

DEFINITE HOSPITAL POLICY

At a special meeting of organizations representing the rural interests, held in the city of Edmonton, Monday, August 7, the following were present: H. W. Wood, president; W. D. Trego, S. S. Dunham, Rice Sheppard and P. P. Woodbridge, of the United Farmers of Alberta; Mrs. Walter Pariby and Mrs. R. W. Barrett, president and secretary of the United Farm Women of Alberta, and Messrs. Greenfield, J. H. Lamb and W. J. Jackman, representing local improvement districts and rural municipalities' boards.

After a full discussion the following definite policy, as a basis for legislation, was decided upon and unanimously adopted by all present on behalf of their respective organizations:

1-Resolved, that the rural portions of the Province of Alberta should be divided into districts for hospital purposes, according to geographical and natural boundaries, having consideration also for the regular lines of travel. The districts should be large enough to make the erection and maintenance of the hospitals easily borne by the ratepayers, but not too large for easy accessibility. We would suggest as a standard district an area approximately equal to that of four municipal units.

2-Resolved, that after the hospital districts have been definitely decided upon, a referendum must be held in each district as to whether it is desirable to construct and maintain a hospital within its boundaries. A reasonable time must be allowed for consideration, but a definite date must be set, on or before which date the vote must be taken. A majority of the vote in any hospital district shall decide for that district.

3-Resolved, that provision must be made for gathering statistics for each district covering:

- (a) The taxable area.
(b) The estimated cost of a hospital and equipment suitable for the district.
(c) Probable cost of maintenance based on figures secured from various rural hospitals already in existence.
(d) Any other facts bearing on the necessity and desirability of such an enterprise.

This information must be distributed free in the districts to which it refers. We recommend that the Department of Municipal Affairs be made responsible for the gathering of this information, and that the government be required to assume the cost of printing.

4-Resolved, that any rural hospital under this scheme be built, operated and controlled by the district in which it is located.

5-That the foregoing provisions and the necessary working details be incorporated into an act of the Province of Alberta, and that a draft of this act be submitted to our joint committee as soon as possible.

A standing committee, consisting of H. W. Wood, and Mrs. W. Pariby, on behalf of the United Farmers of Alberta and the United Farm Women of Alberta, and Messrs. J. H. Lamb and Greenfield, representing local improvement districts and rural municipalities, was appointed to present the case to the government and deal with any details or possible emergencies which might require attention meanwhile.

SOME TUG-OF-WAR

Wm. H. Blatchford, president of Del Norte Local No. 678, reports that seldom, if ever, have the people of this community had the opportunity of attending a more successful affair than the second annual picnic of the Del Norte Local of Innisfree, held at the Loree school on July 7, which was largely attended, not only by farmers and their families but also by townspeople. Loads of gaily attired women and children and veterans of the plow began to arrive early in the afternoon, and by the time the athletic program, consisting of some eighteen events, was started, the grounds looked more like a county fair than just a stretch of prairie. Some excellent and closely contested events were held, awarded by splendid prizes, but the most interesting event of all was the tug-of-war, when the U.F.A. members undertook to pull any team in the world. Unfortunately they took in too much territory, and altho the battle lasted for

fully three minutes, the U.F.A. team were finally dragged across the line. Even then the successful team did not stop pulling, and the U.F.A. men had to finally cut the rope which was tied around the vice-president, a man of some 265 pounds, and whom they were using as an anchor, but who was in obvious danger of receiving bodily injury at the hands of the jovial winners. The baseball game between the farmers and the town boys was also worthy of comment. When at one time the farmers were in a very bad hole a few of their supporters bought a freezerful of ice cream from the Red Cross booth and had the umpire call the game while the ice cream was given away free. Evidently the farmers thought that a few minutes rest and fortification of ice cream would assist their boys in cooling down a little, but it was useless, the final score being 17 to 12 in favor of the town. Altho the sky was somewhat downcast thruout the entire afternoon, and rain threatened to drive the merry-makers from the grounds, covers were spread for 300. It was at this juncture the farmers outdid the townspeople. The farmers may not know a great deal about athletics, but they take no back seats when the time comes to enjoy the good things of the land. After supper was finished and the Red Cross had closed their booth, many repaired to Chapman's Lake nearby for a dip and to freshen up for the evening's program at the schoolhouse. This program consisted of some excellent numbers, and was appreciated by the entire audience which filled the building. There was no charge made, and at its conclusion dancing was indulged in until the day after was beginning to break. The one noticeable feature of the day was the spirit of good fellowship and congeniality that existed among the people. Everybody enjoyed the fun; all seemed as one big family, showing that the union undoubtedly is making rapid strides toward the socializing of the community.

