

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.

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WANT IRRIGATION

L. Peterson, secretary of Barnwell Union, No. 486, reports:

Altho the union is in the district that was hit so hard with drought last year we feel encouraged for the future. We have been organized two years and have come to look upon the U.F.A. as absolutely necessary for us as farmers. The people here are looking for the extension this summer of the C.P.R. irrigation system from Coalvale thru Barnwell and then on to Taber. This great question was first taken up in our union and the farmers are pleased with the fruits of their labors. We have an ideal district here for irrigation, the soil being especially adapted for this purpose as has been thoroughly proven. We would like to have Taber organized as we have many things in common with them, but up to the present we have had to do our own business with them thru the Board of Trade or the Agricultural Society.

A GROWING UNION

M. B. Culver, secretary of University Union, No. 684, reports that the union met at the schoolhouse on Saturday, March 6, at 2 p.m. The attendance was very good and eleven new members were taken in, making the total membership thirty-five, which is doing pretty well for the third meeting. They wish to let the other unions know that they have not died yet and hope to increase their membership a great deal more.

ALSASK IS ACTIVE

We have just received the following report of a meeting of the Alsask Local, No. 696, held at the home of one of the members on February 23:

Letters from headquarters and the Sibbald Board of Trade re bank and station agent were read, and it was moved and seconded that we give them all the support we can. The committee on the market question reported having met the Alsask town council, who had promised to help the movement as far as possible, but the farmers must run the business themselves. The secretary was asked to write to the places where a market is known to be successfully run and get all information possible. The petition for a railway crossing was then read and signed during the evening. The committee on the cemetery is to meet the town council on the 1st of March. As a result of an address by the president, the ladies are to meet on Thursday to complete their organization. There ought to be agricultural colleges all along this line to teach us how to farm in this dry belt to get the best crops. There are schools in other districts at considerable distances, but none here. These schools formerly only gave the girls four to five weeks in summer, but now they give them four to five months, the same as the boys. Agricultural education is as necessary to the one as the other. A very cordial invitation was then given to non-members to join us, as the greater the membership the more powerful does the union become. The next meeting is to be held at Geo. Tuff's and the one following at Mrs. Halvorsen's. This is to be a patriotic meeting and the proceeds are to go to that fund. After the meeting a program, consisting of songs, readings, etc., was given, which reflected the greatest credit on the organizer, J. Young, and was heartily enjoyed by all. During the evening refreshments were served by the ladies and highly appreciated. There were ninety ladies and gentlemen present.

LOCAL UNION SUPPLIES

By the time these words appear our secretaries will probably have received a new price list for the various U.F.A. local union supplies kept at this office. It is not possible on the price list itself to deal with the various reasons for making these new prices, but with the idea of preventing any misunderstanding I would like to lay a few facts before our members in this regard.

We started supplying certain standard supplies for local unions in 1909, the idea being at that time to sell at cost, and as the work at the Central office was light the secretary and his assistant presumably had a fair amount of spare time, and the

cost was assumed to be the price paid the printer or whoever the supplies were secured from. The first year the supplies sent out, exclusive of buttons, amounted to \$33. The next year \$37, the next year nearly \$100, in 1912 \$265, in 1913 \$370 and in 1914 \$430 in stationery alone and over \$200 in buttons. This does not include parcels of annual reports and other matter which it has been customary to send out without charge. In addition, we are now face to face with an extra tax on every parcel and letter sent out from this office when the new tariff comes into effect.

