



ALBERTA SECTION

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

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

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BLACKFOOT IS VERY MUCH ALIVE

I am pleased to report that Blackfoot Union is much alive, and at our last meetings we have passed resolutions as follows:

"That the department of public works be requested to provide a bounty to lessen the cost of boring deep wells, the present cost being prohibitive. Our dependence on surface wells and sloughs is limiting our efforts at stock raising, besides providing excellent fever traps for human beings. These same wells and sloughs are yearly getting more shallow and altogether less to be depended upon."

We have practically made all arrangements for the operation of our shipping ring and are now anxiously waiting for its trial.

A resolution was also put by F. Sulman, and carried, advocating the formation of a "Direct Legislation League." It is felt among us that the whole solution of present troubles lies in the power and will of the people to direct their own affairs. This resolution we intend to discuss more fully and in the meantime would like to see influence brought to bear to get the league going.

Subscriptions for our U. F. A. wagon scale hung fire quite a bit, but a few men from a distance have realized the advantages of loading here and this practically wipes off the debt. This has encouraged us considerably and we are now coping with the question of a portable elevator. Only three months ago this was put aside as an unrealizable dream.

JAS. STONE,
Secretary.

Blackfoot.

Note—As was reported in The Guide on September 21, a Direct Legislation League, the first in Alberta, has been formed in Calgary, and the writer is pleased to say that he has been enrolled as a member.

E. J. F.

ARRANGING FOR A FAIR

The usual monthly meeting of Eckville Union was held on Saturday, September 24th. The attendance was only fair, this being such a busy season.

In regard to seed grain, threshing is in full swing now and the yield in most cases is good, but some grain was frosted in the lower lying sections. Also, to the west, there will be grain required for seed and feed, so that probably the supply and demand locally will be about equal.

A suggestion made at a previous meeting that a monthly fair be held was discussed at some length. The idea of a fair or auction was favored by all, but it was questioned if it could be kept up monthly. It is probable that next spring will see the first Eckville fair.

During the coming winter it was decided to hold the meetings in the afternoon.

ARTHUR E. T. ECKFORD,
Secretary.

A TALK WITH A MILLER

Last week I received a call from a flour mill owner, a man who has taken quite an interest in the development of the U. F. A. In the course of the conversation he asked what the prospects were for the completion of the co-operative pork packing plant. We discussed the matter pretty thoroughly and he then expressed himself as being greatly surprised at the slowness with which the guarantees were being received. "While I have no hesitation in saying that you will eventually get the contracts," he said, "still it is surprising that the great value of this plan is not better appreciated. I am surprised that so many farmers are hanging back on this scheme and cannot understand the reasons they advance for not signing the agreement."

Our talk then drifted on the question of elevators. He was anxious to know

what we had done on the question of government ownership of terminals, and was greatly pleased with the stand taken by the organized farmers during the recent tour of the premier through western Canada. He was very persistent on this question and wanted to know if we thought the prospects were good for securing government ownership. He said he was strongly in favor of the government ownership of not only the terminals, but the line elevators as well, and was watching with interest the work now being done by the Manitoba Elevator Commission. If that is successful then Saskatchewan and Alberta must fall in line.

"Possibly," he said, "you are curious to know why I am with you on this question and why I wish to see it solved at an early date. The reason is that if I am short of wheat for my mill and go to the elevator companies for some they charge me a premium of two or three cents per bushel over current market prices for the wheat. Then when I buy direct from the farmers I give the premium any way, as I figure that the elevators are just trying to spite me a little. The sooner the government ownership comes the better pleased I shall be."

Such talk is interesting and shows that we have the sympathy of more than the farmers alone in these fights.

business to attend to. We have, therefore, decided that it would be better to start a new branch and by this means we shall be able to secure a lot of new members, which otherwise could not have been reached. We are resolved to get every farmer in the locality to join, and we have some very enthusiastic farmers here who will make things go. It is out intention to complete all arrangements for the forming of the branch on the first Tuesday in November, and we expect to be represented at the next convention by at least one delegate.

GEORGE BENNETT,
Secretary.

Mannville.

WE ARE GROWING

The first meeting of White Lake Union after the organization meeting was held on September 30th, and was a decided success. Five new members were added to the roll, which is not doing bad for a young local. It was decided to send for two carloads of coal and also to write north and secure prices on oats and potatoes, things we are badly in need of. This was after considerable discussion on these questions.

