

OFFICERS:		
Hon. President—D. W. Warner	Edmonton	
President—James Speakman	Penhold	
Vice-Presidents—		
H. W. Woods	Carleton Place	
S. H. Dunham	Lethbridge	
Rice Sheppard	Edmonton	
W. D. Trego	Gleichen	
Sec. Treasurer—P. P. Woodbridge	Calgary	

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.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:	
Victoria—P. S. Austin	Ranfurly
Edmonton—George Long	Namao
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

DEATH OF GEORGE LONG

We regret to announce the death of Geo. Long, of Namao, director for the Edmonton constituency. The death took place on Saturday, September 25, and the funeral on Monday, September 27. The Association was represented by Hon. President D. W. Warner, Vice-President Rice Sheppard and Director P. S. Austin.

In the passing of Mr. Long we lose one of the oldest pioneers in farmers' organization work in the province of Alberta. Mr. Long took a prominent part in the old Society of Equity and was one of the most able men engaged in that organization. When the society amalgamated with the Alberta Farmers' Association and thus formed the nucleus of the present U.F.A. in 1909, Mr. Long was elected director for the Edmonton constituency. He was re-elected at the second annual convention in January, 1910, and again at the third annual convention in Calgary in 1911. For two or three years, owing to ill health and other reasons, Mr. Long was not a candidate for provincial office in the Association; tho he still retained office in the local union and was a tower of strength to U.F.A. work in the district. He was induced to contest the position as director of the Edmonton constituency again at the convention in January of this year and was elected by a large majority. In the death of Mr. Long the Association loses the second of its officers within twelve months.

PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS MEET

The usual fall meeting of the board of directors of the U.F.A. was held in the Central office on September 28 and 29, 1915. There were present: D. W. Warner, honorary president; Jas. Speakman, president; H. W. Wood, S. S. Dunham and Rice Sheppard, vice-presidents; P. S. Austin, E. E. Sparks, H. G. Vickery and D. Buckingham, directors.

The president announced the death on Saturday, September 25, of Director Geo. Long of Namao, and spoke feelingly in regard to same. Other members of the board also tendered their appreciation. A resolution of condolence was prepared and sent to the bereaved family.

A discussion took place on the new Brand Act and a strong resolution of protest against the increase in the fee was passed. The secretary was instructed to write to the government for further information.

On the proposed affiliation with the Western Canada Livestock Union, it was decided to secure the views of the Provincial Associations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan before taking action.

It was decided to support the officials of the Red Cross and Canadian Patriotic Funds in their efforts to secure financial support by sending out to our unions the full particulars as to the objects and administration of each of these funds.

Reports on organization work, the proposed incorporation of the Association and agricultural credit were presented and accepted, with the financial report and a special report from the livestock committee.

Agricultural Credit

On the agricultural credit question, the directors after full discussion adopted the recommendations of the report which is printed below, re long term mortgages on a co-operative basis. The recommendations of the report on short term loans based on the Raiffeisen system were also carried unanimously. The full report with the decisions of the board were referred to the legislative committee to be worked out in detail for submission to the next annual convention.

It was decided to hold the next annual convention in Calgary on January 18, 19, 20, 1916, with arrangements to continue the convention into the fourth day on January 21 if found advisable. The usual committees were appointed to look after the arrangements in connection with the work of preparation.

The report on agricultural credits as adopted by the board reads as follows:—

The subject presents two problems: (1) Long term loans, a system of mortgage loans on longer terms and with lower

interest to replace our present mortgage loan system. (2) Short term loans, that is, better banking facilities to finance our current farm operations, giving us longer time, and if possible lower interest, than the present banks afford.

Long Term Mortgage Loans

The most reasonable and successful system that we find anywhere is that of co-operative farm mortgage associations, which system has been adopted by the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and embodied in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Farm Mortgage Act.

Groups of borrowers form local associations; the members become members by granting mortgages on their farms and applying for loans on these mortgages. A number of these groups unite in a central association which raises money to make the mortgage loans, by issuing debentures on the security of the collective mortgages. The collective liability works in this way: Suppose a mortgage loan becomes a bad debt and has to be foreclosed, and suppose the sale of the foreclosed land does not realize the full amount of the debt, then the deficit is raised by an assessment on the members in the proportion of the debt owed by each member. The Saskatchewan Act limits this extra liability to 50 per cent. of the amount of each man's debt.

The land is carefully valued and the amount of mortgage granted is, in the Saskatchewan Act, limited to 40 per cent. of the land value. Loans are to be granted only to trustworthy farmers and only for reasonable, productive purposes. The debentures will have no due date when they must be repaid; they will be bought back by the Central Association in proportion as the loans are repaid.

The loans are granted for long terms, in some cases as long as seventy-five years,

The task just now would be to try to get legislation prepared to come into operation as soon as circumstances allow.

Short Time Loans

This is a complicated subject and many lines of reform are being discussed. The question is whether the present banking system and banking methods can be so changed as to meet the requirements of our farm business, or whether special credit societies must be created for that business. The general experience in many countries seems to suggest that special farmers' banks are necessary and the most successful ones appear to have been the rural co-operative credit societies, especially those based on the Raiffeisen principle. The co-operative buying and selling in many of our unions and the Co-operative Societies Act for Alberta open the way to make experiments along the line of co-operative credit.

