



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

President:
James Bower, Red Deer
Vice-President:
W. J. Tregillus, Calgary
Secretary-Treasurer:
E. J. Fream, Innisfail

Directors at Large:
James Speakman, Penhold; D. W. Warner, Clover Bar; L. H. Jell, Spring Coilee.

District Directors:
T. H. Balsam, Vegreville; George o'Lang, Nampa; F. H. Langston, Rosenroll; E. Carswell, Penhold; J. Quinsey, Noble; E. Griesbach, Gleichen; A. Von Mielecki, Calgary.

Taking Up Organization Work

F. D. W. Warner, one of the directors of the U. F. A., is holding a series of meetings in the Provost district and on Tuesday evening, November 8, addressed a gathering of Provost farmers in the new Presbyterian church. He dwelt considerably on the cultivation of the soil and the conservation of moisture to ensure a good crop in any year, dry or wet. In order to produce to the best advantage the Provost farmer must be careful of the moisture. He has enough to produce a good crop but none to waste. Under subsection 13 of section 2 of the constitution he dwelt upon the improved methods of farming. He told of the recent World's Dry Farming Congress at Spokane. The past year in Alberta, he claimed, had been a lesson to all the West to conserve the moisture, but not so much to conserve the moisture as to control the weeds. He favored deep plowing, the use of a sub-surface packer and a harrowed mulch on the surface. The careless farmer got less than the careful farmer. There is a difference in method of two farmers, and the result is the difference in a good crop and no crop at all. Farmers would get careless and it may be that this year was needed to teach them a lesson and to make them use better methods hereafter. He advised packing immediately after plowing.

Referring to the U. F. A., Mr. Warner explained its organization and the purpose of the farmers banding themselves together for the public good. "The association is sometimes misunderstood to a certain extent," he said. "We want to be judged by what we are, rather than by what other people say about us. In order to have the most strength we must work with the town people. The business man is our friend and we are his support. We seek to bring the consumer and the producer closer together. We are trying to weld the population of the town and of the country, but sometimes we are misunderstood." He dwelt on the elevator question and especially on the manipulation of grades at the terminal elevators, and blamed the existing evils upon the system rather than upon the men. He favored government owned elevators.

Alberta farmers want to ship their grain by the western route. The case of alleged discrimination in freight rates to and from the Pacific comes up before the Railway Commission in January. The Alberta farmers want the freight to come east from the Pacific for the same amount of money as it comes west from the Atlantic for the same distance, after allowing for the extra expense of the mountain section of the railway. To the members of Provost Local Union he expressed the necessity of a united effort if the farmers wished success. The U. F. A. should have larger strength. Less than one-fifth of Alberta farmers belong to the U. F. A. Their aim is for less class legislation and not for class legislation in favor of the farmers. The U. F. A. does not take in politics as a body, but its members should take part as individual citizens in the party of their choice, one as a Liberal and another as a Conservative. Farmers thus have an opportunity to get their men into parliament. The educational work of the U. F. A. and their debates trained the farmers in public speaking, and better qualified them to take their place in the legislature. Western industries should be encouraged, for it would be a benefit to the farmers to have a larger population in the West to feed.

Mr. Warner mentioned that wheat which had taken first prize at the World's Dry Farming Congress was grown only a few miles west of Provost. In answer

to a question he stated that he could see no reason why winter wheat could not be raised in the Provost district. The method of cultivation is more important than a difference in climate. "How's chances for hay," asked an interested listener. "I would suggest alfalfa rather than timothy," replied Mr. Warner, "for its roots will go deeper into the soil." The speaker was tendered a very hearty vote of thanks from the meeting. The secretary, Guy W. Johnson, read a letter from the department of agriculture, suggesting the date, Friday, January 27, 1911, for a seed fair at Provost. An announcement was also made regarding the proposed delegation of Western farmers, who meet at Winnipeg on December 12th and arrive at Ottawa on December 15th, to present their views to the Dominion government.