Now let us see just what this means so far as the Association is concerned. I estimate that out of our total income last year of \$9,654.15, the cost of printing the annual reports, constitutions and other literature, the postage on the various parcels sent to our local unions and other items for which we receive no direct return, but for which we pay cash, was not less than \$1,500, in other words about 15 per cent. of our total income, or to put it another way, assuming that we had 500 active unions, each one on an average contributed to the Central office \$11 in membership fees and got back \$3 in the form of free distribution of literature and supplies. And yet I am not infrequently asked what becomes of the money sent to the Central office. Last month we sent out from the Central office by actual count more than 250 parcels on which the postage amounted to something like \$60, the whole of which was a dead loss to the Association so far as direct returns are concerned. On laying the matter before our directors it was felt that this burden could not be carried any longer by the Central office and if the local unions appreciate this service we feel that there will be no objection on their part to lifting at least a portion of this burden from the Central office and thus releasing a considerable sum of money for development purposes. The most serious part of this work is that we are already overcrowded with routine work at this office and that putting together and sending out, as we did last month, more than 250 packages of supplies, each of which has to be tied, addressed and stamped, to say nothing of mailing same, involves considerable labor and time, which must be paid for. We have endeavored so far as possible to keep the cost of these supplies within reason. We are able to purchase in considerable quantities and you will find that even at the advanced prices you are securing good value.

GOOD YEAR FOR CARLTON

H. E. Parke, secretary of Carlton Local Union, No. 253, reports that in view of the shortage of crops last year this union, while not presenting any great outward appearance of prosperity, maintains an inward solidity that is very encouraging. There are thirty-nine members. The finances are in good condition, there being funds on hand to more than meet every emergency that has arisen during the season. The schedule of entertainments for the winter has by its widespread patronage proved successful in every way. The difficulty in securing attendance has been well overcome, good audiences having greeted almost every effort. Two debates, one on prohibition, one on Rural vs. City Life; several evenings filled by socials and dances, the proceeds from one being contributed to the Canadian Patriotic Fund; an instructive lecture by A. E. Ottewill, Department of Extension, University of Alberta, from which source we have also benefitted by their distributing library. These have already been held and the members are also availing themselves of the knowledge and experiments given them by the better farming lectures provided by the provincial government, and have been favored with an address by the Rev. T. C. Buchanan, superintendent of missions for Alberta. With the exception of a few hardware orders and some formaldehyde, the union has not done much co-operative buying, due to the fact of the government furnishing relief to the settlers so freely that little buying of any sort has been done.

ALL DAY MEETINGS

We have recently received the annual report and a remittance of membership dues from Bigstone Union, No. 497. This is the first time we have heard anything from that quarter for some little time. The district in which the union is situated is one of the many which were hard hit by drought this year, which is probably responsible for the lack of activity on the part of the union. Secretary Good reports that last winter the union held all day meetings, with a good lunch provided by the ladies. This year the union attempted afternoon meetings, which were not exactly a success, and eventually the former plan was reverted to.

HILLSPRING HEARD FROM

We have again heard from J. B. Merrill, secretary of Hillspring Union, No. 403. This union was organized in the summer of 1912, but has really done nothing since organization till the present time. Membership dues were remitted in Mr. Merrill's letter for ten members, and hope is expressed that additional members will be added to the union at an early date.

MINBURN REORGANIZED

Minburn Union, No. 535, has also been out of the running for some time owing to local difficulties, the union having been suspended last year for non-payment of dues. Reorganization took place on February 17, and it is expected that the union will soon be going strong again.

HARD TIMES AT AMUNDSEN

A report from E. R. Morley, secretary of Amundsen Union, No. 413, indicates that comparatively little interest is being shown by the members locally, the chief trouble being the absence of money and the presence of debts thru continuous poor crops, and in many cases the complete loss of same. Nevertheless, a few of the more enthusiastic still keep up the work, hoping for better times and a renewal of interest which they think is bound to come when crops are up and there are prospects of better times.

AN OLD UNION

During the past few months we have heard very little from Blackfoot Union, No. 76. Some time ago, however, a remittance for \$2 membership dues came to hand, and still more recently \$7, the proceeds of the U.F.A. social, were sent in to apply to the fund being handled at this office for the relief of distressed farmers in the dry districts. This would seem to indicate that the union is not entirely dead, and we shall hope to have more frequent reports from that source in the future.

