

United Farmers of Alberta

Conducted Officially for the United Farmers of Alberta
by the Secretary

H. Higginbotham, Calgary, Alta.

Local Initiative

THE season has again come around when farmers can give a little more time to self-improvement and to the upbuilding of a better, more enjoyable and more helpful social environment.

Perhaps the greatest work that the association has accomplished is in merely bringing the farmers as a class in closer association with each other. Hon. T. A. Crerar, in speaking of the value of occasional meetings of the leaders of the various farmers' organizations, said on one occasion: "It would be worth the trouble if we should do nothing more than sit around a table and visit." The same is true of farmers locally. The simple matter of getting together at regular intervals is of first importance. "If all the farmers in each district in the West, men and women, could be induced to meet regularly once a week all winter and to talk over their mutual problems, Western agriculture and rural social conditions would be revolutionized," says J. B. Musselman.

The field for helpful activity for a local U.F.A. is almost without limit. It is very much better that ideas and suggestions should emanate from local meetings and be forwarded to the Central than that a line of work should be fully mapped out at the Central and forwarded to the locals. As much as may be, initiative in the locals should be encouraged.

Delia Builds Hall

Norman Burke, secretary of Delia local, recently called at Central and advised that the members of the U.F.A. had built a hall at Delia. For a long time they have felt the need of a meeting place, having had to beg, borrow or steal a place to meet in for the past three or four years, often renting, and sometimes when they had all arrangements made, the place of meeting would be taken by other parties and used for some other purpose, so the members subscribed and decided to build a hall, owned and operated by the U.F.A. The hall is built in such a way that the U.F.W.A. also have a place to meet in, and a rest room is provided, nicely furnished with writing desk, armchairs, etc. They have given a lady the use of a back room in the hall, free as a living room, and she in turn looks after the building, which is open at all times. The hall will be of great benefit, particularly to the farm women of the district, as any time they care to come to town they have a comfortable and warm place to rest in. It is already half paid for and they hope in a very short time to complete payments.

Mr. Burke stated that they hoped to have a membership drive in the fall and now that they are independent and have their own hall thinks the prospects for the Delia local look particularly bright.

The members, to a very large extent, buy and sell through the U.G.G. elevator at Delia.

The Loyal Members

The loyal member of the U.F.A. who has the welfare of the organization at heart should at least send his \$15 to the secretary at Calgary and make his application for a life membership. A life member pays no dues to the Central Office. His future dues then to the local are cut in two, and from a business standpoint the life member has made a good investment, provided that he sees but a small portion of the enormous amount of work that in future must be done by the U.F.A. and is willing to do his part.—S. S. Dunham, ex-vice-president, U.F.A.

The following have taken out life memberships since the last list was published in The Guide:—Oscar Eliasson, Twin Creek; H. Higginbotham, Calgary; J. O. White, Claresholm; Brook Booth; Streamstown; R. H. Richardson, Mere, \$25.00; Sander Josephson, Mere; I. F. Rowland, Warner; H. J. Duffy, Lomond; E. Clay, Edgerton; F. Hinton, Edgerton; J. Stauffer, Olds; C. W. Carroll, Leduc; S. S. Sears, Nanton; W. Kirkup, Gleichen; Wills Hayes, Gleichen; Charles England; Blackie; W. Borin, Stocks; Alfred Larsen, Viking; T. A. Cox, Viking; Mrs. Edith Cox, Viking; Harry Rands, Macleod;

Joshua Orr, Orton; Thos. Orr, Orton; S. G. Tobin, Leduc; Sydney C. S. Courtney, Pickardville; Robert Walker, Cayley; Chas. Howard, Cayley; H. C. Wingate, Cayley; G. D. Sloane, Cayley; Charles Blunden, Granum; Mrs. May Blunden, Granum; Wm. A. Scott, Stavelly; David W. Shaw, Burfield; E. A. Todd, Oyen; S. J. Smith, Delbourne; Thos. B. Phillips, Ponoka; Gus. E. A. Malchow, Stavelly; Thos. Armour, Chauvin; Mrs. Agnes Y. Armour, Chauvin; C. R. Field, Kinuso; Walter Skinner, Riverton; D. H. Behrens, Gleichen; O. C. Tigner, Gleichen; J. L. Fritz, Gleichen; A. N. Thorsen, Gleichen; R. W. Runk, Blind Creek; P. T. Rhoades, Blind Creek; Thomas Naylor, Gleichen; N. J. Robinson, Blind Creek; O. J. Sware, Hay Lakes; H. W. Wood, Carstairs.

Value of Publicity

"The farmers through their organizations could reap thrice the benefits they now receive by taking advantage of the opportunity offered by the columns of their local paper. Do you realize what a power for good the local paper can be made in any community, especially in any community where farming is the predominating occupation? Our advice to the United Farmers is—come out of your shells this winter and make greater use of your opportunities."

The above extract is from an editorial appearing in the Hanna Herald. It is advice which we heartily recommend to all our locals. The Central Office has often wondered why local newspaper editors did not give more attention to agricultural matters in their own communities; but in this case, at least, the fault does not lie with the newspaper, which has offered a page each week to be devoted to the interests of the farmers of the community. We hope the farmers of the Hanna district, and particularly the Hanna U.F.A., will use the opportunity offered.

