

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

THERE'S A REASON

J. H. Roberts reports that the Sully Lake Local No. 312 is slowly but surely increasing, its membership now standing at fifty, and before the season is much further advanced they hope to have still more. Co-operative purchasing is receiving considerable attention, and the members have saved from 20 to 40 per cent. on formaldehyde, flour, feed, posts, wire, oils, twine, on local prices. In the near future, they look forward to becoming an active unit of the Castor District Association, which is about to be formed. On July 1 last a very successful picnic was held by this local. They were favored with a beautiful day and a large crowd turned out from Castor and the neighboring unions south of that place, the funds being handsomely augmented in consequence.

RED DEER MARKET

The following paragraph, taken from the Red Deer News, was sent us by F. J. Powell, of Edwell Union No. 53. It was largely owing to the efforts put forth by this union that the market in Red Deer was started, and from what we can learn the residents of the city are taking full advantage of same, as well as the farmers:

"The market of last Thursday kept up its reputation of the previous week, there being hardly standing room for a couple of hours. Mr. Mann, the energetic superintendent, was out of town, his place being filled by F. Anquetil, who got on to his job in good style. All goods for sale were clean, good looking and of high quality, consequently prices ruled good all day. There was a great variety, as usual, and it was all sold. Green groceries are now at their best and very plentiful, so do not fetch quite as high a price, but they pay for growing just the same. Potatoes sold readily at 75c per bushel. The market is now looked upon as a fixture."

A JOINT AFFAIR

Carl Paulsen reports that Asker Union No. 233 had a very successful picnic at Ramsey Lake, on July 8, in which they were joined by the Wood River and Climax Unions. The day was fine and a good crowd turned out, all of whom appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly. There was a short program, including some singing by the Welsh Choir, speeches by Dr. Campbell, M.P.P., Geo. Booth, and last, but not least, by D. Buckingham, U.F.A. Director for the district, who devoted himself exclusively to U.F.A. questions, and whose remarks were greatly appreciated by the members present. There was also a good sports program, including baseball, football and races.

MERE UNION'S SUCCESS

S. L. Hooper reports that the first picnic of the Mere Union No. 543, held in the Highland Park Schoolhouse on July 1, was a huge success, some 300 people being present. P. P. Woodbridge, Provincial Secretary, and D. Buckingham, one of the directors of the association, were in attendance, both of whom gave able and telling addresses. The former on "The U.F.A., What it Has Accomplished, and What it Hopes to Do." Mr. Buckingham spoke particularly on the co-operative side of the movement. A capital program of sports had been arranged, including foot racing, jumping, tug-of-war, baseball and football games. Many valuable prizes were given by the local tradesmen, who all seem anxious to keep on good terms with the local union. The picnic ended with a fine display of fireworks given by one of the members.

MORE SPACE IN THE GUIDE

At a recent meeting of the Executive of the U.F.A., held in Calgary on June 10, the matter of the Alberta section of The Grain Growers' Guide came un-

der discussion, and the following resolution was passed:

"Owing to the fact that The Grain Growers' Guide is the official organ of the U.F.A., and there is considerable dissatisfaction being expressed by our members that The Guide is not fulfilling its functions as our official organ thru the small amount of space being allotted to us, that the editor of The Guide be requested to make arrangements to supply us with not less than one page in each issue of The Guide, to allow us to submit the news of the Association to our members. We are of the opinion that our request is a very moderate one, seeing that about 9,000 copies are distributed in the Province every week, and we believe no step could be taken which would increase the circulation of The Guide so rapidly among our members as more space being allotted to our section."

Further, that the Secretary prepare a general summary of the reports from local unions for publication, rather than the lengthy reports."

