



# ALBERTA SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by Edward J. Fream, Secretary, Calgary, Alta.

## UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

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### HELP THIS ALONG

In these times of stress, when any matter introduced is liable to be mishandled and ones motives discredited owing to the strife occasioned by a political conflict which will, happily, soon be over, it is gratifying to take up a subject which deals with something a little out of the ordinary and which is at the same time a link, one that can be made exceedingly strong, in the chain that is welding together the British Empire.

This is the proposal which has emanated from Mr. W. M. Waldron, of Lloydminster, and made by him to His Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury: His Eminence, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, and to the heads of the Wesleyans, Baptists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians, in England. The scheme is such a good one that all of us, no matter what our views are, should be able to unite in making it a success.

Mr. Waldron has written to the above named gentlemen suggesting that the Old Country men residing in Canada should send sheaves of grain to the parishes they or their families belonged to in the old land for the harvest festivals. The charm of this act must appeal to all, and apart from this it must have a far greater charm at the present time, when there is so much wild talk of annexation on the one hand and independence for Canada on the other, and any act which tends to bring Canada closer to the Old Country is of merit. Mr. Waldron has further suggested that a special prayer should be used at the time of the harvest thanksgiving services, thanking the Almighty God for not only the Old Country harvest but for that of Canada also, and has pointed out that action of this kind will have a far-reaching effect in both countries.

The merits of this scheme must appeal to all, and if well worked out would result in immense advantage to Canada. While not intending to suggest the advertising possibilities, for the proposition deserves greater thought and consideration than advertising can give it, still just a few moments thought will show that the actual sight of the sheaf, thereby showing just what this country will produce, will do far more to clear up misunderstandings about the possibilities of this country than all the advertising matter, lectures and letters put together.

It is unfortunate that this proposition is made public at so late a date, but at the same time the possibilities of working it up for greater efforts next year are good, and for that reason it is suggested to you. If you think the scheme a good one why not work it out in your own district? Why not arrange for good samples of your grain to be sent to your old home to be used in the harvest festival services? The cost will not be great and surely in this there is something that will repay all a thousand-fold. Let us think seriously over the matter, and then when the full merit of the scheme has taken hold, act upon it in the manner suggested by Mr. Waldron.

E. J. F.

### WHAT THE UNIONS ARE DOING

Red Willow Union put in a very busy time at the meeting held on August 26, and among other business transacted was the passing of the following resolutions which we think are of interest to the members: "Whereas we deem the plan of government pork packing plant as outlined is unfair to the farmer, in that the farmer is asked to contract his product to the plant regardless of the price he might obtain elsewhere and the only guarantee the farmer has is \$2 fine for each hog he fails to supply to the plant, and, whereas, under the plan proposed there is danger in time of its control being centred in a few hands, thereby defeating the purpose for which it is intended, and the wide spread between hogs on foot and the finished product shows the need of such a plant being run in the interest of the whole people, therefore, be it resolved, that we are in favor of the government owning and operating a plant in such a manner as to avoid

any possibility of its ever drifting into private hands, said plant to include the packing and handling of all meat products, the government to pay a living price to the producer and to sell at cost to the consumer, thereby benefitting all the people." The taxation question came up for discussion and without a dissenting vote the following resolution was adopted: "Be it resolved, that to encourage the residence upon and the improvement of the land we are in favor of a system of taxation along the following lines:

That all taxes in local improvement districts and in rural school districts shall be raised by a direct levy upon land values, the improvement upon land in all cases to be exempt from taxation. That each quarter section, or smaller parcel, when held separately, shall be appraised yearly at its actual value and the improvements thereon appraised separately to the land. That land upon which the improvements amount to less than one-fourth the land value, and the owners not being resident thereon, shall be taxed at full value and when the improvements amount to one-fourth or more of the land value the exemption to be equal to the value of improvements, provided that the exemption shall not be more than one-half. Land upon which the owner has resided continuously during the year previous to the day of appraisal, the amount of exemption shall be one-half, and when the improvements amount to more than one-half the land value and the owner has resided continuously on the land during the year, the exemption to be equal to the value of the improvements, provided that the exemption shall not exceed three-fourths of the value of the land. That the exemption because of residence shall not apply to more than one-quarter section and that the exemption for improvements shall apply only to the quarter section or smaller lot upon which the improvements are located."

We have also had trouble with hail applications and have dealt with the matter by passing the following resolution, which has been submitted to the government: "Whereas, on June 22 last, a few hailstones fell in this vicinity, the said hail stones being so small and few that crops were not damaged in the slightest degree, and, whereas, both before and since June 22 many farmers made application in good faith to the government for insurance against hail and the said applications have lately been declared invalid because of the few hail stones that fell on June 22, be it resolved that we do hereby protest against the unfair treatment applicants for hail insurance have received in the present case. We believe that had a proper investigation been made it could have been clearly shown that applications were made in good faith and without intention to defraud, and therefore the said applicants for hail insurance were entitled to the protection of the government."

T. C. BARRETT, Sec'y.  
Red Willow, Alta.

Beaver Lodge Union now has 29 paid up members and the prospect of increasing this number this fall is very good. We have picked out a provisional board of directors for our Agricultural society and have sent the necessary documents to Edmonton to enable us to secure incorporation. We have the purchase of a beautiful island in view as the site for our fair grounds and we think it will be an ideal spot. At our next meeting we intend to try and do something about co-operation and any literature upon this important subject will be very helpful to us. We are getting closer in touch with the world now, as we have just been granted a fortnightly mail service.

WM. H. LOWE, Sec'y.  
Beaver Lodge, Alta.