Successful Patriotic Bazaar

Gough Lake U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. in conjunction with the school district held a successful musical entertainment and bazaar in aid of the Red Cross Fund on August 19. The magnificent sum of \$134 was realized, a clear profit after all expenses paid. \$65 was handed over to the U.F.W.A. for Red Cross work, which work they are constantly helping forward, and \$69 was forwarded through the Central office for the Red Cross Fund. The children under the care of their very able teacher astonished the entire community, and cannot be given too much praise both for their singing and needlework.

Worthy Record

An excellent record is that of the De Winton local. Here are a few particulars: Organized June 27, 1918, with 11 members. Since held five meetings; average attendance 26; present paid-up membership 56, including nearly every farmer in the district. Co-operative trading receipts up to end of October, \$1,408.83. Shipped five cars of livestock co-operatively. Convinced several farmers having carloads of stock to ship direct. Sold two cars of coal and one of salt and have on order one car of coal and one car of posts. Have done considerable to foster the community spirit; have now excellently equipped community hall, and nearly every farmer in the district is looking forward to a brighter future.

Hanna and Lonebutte

Several carloads of fruit and potatoes have been bought by the Hanna Co-operative Association, part of which were bought by members of the Lonebutte local. The local is in a good thriving condition and through its representative to the Hanna Co-operative Association is able to handle almost any kind of business in regard to buying

and selling. At their last meeting, H. Anderson was appointed to find out the exact location of points from which the C.N.R. proposed line is to be built. W. Cummings gave a report on the work of council on seed grain.

Ardenode Progressing

At a recent meeting of Ardenode local the subjects taken up were convention resolutions, tariff, hail, a loading platform at Ardenode, wheat sold in Alberta, and stockyards at Calgary. All these subjects were discussed at some length and resolutions drafted on the means of access to the stockyards, the tariff question and insurance adjustments. The secretary P. H. Donkin, reports that they have now 28 paid-up members and hope to gather in several more in the New Year.

U.F.A. Briefs

G. McCrea, editor and publisher of the Hanna Herald is to be congratulated upon the sympathetic understanding of the problems of farming community, as shown by his paper. We believe that there would be more successful local papers if the editors realized the importance of the agricultural community. Local secretaries should interview the editor of their local paper, and endeavor to get him interested in the farmers' activities.

Our local is not very strong at present. The trouble seems to be to get people to come out regularly and take part in meetings. We need stirring up, and if there was a speaker at some of the adjoining unions we would like to have him.—R. G. Lyster, Bonlea, secretary of Wavy Lake Local.

As this is a small district and we have most of the men now, and expect to get them all before we stop, all members are taking good interest in the U.F.A.—A. J. Morrison, Cummings, secretary of Cummings Local.

As yet the majority of the farmers in this district have not awakened to the necessity of organizing.—J. B. Howard, Bowden, secretary of Bowden Local.

Our local, while not as large as one would wish it, is growing steadily. Have had some friction with one or two members, but have overcome the trouble, and we now have a united local so far this year, which I hope to see continue through the year and as long as I remain its secretary. Hoping this is satisfactory.—C. J. Carter, Muhlback, secretary of Lovevale Local.

The majority of our members cannot be induced to attend meetings, so meetings are called when necessary to transact any business. The immediate neighborhood is organized, but being further from town than us, nothing can be arranged to any advantage in co-operative purchasing, owing to lack of communication.—W. H. C. Landler, Oyen, secretary Progress Local.

The meetings are not made interesting enough to draw the members who seem very slack in turning out. Being a new local the officers are not well posted how to make the meeting attractive, or how to talk on the work of the U.F.A. so as to make the members more interested in the association.—H. P. Bott, Earlie P.O., secretary, Crystal Valley Local.

We advertised a meeting here three different times last winter and there was never enough in attendance to allow the meeting to be held.—W. H. Boyle, Parkland, secretary of the Parkland Local.

Our local is just newly organized. We haven't got settled down to any business as yet.—J. A. Ross, Taber, secretary of Taber Local.

The boy who tried to carry home a basket of eggs on a Calgary street car in rush hours is a victim of shell shock.

How We Stand

By the President

There have been many things this year calculated to confuse our membership and to hinder the growth of our organization.

In the first place, after our farmers had been campaigning for increased production, and were making every effort to put in every acre possible, the order-in-council came calling out all unmarried men 20 to 22. On account of social farm conditions incident to a newly-settled country, very few of our farm boys of this age were married, and Alberta was probably harder hit than any other province by this order. Great confusion in our organization followed this order.

H. W. WOOD.

Following this was the drought, and the worst crop failure ever known in our province. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, added to the fact that our annual dues had been doubled this year, our actual membership up to the end of September, was 366 greater than at that period last year. But the "Flu" broke out in October and our increase in membership for October and November fell steadily behind last year. At the beginning of December we had 297 fewer men members than we had December 1 last year. This was more than offset by a very substantial increase in women members, besides an increase of 86 life members over last year.

Under all the circumstances this is a remarkable record, and one which should inspire every member with confidence in the future of our organization. But let us hope for an even better winding up of our year's work.

The war is over and the reconstruction period is upon us. There are no indications that the forces which have stood between us and our rights are any more willing to yield us our rights than they have been for the last ten years.

There are indications that advantage will be taken of the confusion growing out of the war to appeal to prejudices and passions to blind the people to their own interests. The farmers can only protect their rights and interests by mobilizing their strength and co-operating. This can only be done through organization. Our only present hope is in the development and growth of our organization. Get your locals together, collect delinquent dues, get new members and let us have even more members at the end of this year than we had last.

Then let us come together in January determined to hold the sanest and best convention ever held anywhere.—Most sincerely, H. W. Wood.