The resolution was forwarded to G. F. Chipman, editor of The Guide, who on his return from the East wrote as follows:

"On my return yesterday I found your letter of June 17, together with the resolution passed by your Executive requesting a page each week in The Guide for the Alberta section. I quite appreciate the feeling of your Executive in the matter, and can assure you that it has not been of my own personal desire that the Alberta section has been reduced during the summer months, but has been due entirely to the necessity of keeping the paper down as small as possible during the season when advertising is low. However, I discussed the matter quite fully with Mr. Fream and the Directors last evening, and we were all of one mind that as the Alberta organization is developing rapidly and there is an ever growing interest being taken in it among the farmers, that we should do everything possible to help. We, therefore, decided that we would give one full page every issue henceforth to the Alberta section, so that if you will send around copy for that much space next week, I will be glad to use it."

"I trust that this increase in space will be of great value to your Association, and will also assist us very much in securing additional subscriptions in Alberta."

We are therefore entitled from now on to one full page in each issue. In the course of my organization work this summer I have heard it said a number of times that Alberta was not getting sufficient recognition in the columns of our official paper, The Grain Growers' Guide. I believe other organizers have heard similar remarks. My reply has been that we had the power to make The Guide what we wanted if we would simply set about it on the policy of construction instead of merely making complaints.

At the request of our Executive, the Directors of The Grain Growers' Guide, at considerable expense to that institution, have now afforded us the opportunity of a full page each week. The question now before us is to make that page as fully alive and interesting to our readers as we possibly can, and this will be no easy task for the next few months, which is the slack season of the year, and during which season of the year it is often difficult to get together even as much as a couple of columns per week of news about the unions. We are, however, going to do our best to avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded us, but I would again point out to our readers that the task of preparing a full page of news matter every week in addition to the regular Association work is no easy one, and would ask once more that any of our members who can find time to set down on paper a few words in regard to live and interesting local matters, do so and forward

direct to me, so that same can be made use of in the Alberta section of The Guide each week.

MR. QUINSEY BACK AT WORK

J. Quinsey, director for the Macleod constituency, is again around, having recovered from his recent accident, and attended a meeting at Suffield together with W. D. Trego, director for the Medicine Hat constituency, on Saturday, July 25, a new union known as Pearsonville being organized, with some eighteen members as a start. Wm. Weir was elected president, and A. Stewart, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Quinsey attended the annual picnic at Cowley, and has arranged to undertake further work in that district in October. Mr. Quinsey also attended a picnic at Acme, and reports a large attendance and a good time all round.

CO-OPERATIVE BUYING

Irvine Pickles, of Castor Union No. 229, in sending in fees for seventy members, reports an increase in the membership from last year, with more to join. The union has been doing considerable bulk purchasing, including a car of posts, a car of wire, and two cars of twine now on order. The union also buys its flour in bulk at cost, plus handling charges.

DIRECTOR WOOD BUSY

H. W. Wood, director for the Calgary constituency, has been continuing his campaign with unabated energy. On July 18 he was present and spoke at a picnic at Endiang. A curious point about this meeting was that Mr. Wood was only present thru an accident, it being his intention to speak at the Gough Lake picnic, which was held that same date. No arrangements had been made however, by the Gough Lake Union to meet Mr. Wood at Halkirk, and on inquiring at that place he was told of the picnic at Endiang, and, thinking that this must be the one at which he was expected, made for that point. Thru their failure to meet Mr. Wood the Gough Lake people missed a good thing, but it is not likely that the Endiang people share in their disappointment. On the 10th, the Rumsey Unions held a big joint picnic, at which both Mr. Wood and Mr. Buckingham, of Stettler, were present.

On the 15th a very successful meeting was held at Bawlf, Mr. Wood being again the chief speaker. This was followed by the annual meeting of the Willow Hollow Union (Killam) on the 23rd, and a meeting at Daysland on the 24th. Both of these were particularly good meetings, and the speaker got an unusually good hearing at each.

On the 28th, the Hawkeye Union held its picnic, and Mr. Wood was present at that also, following this with an address at a special meeting of the Huxley Union on August 1.