ON TO OTTAWA

Tofield Agricultural Society, organized last summer, held its first institute meeting in the town hall, Tofield, on Saturday, November 5th. Notwithstanding the fact that the weather was unusually cold for that time of year a good sprinkling of farmers were in attendance, besides a number of business men from the town. A number of papers containing valuable information on alfalfa culture, the growing of flax, etc., were read by eminent agriculturists of the vicinity. Mr. Clark, of Irma, rendered a very able address on dairying. He has had considerable experience along these lines in Ontario, from where he hailed some years ago, and his instructive discourse will be of much value to the farmers around Tofield, who are engaged in dairying. Mr. Clark is a member of the U. F. A., and the association button is always in evidence.

The matter of the Ottawa delegation was also discussed and a resolution was unanimously adopted asking the local union of the U. F. A. to affiliate with the society in sending a delegate to join the deputation which will wait on the government on December 16th. The next meeting of Tofield Union will be held on November 17th, and the main business will be to decide that very important issue of sending a delegate to Ottawa. As the majority of the members of the U. F. A. are at the same time members of the agricultural society it is reasonably expected that a delegate will be appointed to represent the two bodies. The local secretary of the U. F. A. will at the next meeting read a paper dealing with the Ottawa delegation and the issues involved leading up to this great agrarian movement. This will be forwarded to THE GUIDE for publication. It is hoped that Alberta will be able to muster a very large delegation of farmers to represent them at Ottawa, for the expense to a community of sending a delegate will be nothing in comparison to the amount which might be gained by such a movement. Every union should endeavor to send at least one delegate. It must be said that this pilgrimage to Ottawa of the tillers of the soil from all parts of Canada is a movement of much historic interest, and without a parallel in the annals of agrarian times. Let the slogan be, "On to Ottawa!" It is only by numbers that the farmers can ever hope to succeed. A large delegation assembled at Ottawa on December 16 will make the special privilege quake in their boots and the powers that be sit up and take notice and offer some sort of relief to the people.

JAS. FLETCHER, Sec.

Kingman, Alta.

WATER AT STOCKYARDS

Penhold Union started out on the winter work with a very good meeting, the first since the commencement of haying. There was a large attendance and a lot of business was attended to. The following resolutions were passed: "That we express our deep sorrow at the loss we have sustained at the death of our late friend and fellow member, Arthur Hives, and that we desire to extend our warmest sympathy toward the members of his

family in their deep affliction." "That the following notice of motions for change in the constitution be given: 'That Section 25 be amended to provide for a fee of twelve dollars, six dollars to go to a trust fund at the central and six dollars to be banked to the credit of the local union. Life membership in local to be understood with the option of change from one union to another on change of residence.' 'That a resolution be brought before the convention asking that railways provide water at stockyards where shipments require it.' "The matter of providing a stock sale was gone into but laid on the table pending further information.

A. SPEAKMAN, Sec.

Penhold, Alta.

MATTER OF DISCIPLINE

At the last meeting of Claresholm Five Mile Local Union it was decided to ascertain if any steps have been taken towards securing agricultural implements at a more reasonable rate. The problem also came up as to what should be done with two members of the union. When orders were being taken for potatoes they put down their names for a large supply, but when the car was at the track they refused to take them and bought their supply from another party who was giving one sack in each five of seed potatoes. It was decided to hold a court on them and they were duly notified, but failed to put in an appearance, and by the unanimous vote of the members present they were expelled from the union.

T. BROWN, Sec.

Claresholm, Alta.

PARCELS POST WANTED

Bellecamp Union held their regular November meeting on the 10th inst., at P. Hurlay's residence. The attendance was not so large as usual, the threshing outfit being at work on one side of the district. Circular No. 10 was discussed, and under the headings of amendments to the constitution, this union is in favor of the proposed changes regarding life membership, and if it is necessary we will put it in the form of an amendment. We are not in favor of the resolution of Blackfoot Union in regard to boring wells, but taking into consideration what the department are already doing, we would submit the following resolution along the same lines: "Resolved that in those parts of the province where deep wells are necessary that when a reasonable number of settlers petition the department, that the department supply the boring machine free of cost, the settlers to supply the necessary labor, casing, etc. It was decided that we would not send a delegate to Ottawa, but would reserve our energies for the Calgary convention. We also submit the following resolution: "That the post office department inaugurate a system of cheaper parcel post as it would be of great benefit to the farmers of Western Canada." It is believed that some such a scheme was outlined some few years ago, but owing to the pressure brought to bear by the express companies and retail merchants, it was dropped.