This whole matter can only be worked out slowly. The working of the present banks will no doubt be improved in consequence of the present discussions. We need at once the amendment of the Bank Act which will authorize bankers to loan money to farmers on the security of livestock. We need longer time for our bank loans without the three months note system. The present bank charters run until the 1st of July, 1923, but the Bank Act can be amended at any time and laws could be made to create new kinds of banks as long as we don't interfere with existing charters. Some are proposing single local banks instead of central banks with local branches. It is doubtful whether these single local banks could live together with big central banks; it seems to me the big banks with branches would buy up or kill out the small banks. And it will be impossible to get legislation to entirely abolish the central bank



A portion of the Calgary Public Market. The stall of The Grain Growers' Grain Co. will be seen on the right of the picture.

and are repayable by "amortization," small yearly or half-yearly instalments, to cover interest, expenses and capital. For a time, at any rate until such debentures become better known in the world's money market, the guarantee of the debentures by the provincial government might be necessary, in order to secure the lowest interest.

Any government banks or straight government loans, such as the New Zealand loans, do not appear to me to be desirable; they do not secure easier terms or lower interest than the co-operative scheme outlined above, and they open the way to government patronage and political influence, and they do not tend to foster self-reliance and co-operation in the borrowers.

No scheme for long term loans could well be put in operation under the present abnormal war conditions, for two reasons: (1) Because no debentures could be sold, no money could be borrowed at present. (2) If money could be borrowed, the interest would be abnormally high, a very important point for long term loans, for no one would want to borrow, say, for twenty-five years at war interest; and suppose, as in most of these long loan systems, provision could be made for repaying the loan before due date, the debentures bearing high interest would rise above par as interest went down and would be very costly to buy back.

system. While the single, local banks might benefit the town business in a number of towns, it is doubtful how far they would reach to the farmers. The present banks claim that it takes from three to five years for a small rural branch to pay expenses and single local banks would hardly be established under such conditions. Any kind of banking business of course can only exist if it is sufficiently profitable to draw capital into it.

Organization Report

The following organization report was also submitted:—

Since my last report twelve new unions have been definitely organized, besides some that should result from some meetings held by Mr. Dunham, but which have not definitely reported. District Associations continue to be formed; we have helped to incorporate four of them as co-operative societies, namely, at Crossfield, Jenner, Medicine Hat and Lomond. We have also successful co-operative societies at Blackie and Vulcan; I have visited these and recommended that they should have a by-law requiring all shareholders to be members of the U.F.A. I suggest that we recommend this by-law to all our unions and District Associations when they incorporate. We have information from Strome of the organizing of a District Association, comprising five local unions and about 300

members, but we have no definite advice of their legal incorporation.

We have so far the following list of unincorporated District Associations:—Ponoka (with fourteen locals), Edgerton, Dickson, Cereal, Langdon, Oyen, Macleod, Youngstown and Empress.

I suggest that the Central office should, wherever it seems practicable, encourage and help these District Associations to incorporate as co-operative societies.

We have so far organized twenty Women's Auxiliaries of the U.F.A.

Since my last report our officers have made the following journeys, so far as we have received reports:—Vice-President Dunham to Taber, Jenner, Foremost, Altorado, Lucky Strike, Iron Springs, Foremost again and Grassy Lake; Vice-President Rice Sheppard to Edgerton; Director Austin to Partridge Hills, Streamstown, Tring, Riverton, Bloomington and Creighton. A new union was organized at Frog Lake. Director Sparks to Empress; Director Vickery to Hay Lakes, Sedgewick, Amisk, Edgerton, and he also accompanied me on my trip along the line east from Wetaskiwin. Mr. Woodbridge travelled to Pancras, Empress, Crossfield, Macleod, Medicine Hat, Lomond and Nobleford, the chief work being to help some of these places to incorporate as co-operative societies. I attended meetings at Ponoka, Red Deer, Cornucopia (Halkirk), Camrose, Sedgewick, Killam, Strome, Hay Lakes, Bawlf, Strathmore, Beddington, Vulcan, Lethbridge (Coaldale) and Blackie.

In regard to organization in general, I feel as I have suggested several times, that our chief work at present should be to help our existing unions to be as interesting and efficient as possible. Many unions find it difficult to initiate interesting business and topics for discussion when they meet. I suggest that the Central office should send out a circular to all the unions, mapping out a program for the winter meetings, suggesting useful items of business and interesting topics for discussion and offering to send when requested short papers to help in the discussion. I think we could help to attract members to the monthly meetings by making the meetings more interesting.

JAS. SPEAKMAN,
Chief Organizer.

A NEW W.A.

A report of the organization of a new Women's Auxiliary has been received thru Mrs. R. W. Barritt, provincial secretary.

A new unit of the Women's Auxiliaries of the U.F.A. was organized at Winnifred in August. The president elected was Mrs. Freeman; vice-president, Mrs. Goselin; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Riste. A board of directors, consisting of Mrs. Dennison, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Minden, Mrs. Flett and Mrs. Rister, was also elected. This auxiliary should become a great success and do good work from what I know of one or two of the officers who have been elected. It has been reported to this office on more than one occasion that Mrs. Riste, the secretary-treasurer, in particular is very active in relief work and put in some very good work that way last winter.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The women of Alberta are to have the franchise extended to them thru a government measure to be introduced at the next session of the provincial legislature. An editorial on this matter, together with a copy of the letter received at this office from Premier Sifton appeared in The Guide on September 22. Comment is unnecessary; all parties seem to be equally pleased at the successful termination to the work of this organization in their efforts to secure this important reform.

Dr. Helfferich, secretary of the Imperial German Treasury, announces that the total of the subscriptions for the third German war loan is about three billion dollars. This means that with the first and second war loans the German people have furnished \$6,250,000,000 in the form of a consolidated loan for carrying on the war.