U.F.A. SERVICES

Special U.F.A. services were held in the Gamble Schoolhouse on Sunday, May 25, by the Roseview Local U.F.A. No. 63, in connection with the regular church service held at that place. A special sermon and songs were rendered, following which Mr. Tregillus, our Provincial President, gave a very touching and effective talk, directed especially to the young folk. The afternoon was enjoyed by everyone present, and Mr. Tregillus was especially appreciated by all. This, we believe, marks the beginning of a new co-operation which has hitherto not been practised to any great extent, that of the U.F.A. and the church working together where possible for the doing of moral, spiritual and mental good. We sincerely hope to have the pleasure of other meetings of this nature in the future, and that other unions will follow in our footsteps.

PRESIDENT ON TOUR

President W. J. Tregillus has just paid a visit to Lloydminster and the district along the C.N.R. line to Ranfurly. His first appointment was at Streamstown, on July 22. A nice gathering was assembled in the afternoon, and when President F. Savage took the

chair and called the meeting to order, the schoolhouse was nicely filled. After the address there was quite a good discussion on the value of co-operation and what co-operation implied and what was being done to bring the cost of living to a more reasonable basis, in which J. Campbell and others took part. After the meeting refreshments were served by the ladies.

On the next day the appointment was at Sunnydale in the afternoon, and a splendid turnout was there to meet the visitor. G. A. Rodgers presided. Quite a large number of ladies were among those present, and the reference made to Equal Suffrage was well received. This union has not been very active of late, but it is hoped that the special meeting held and the address given by the President will have the effect of galvanizing it into active existence.

From Sunnydale, Mr. Tregillus journeyed to Moyerton, and a meeting was held there the same evening. The attendance, however, was not so good as that in the afternoon, for the reason that the hour for commencing was rather early because Mr. Tregillus had to motor back to Lloydminster to catch the midnight train, but those who gathered were full of enthusiasm and a very bright discussion on all questions affecting the farmers was entered into by those present. A. MacDonald was in the chair, and Secretary Benner said that he regretted the small attendance, but that the meeting had been well advertised.

At Mannville the following day the meeting was held in the warehouse of the Farmers' Elevator, and a very interesting meeting it was. Mr. Murchison was in the chair, and after the address by Mr. Tregillus a very interesting discussion arose on Single Tax. Owing to some little difficulty having arisen in Mannville owing to the abnormal conditions brought about by land speculation, this seems to be quite a live question in Mannville, but while those who took part in the discussion did not seem to agree altogether with Single Tax, they could appreciate what a wonderful help it would be to find a substitute for the tariff and all the evils it brings in its train, morally as well as economically, and while some considered socialism was the remedy for the present conditions, others agreed with Single Tax, and others with Free Trade. There is no question that if everyone was to follow his own favorite reform they would all help economic conditions, and that we could not make very much mistake in our choice, as all would help in the same direction.

The union visited on the 24th was Minburn, and Secretary Burford, who was at Mannville, drove the President over to his home for supper and took him to Minburn for the evening meeting. Altho the meeting did not commence punctually, the hall was well filled with a very interested gathering. President W. Park was in the chair, and after the address the question of the handling of live stock at the elevator was taken up, and a good number of questions was asked, and the interest in the shipment of hogs seemed to be quite a live one. This meeting was one of the best held on the tour.

Leaving Minburn for Ranfurly next day, a specially advertised meeting was held in the afternoon. In the absence of the president, Mr. Rodwell, who is suffering from illness, C. A. Johnson presided. The elevator meeting for the election of officers for the following year was first held, then the public meeting, after which there was a discussion as to the operation of the elevator and many other points were taken up and taken part in by quite a number of those present. The discussion showed the interest of all present. After the meeting was over the ladies entertained all with refreshments. The whole meeting was most enjoyable and enthusiastic.

The district from Lloydminster to Ranfurly seems to have had quite a good supply of moisture thruout the season and the crops were looking exceedingly good. In many places they were promising a full yield, and in few places were they suffering in any way, therefore if nothing happens, one of the best harvests that ever has been gathered should be reaped this year in that district.