The secretary received instructions to ask the general secretary for information regarding the educational tax levied by the Alberta government, as some of our members have been assessed and others have not. We would like to know if the collection can be forced. A resolution was passed endorsing the action of the central association regarding the following questions: 1. The tariff, with a demand for free trade in farm implements and tools, and with special emphasis to be placed on the lowering of the tariff on woolen goods. 2. Government ownership of terminal elevators. 3. The Hudson's Bay Railroad. 4. Government establishment of a chilled meat system. 5. Relief from the burdensome clauses of the railway act. 6. The passage of the co-operative legislation.

A. M. CAMPBELL, Sec.

Marwayne, Alta.

COOKE DELEGATE REPORTS

A meeting of Cooke Union was held on November 8th, in the school house,

to receive the report of our delegate to a joint meeting at Wetaskiwin, Mr. C. A. Johnson, held for the purpose of choosing a delegate to represent us at Ottawa. Mr. J. G. Anderson, of Angus Ridge, was the favorite, but unfortunately he has to leave for Saskatchewan for the winter. He promised, however, that if at all possible he would be the delegate, and if not he will let us know in plenty of time so that we can be represented anyway.

J. N. FRANKLIN, Sec.

Battle River, Alta.

SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZING TRIP

Mr. J. Quinsey has just returned from a very successful trip through a portion of his constituency, and as a result three more unions have been added to the U. F. A. In reporting on same Mr. Quinsey states that he left home on November 15th and drove to Bowville, a distance of twenty-one miles. From there Mr. Root drove him to Mr. Noren's, at Optic, where, after an enjoyable supper, they proceeded to the school house, finding a good attendance of farmers waiting for them and every one eager to join the U. F. A. The result was that Plainfield Union was organized with a membership of sixteen, the first officers being R. H. Wyn, Optic, president, and F. T. Dell, secretary-treasurer. From Optic Mr. Quinsey was driven to Mr. Bly's farm at Yetwood, and Mr. Bly drove him over the Yetwood territory on Monday, with the result that another splendid meeting was held in the schoolhouse that evening. Although this district suffered to some extent from the dry year and many of the farmers were out working on the irrigation ditch, still a union with twelve members was organized, and there is every prospect that this will soon be doubled. The first officers are J. E. Creighton, Yetwood, president, and J. M. Seebeck, Sweet Valley, secretary-treasurer, and the name given to the union was Broadview. From Broadview a drive of eight miles was made to Mr. Paulson's and the next evening another good meeting was held, a new union called Sweet Valley being organized with a membership of eighteen. The first officers are J. L. Rickett, Sweet Valley, president, and J. Bain, secretary, Sweet Valley. Everywhere Mr. Quinsey went he found the farmers very enthusiastic as to the future, and it is only reasonable to anticipate that at an early date these unions will be heard from quite regularly. The officers and members are hustlers and do not intend to be left in the background very long.

OKOTOKS SENDS THREE

Nearly fifty farmers assembled at the Victoria Hall, Okotoks, on November 15th, to discuss the question of co-operation and to give their Ottawa delegates a hearty send off. Co-operation, being the main subject, came in for most attention, and the members hope to apply that principle among themselves to some advantage this winter. All present signed the petition in favor of the passing of the Co-operative Bill. The members endorsed the action of the previous meeting in appointing Messrs. G. Hoadley, James Henry and P. P. Woodbridge as their representatives on the Ottawa delegation.

The resignation of the secretary, who expects to be away for the winter, was accepted and Mr. W. B. Saunders, of Okotoks, was appointed in his place. Other subjects came up for discussion and several members volunteered to do some organizing on their own account from which good results are hoped for. It was agreed that the Union would not meet again until the annual meeting was called in December for the election of officers.