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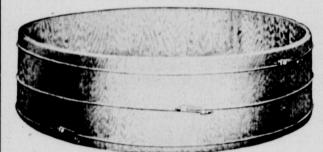
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Alberta

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

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR No. 3

Ladies and Gentlemen: - Another month has gone by and we are rapidly nearing our summer campaign season. We hope that during the few weeks which occur between seeding and haying, when farm work is not so arduous, that each of you having the cause of our Association at heart will make it his or her duty to help in every way possible to strengthen the Association as a whole. Our officers and many of our friends are standing by ready to assist wherever required so far as it is possible for them to do. We want your interest in local as well as other matters that the Union may be kept a real live one and a benefit to the commun-When difficulties arise we want to know of them because out of our experience gained from many different sources during the past few years we may be able to help you and we would like the opportunity anyway. We want you to realize that the Central Office is your property as it is also that of all the other unions and thus forms the axle around which all else revolves. The Central Office is nothing without its local Unions. The Unions would lose much without a Central Office and the influence of the Association varies according to the close sympathy or otherwise which exists between all parts. We are glad to hear of your success. We are just as anxious to hear of your failures. We may be able to help you to make your failure a success next time.

Another point—there may be a district near you where no organization yet exists. If there is let us know about it, and if possible send us the name and address of some person who would likely be interested enough to correspond with us and help us to arrange a meeting for organization purposes. Local secretaries please take hold of this. Make it part of your order of business to ask for this information at your meetings and forward it on to us.

The Guide

One of the best and most effective ways to create and maintain interest in the work of the organized farmers is to have every member of your local become a reader of our official paper, The Grain Growers' Guide. Our circulation is now well up over the 35,000 mark, and while Alberta has supplied a fair proportion of this total we have not as many subscribers in comparison to our membership in the U.F.A. as we should have. We want to make a special effort this year to put Alberta in the lead so far as The Guide is concerned. The best way to do this is to have a good live agent in each Union: If our secretaries cannot take up this work, then perhaps one of the members can. All particulars can be obtained from the Circulation Manager, Winnipeg. This is one of the best ways of strength ening your Union, so let us have a good live campaign this summer and try to double the circulation in Alberta before the close of the year.

News of the Association

During April very satisfactory progress has continued to be made in spite of the busy season. Six hundred and forty-two (642) Unions have now reported, an increase of twenty-one during the month, or seventy-four since the convention. Membership fees are not quite so heavy as for the corresponding month of last year but we are still considerably ahead on the aggregate total. The figures would seem to show that our older Unions have either got all the members they can or are making no special effort to get new ones. We hope they will give this matter their attention.

The regular monthly meeting of the executive was held the beginning of this month (May) and some important business transacted. Among other things the pork packing question was thoroughly discussed and the work of

the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company Limited, endorsed as a big step in the right direction to bring about a solution of the problem. In the matter of hail insurance the usual policy will be followed and no recommendation of any company will be made. We are glad, however, to send you at any time information we may have as to the financial standing, etc. of any company. Our, executive feel that the provisions made for Mutual or Co-operative Hail Insurance under the Rural Municipalities Act is the best solution yet offered for this vexed question and would urge our unions to give the matter their careful consideration. I hope to deal with this matter at greater length in a subsequent circular.

After careful consideration your Executive went on record as being opposed to the action of the Dominion Millers' Association in demanding a line of government owned steamships as a means to reduce ocean freight rates. Among other things, previous experience of government ownership and operation did not tend to create confidence that the acquiring and running of such a line of steamers would be on such economic and business lines as was likely to bring about the desired result. It was considered that the opening up of the market to the south and the alternative route to the West, via Vancouver and the Panama Canal would materially alter the aspect of the question and prove a much more effective remedy.

A strong resolution was also passed and will be pushed to a finish requiring the railways to revise their tariffs refreight on slab-wood. At present all slabwood over four feet in length requires the same freight rate as dressed lumber, or practically double that on fence posts, cordwood, etc., with the result that what would otherwise prove a very effective and cheap means of providing shelter for stock during the winter is rendered impossible by excessive transportation charges.

A number of other matters were dealt with and the meeting, which lasted all day, must rank as one of considerable importance to our Association.

Fruit

We have been able to make arrangements with the same Co-operative Fruit Association in British Columbia that a number of our Unions have been dealing with for two years past to ship perishable fruits direct to the farmers.

Prices will be as follows, f.o.b. shipping point (Arrow Lakes) per 24-basket crate:

 Strawberries, No. 1
 \$2.50

 Strawberries, No. 2
 2.25

 Raspberries, No. 1
 3.00

 Raspberries, No. 2
 2.75

 Gooseberries, No. 1
 1.85

 Red Currants, No. 1
 2.00

 Black Currants, No. 1
 2.65

The strawberry season commences about June 20, and to ensure shipment and have fruit in best condition orders should be in not later than June 5, as all orders are filled in rotation. Express rates to Calgary will be \$2.00 per 100 lbs. and a crate of fruit averages about 30 lbs. All orders must be accompanied by cash value of fruit and may be sent thru this office or the name and full address of the Association will be supplied on application.

Resolutions

The following resolutions bearing on the machinery question have been received from Alix Union No. 569:

1. "That we, the members of Alix Local Union No. 569, refuse to sign all machinery notes offered by any firm, which come due in the fall, and that each member insist on having such notes made payable on April 1 of the following year. Further, that said resolution be forwarded to the general secretary at Calgary to be submitted to the

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