The secretary was further instructed to write and secure the opinion of the central executive regarding the getting



On the Farm of L. T. Nabe, Innisfail, Alta.

If we can get such men as this to line up with us and then come right out in the open and fight it will be only a short time until the pressure will be so great that government ownership will have to come.

A LIVE BRANCH

The last two meetings of Bellecamp Union have not been reported as, on account of the busy season, they were not very well attended. Our Union was organized on February 18, 1910, and now we have almost all the residents in the district on the roll and we hope to get the rest of them into the fold this fall. Our membership is now twenty-five. We have signed contracts for over one hundred hogs and expect more to be signed in the near future. One contract was secured at the last meeting, and we will secure more as soon as a further supply of blanks is to hand. We heartily endorse the action of the executive during the past few months.

A. M. CAMPBELL,
Secretary.

ANOTHER NEW UNION BEING ORGANIZED

The farmers in the locality of Mannville have decided to start a new branch of the U. F. A., under the name of Creighton Union. Many of the farmers in this district are already members of the Mannville Union, but the distance is so great that it is impossible for us to attend the meetings, besides this it is often difficult to get a meeting in town, because most of the farmers when they are in town have other

of seed grain from the government for some of the settlers. We would like to know whether it would be wiser for the different locals to combine in putting the matter before the government or for each local to do it individually. The farmers of this community seem to be taking a great interest in the Union. We farmers are just awakening to the fact that we ought to supply the brains as well as the backbone of the country.

ROY LUCHIA,
Secretary.

Rocky Coulee.

THE KIND WE LIKE TO GET

The following extracts from a letter just received are such that make us feel like setting to work just a little harder, and at the same time make the day's work go easier. Anyway they are far more pleasant than the knocks.

"As chairman of a settlement which comprises twenty-five farmers, will you send me any literature, etc., of your society, as I am advising the people to join you as well as the Grain Growers Company."

"I note what splendid results you have attained and recognise that there will be no finality to the good such a society can do for the western farmers, if they will really unite and be loyal."

Needless to say all the information asked for has been most cheerfully given.

E. J. F.

WE ARE GETTING KNOWN

Truly, the United Farmers of Alberta is becoming well known and it is an unusual thing for letters to be received from different parts of the States for information regarding the association.

Among the later enquiries received is one from a debating society belonging to one of America's great colleges, asking for information which will assist in some of the questions now being debated by that society. Another enquiry has been received from one of the great writers on economic questions, asking for information which will lead to our association being better known in the States and in Great Britain. Of course, the information asked for has been supplied, as we are always open to assist legitimate enquiries along such lines. Another mark of progress was when arrangements were completed whereby delegates from our association would receive full recognition at the Dry Farming Congress. Still another was the surprise experienced by one of the leading lecturers from the other side on the Direct Legislation and other such questions, when he found out during his recent tour that the organized farmers of Alberta had already spoken on this great question. Times are changing, indeed, and the leaders of the different movements now realize that the farmers have to be considered just as much as the manufacturers and other industries.

ALL ROUTES WILL BE NEEDED

"With the present rate of increase annually in the acreage planted in wheat in the West, in five years it will not be a question of developing the Hudson's Bay route, the Fort William route, or the Vancouver route, but all these routes will be taxed to their capacity to handle the export grain, at least during the big rush in the fall." So spoke one of the best known grain export men in an interview at Vancouver last week.

"We figure that the situation is now to start working on this western outlet," he said. "Of course, the export grain situation is just in its infancy as regards the western route, but the production of wheat in Alberta is sufficiently heavy to warrant us in looking for the cheapest outlet. The increase will be so large that the export trade will develop rapidly. We have gone into the matter very exhaustively and we do not see any reason why the grain should not come by way of the Pacific Coast. This year, owing to the short crop in the West, the exports of wheat will not show much increase, if any, over those of last year. The terminal question here is one that must be gone into if the export business is to be developed. We must have modern facilities for handling the grain. Private grain companies are naturally cautious about going into the terminal business until they know what the railroads are going to do at the coast. If the railroads would show as much enterprise in building elevators there as they have at Fort William it would do a great deal to develop the export trade. I have such confidence in the development of this western country that I know it will not be a question of the development of any one trade route, but one of getting all possible facilities and routes to handle the grain when it offers."

THE FARMERS ARE INTERESTED

At the recent sittings of the Fisheries Commission, appointed by the Dominion to investigate the fisheries of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, held at Edmonton, as usual the farmers showed they were greatly interested in