ACTIVITY AT GARDEN PLAIN

A very interesting report has recently been received from C. A. Stanfield, secretary of Garden Plain Union, No. 310. In his report Mr. Stanfield says that the union built a hall last year 24x40, which, in addition to being used for U.F.A. meetings, is also available for church services, socials, entertainments and dances. Since December 25, 1914, the union has collected the sum of \$129.45 thru entertainments and dances, which amount is donated to pay for the hall, or whatever the union thinks best. The sum of \$14 was remitted to the Central office for the Patriotic Fund, and \$160 has also been collected for the Belgian Relief Fund. At its last meeting on February 27, the union ordered forty memorial cards and twenty "Course of Study" pamphlets, and also made arrangements to purchase formaldehyde and a considerable number of plow shares. On February 12, Mr. Buckingham was present and gave the members an address, in which he reviewed the accomplishments and aims of the U.F.A., and told the members considerable about the Co-operative Elevator Co. and the proposed pork packing plant.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

Victoria—P. S. Austin		Kanburly
Edmonton—George Long		Namoo
Strathcona—H. G. Vickery		Strome
Macleod—G. W. Buchanan		Cowley
Calgary—J. A. Bishop		Beddington
Red Deer—D. Buckingham		Stettler
Medicine Hat—E. E. Sparks		Jenner

SOCIAL TIMES AT NACO

Naco Union, No. 632, is situated about midway between Consort, on the C.P.R., and Chinook, on the C.N.R. Their total paid up membership so far this year is twenty-seven, and they expect towards the end of the year to exceed last year's record, which was over fifty. On February 26 an entertainment and dance was held in the Naco school, the program consisting of dialogues, recitations and music, which were well received. Lunch was served by the ladies, and dancing continued until morning. The proceeds of this entertainment amounted to \$15.85. The regular meetings are being made as interesting as possible by holding debates on suitable subjects.

PAPER ON CO-OPERATION

The fortnightly meeting of the Edwell Local Union was held in the schoolhouse on Wednesday evening, March 10, under the chairmanship of President J. Comer. There was a splendid attendance, including quite a number of ladies, who are commencing to take a lively interest in the doings of the U.F.A. It is hoped in the near future to form a Women's Auxiliary, as outlined at the convention. After the usual routine business, a very interesting paper was contributed by the secretary, entitled the "History and Ethics of Co-operation," which was listened to with close attention. In the course of his paper he traced co-operation from its inception, incidentally pointing out that it was no new thing, as he found that it had been practised by the ancients, and we were only copying our forefathers. He pointed out that the greatest drawback to true co-operation was selfishness, and that those who sought their own gain to the exclusion of others were a stumbling block to the great cause, and that each local union that had been organized had a duty to perform, which was to disseminate the principles, to teach the members the value of co-operation and the virtue of unselfishness, which was co-operation. He closed his remarks by urging every member to co-operate with him in making the Edwell Local Union the strongest and most progressive in the Red Deer District. A hearty vote of thanks was passed for his paper, and the meeting adjourned to March 24, when the president would contribute a paper, this being the fourth of the series.

NEW UNIONS

Several new unions have been organized recently, among which are: Wildmere, No. 700, Thos. Cairns, secretary; Lundberg, No. 701, Oscar Olsen, sec.; Likeness, No. 702, P. Iversen, sec.; Fawn Lake, No. 703, A. Ross, sec.; Mt. Lookout, No. 704, H. F. Kirk, sec.; Sunnyside, No. 705, W. H. Maxfield, sec.; Bonny Crae, No. 706, N. A. Donaldson, sec.; Sniderville, No. 707, R. T. Ryder, sec.; Big Hay Lake, No. 708, F. J. Hodgson, sec.; Goose Creek, No. 709, F. B. Mundy, sec.; Eltham, No. 710, N. F. Hardy, sec.; Bingville, No. 711, T. E. Sickelsted, sec.; Edson, No. 712, J. H. B. Smith, sec.

SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE

Queenstown Local, No. 160, bids fair to surpass last year's record in the matter of membership dues, the secretary having already remitted dues to this office this year for fifty-seven members. In this connection it might be well to remark that no small number of reports are due from the secretaries of many of our other unions. The constitution requires that each secretary shall make a quarterly report to the Central office, remitting at the same time any membership fees due to the Central office. Promptness in this matter on the part of our secretaries will do much towards keeping our finances in good condition and also relieving us of some of the work which is usually placed upon us during the latter end of the year, owing to the large number of remittances which come in at that time.