A meeting was held at Rossyth school house on August 24, when it was unanimously decided to organize a local of the U. F. A. under the name of Rossyth. Twenty-nine signed the roll, so that we start off with a good membership, and the following officers were elected:—President, Chas. Chambers; vice-presi-

dent, V. E. Huffman; directors, A. L. Blue, T. Larsen, J. Moody, W. F. Seibrasse, J. Wells, A. F. Tennes; secretary-treasurer, H. S. Atkinson. We have held one meeting since the organization was effected and all the members are very enthusiastic and there is every chance of Rossyth being a very progressive branch. As soon as we are on a proper working basis you will hear more of us.

HARRY S. ATKINSON, Sec'y.  
Rossyth, Alta.

The meeting of Glencoe Union held on September 6 was largely attended and the various subjects well discussed. The Municipal Act was discussed and resolutions were passed recommending the area of a municipality to be three miles square and that the taxation of land by valuation, improvements not to be included, be adopted. It was also resolved that the date for nomination of councillors should be changed from the first Monday in January to the first Monday in December previous. The pork packing plant was considered and 150 hogs subscribed. Needless to say that with our present prices at five cents per pound the number will be considerably increased at our next meeting. An order for a carload of lumber was secured by tender by a local merchant. Our vice-president illustrated the need of reciprocity by exhibiting a new pair of overalls which he got in exchange for nine pounds of butter, while according to prices quoted in U. S. papers the same article could be purchased for two pounds.

J. F. KELLY, Sec'y.  
Lindsville, Alta.

Irwinville Union is in favor of the plan of rural municipalities as adopted in Saskatchewan, with the size of the municipality to be sixteen townships and the system of taxation to be that of land values.

CHAS. E. YOUNG, Sec'y.  
Irwinville, Alta.

The last meeting of Hiawatha Union was very well attended and a keen discussion took place on the municipal circular. The members came to the conclusion that they were in favor of the plan of rural municipalities as outlined by Premier Sifton, instead of being left to a poll of the residents. By a majority of one they decided in favor of a municipality of nine townships and all are decidedly and unanimously in favor of the taxation of land values, as we consider this the most just and equitable system of taxation. We are also having some telephone troubles and are appealing to the central office for assistance in settling the matter.

GEORGE S. SAMSON, Sec'y.  
Rivercourse, Alta.

Sullivan Lake Union is progressing steadily and the members have held three meetings since the organization was effected. The meetings are all well attended and much interest is taken in the work and in discussions on the different questions mentioned in the circular letters. Our first social in connection with the local is to take place in a few days and much interest is being taken in it. This step was taken at the suggestion of several of our members to enable us to make a good start financially. We have secured 13 new members since we were organized and expect several more in the course of the next meeting or two.

J. H. ROBERTS, Sec'y.  
Sullivan Lake, Alta.

The members of Cornucopia Union are in favor of the plan of rural municipalities adopted in Saskatchewan, the size to be sixteen townships, and the plan of taxation to be that of land values.

D. C. MILLER, Sec'y.  
Leo, Alta.

At the last regular monthly meeting of Nevis Union, where most of the members were present, after the regular business of the meeting had been concluded the secretary read Circular No. 9 from the head office, in which members were

advised strongly to vote for the candidate who favored the reciprocity pact. As one of the articles of our constitution forbids taking part in politics, it is the unanimous opinion of the members present that for the executive to advise us to vote one way is taking part, and a very active part; and we consider it an insult to the intelligence of our members to be so advised. So far as this local is concerned the members will vote for what party they may think best, irrespective of reciprocity.

R. E. KERR, Sec'y.  
Nevis, Alta.

(I think that if the members of Nevis Union will read that circular once more they will come to the conclusion that they have taken too much for granted, and that the only difference between the resolution passed by the central and that by Nevis local is that the one recommended the support of the candidate, irrespective of party politics, who will support the issues in which we are interested and which are the main issues of the election, and the other is that the voting should be done irrespective of issues in favor of party. These are personal views and while it is treading on dangerous ground it is once more amplifying the statement that independence has not yet found its home in the bulk of the places in Canada. It is a good subject for discussion at ordinary times, but during the stress of an election it is something like a red rag to a bull. Keep the rag—otherwise independent thought in politics—out of sight, or there will be a roar. The unfortunate point is that this should be the case.

E. J. F.

At the last regular meeting of Bon Accord Union the hail insurance question was discussed and a resolution was unanimously adopted endorsing the action taken by Strathmore Union. About three weeks after our meeting a terrific hail storm visited this part of the country, completely destroying three-fourths of the grain and partially destroying the balance. As only a very small amount of the district was insured against hail the storm was the strongest argument for hail insurance ever heard of here, and everybody is talking compulsory hail insurance now.

ANDREW RAFN, Sec'y.  
Bon Accord, Alta.

The farmers of Flowerdale district have organized under the name of Laurier Union. Mr. Lennox acted as chairman and explained the objects of the association, also the work being accomplished by The Guide and the Grain Growers' Grain company. Twelve members joined the union and there is every prospect of many more at an early date, as all are keenly interested in the work. Mr. A. J. Davidson was elected president, Mr. F. A. Fleming, vice-president, and Mr. G. T. Hyde, secretary-treasurer. Six directors were also elected and a strong organization campaign will be undertaken at once. It has been decided to meet at present on the first Saturday after the full moon.

G. T. HYDE, Sec'y.  
Stoppington, Alta.

Strathmore Union is in favor of a municipality of nine townships and of the taxation of land values. We also heartily endorse the proposed measure for Direct Legislation and leave same in the hands of the executive. We would like to know if something can be done by the organization towards providing fuel, and if it will be possible to ship logs from the mountains for this purpose.

M. E. SLY, Sec'y.  
Strathmore, Alta.