arrangements were made by them for C. H. Scott to act as agent for both the company and The Guide.

C. H. SCOTT, Sec'y.

Dalroy, Alta.

Wolf Hill Union is keeping right to the front and at the last regular meeting the municipalities question came up for discussion, the result being an expression of opinion from our members as follows: "Whereas the province of Alberta is about to adopt a new rural municipalities bill; and whereas we have carefully considered the Saskatchewan act regarding same; therefore be it resolved by Wolf Hill Union that the Saskatchewan act regarding rural municipalities be adopted in Alberta, with the exception of favoring land tax value, with a surtax to cover land held by speculators, instead of acreage tax; and be it further resolved that

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

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W. J. Tregillus - Calgary

Secretary-Treasurer:

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the municipalities be composed of sixteen townships."

GEO. G. GRAVES, Sec'y.

Hartshorn, Alta.

The members of Carlton Union have been very busy lately and the attendance at the meetings has not been very large on that account. The circular relating to rural municipalities was discussed at the last meeting, the result being that the members approved of the plan outlined, the size to be sixteen townships and the system of land value taxation to be adopted. We think also that it would be an advantage to the members if some system for the transferring of members was adopted.

J. J. PRICE, Sec'y.

Ensleigh, Alta.

Milk River Union is keeping busy and several matters of importance to the members have been lately taken up. We were trying to make arrangements to finance the building of a grain warehouse, but the hail did a lot of damage in this section, so we passed the matter up for another year. We have succeeded in getting another buyer here, so that will help us some. Ten new members have been secured since our last report.

IRA ROUSE, Sec'y.

Milk River, Alta.

All officers and members of Buckeye Union were present at the first meeting after organization, when steps were taken to assist in the work of the association. We have not yet been able to get into the real work, but will no doubt be able to do so when we get better acquainted. The amount of crop in this district is about 4,500 acres and cutting has been general for some time now.

ROY WALKER, Sec'y.

Reid Hill, Alta.

Hail insurance is coming in for a lot of discussion these days, and White Lake Union believes in being right to the front in everything, so we have adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, the present season has been marked by exceptional damage by hail, hundreds having their entire crop destroyed, and hundreds more having their crops seriously damaged; and, whereas, such destruction occurs every year to a greater or less extent, every grain grower being liable to have his entire year's efforts blotted out in a few minutes causing extreme hardships, and further, we believe it is in accord with the spirit of the U. F. A. organization that we should assist one another in the spirit of brotherliness, and, lastly, it is considered a tax of one cent per acre on all farm lands of the province would furnish a fund sufficient to pay two-thirds value of the damage done by hail throughout the province, therefore we would request that the government of Alberta enact such legislation as will legalize the levying and collecting of such a tax to be applied as aforesaid, further, that the various unions be requested to co-operate in securing this suggested legislation."

ROY LUCHIA, Sec'y.

Kenex, Alta.

Orton Union is not holding regular meetings at present, on account of the busy season and so many of our members are working at different places, but we are all boosting anyway, and as soon as the rush is over will be right in the harness for the U. F. A. once more.

J. T. DERRICOTT, Sec'y.

Orton, Alta.

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