ACTIVITY AT ST. ELMO

The following letter has been received from Max L. Sutton, secretary of St. Elmo Local, No. 252: Since I last wrote to you we have taken in five members. We held our regular meeting on April 29, at which it was decided to have a picnic on June 23. A social was held on March 25, the money to go to the union, and \$17.90 was taken in. On May 27 a meeting was held and orders for twine taken. Over 5,000 pounds was ordered. We have also obtained a free library from the University of Alberta. On June 23 we held our first annual U.F.A. picnic at the St. Elmo schoolhouse. There was a good program of races, baseball, football, etc., with a dance in the evening. Everybody enjoyed themselves, especially the dance, where the mosquitoes did not bother so much. As all the committees have not turned in their reports yet, I cannot say definitely how much was taken in, but believe somewhere around \$100 was made.

ONE EFFECT OF PROSPERITY

Director J. L. Sparrow, of Sedgewick, reports that he attended the U.F.A. picnic at New Norway recently, and addressed those present for forty-five minutes or so. He states that this is a splendid district, and that the reason the members are not more enthusiastic is that they are too prosperous and do not feel the need for organization. However, Mr. Sparrow, in drawing attention to this fact, pointed out that things were almost certain to change at some time; and it would be well for them to help build the bulwarks of protection around themselves today when it can be done so much easier than when they find the shoe pinching. He goes on to state that there are a few good enthusiastic U.F.A. men in this district.

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.

ACTIVE INTEREST AT RATHWELL

The following letter has been received from W. H. Shield, secretary of Rathwell Local, No. 667: I enclose herewith order for \$20, of which \$10 is towards organization expenses, to cover the visits of Messrs. Dunham and Sloane to our picnic on July 1. The balance I collected here in Rathwell towards a Speakman Memorial Fund. As none of the other unions have taken the matter up, I forward this to you to dispose of in any way you see fit. We asked each union to raise a like amount and all agreed heartily at the beginning, but as at that time we had a couple of months of very severe weather when the work was almost at a standstill, they grew lukewarm and finally allowed this to die out. We had a very successful picnic in conjunction with the Alberta Temperance and Moral Reform Branch here. The largest attendance we have ever had. Mr. Dunham's speech was listened to with great interest. His text was "Co-operation." Dr. Kerby spoke in aid of recruiting.

I must thank you for the trouble you took re answering my inquiries re forming a co-operative association. We have secured our certificate of incorporation and are now in a position to do business. We adopted your by-laws almost in their entirety. Our own Rathwell Local is doing fairly well. We have over forty paid up members and have had new applications at every meeting held since the year came in. We have organized an athletic club in connection with the union, also a women's auxiliary, and have purchased a tennis set, croquet, etc., and meet at the school grounds twice a month. The ladies are providing cakes and tea, making a small charge.

Four of our paid up members have enlisted since the beginning of the year. There are also five or six old members of this local now at the front or in England. One is lying wounded in a Yorkshire hospital, one of five survivors out of his platoon during the action at the beginning of June. Crops are looking equally as well, or better, here than they did last season, but from eight to ten days later. We had the heaviest rainfall here a few nights ago that we have experienced in recent years. Outside of that the rainfall has been sufficient but not plentiful.

WANT WILD LAND TAX DIVERTED

D. H. Borthwick, secretary of Kinsella Local, No. 277, reports that a joint meeting of U.F.A. and shareholders in the A.P.C.E. Co. was held on Saturday, July 22. One new member signed the roll. They have now a membership of over forty. A letter was read from the deputy minister, Department of Agriculture, regretting that they could not stop the demonstration train at Kinsella, July 15, but that they would make arrangements next time. The following resolution to be sent to the Central office for the convention was passed:

"That this organization request the government of our province to turn all wild land taxes collected to the municipality or local improvement district within which the said tax is collected, and said tax money to be expended in the improvement of roads where said land is located."

The coal supply was discussed and the secretary was instructed to write a few firms for prices and terms, and report at the next meeting. The secretary was instructed to forward dues to the Central office for the quarter ending June 30. The question of stallions and bulls running at large was discussed. The members did not think the sum offered for taking these animals up was enough to cover all expenses, and the following resolution was passed: "That the fee for taking up bulls or stallions be raised from \$5.00 to \$25.00, as the present fee is not sufficient to cover all expenses. It was moved and seconded that the postponed picnic be

held on August 10, at Kinsella, on the same date as the fall fair. The next meeting was called for August 5.

HAD A GOOD YEAR

F. D. Johnstone, secretary of Irma Local, No. 117, when forwarding \$25 membership dues and \$5 for annual reports, states that they hope to forward more dues shortly, as they have had a very successful year so far as membership is concerned. They hope to do some co-operative purchasing this fall when money is a little more plentiful. The crops are looking fine in this district.

GOOD RED CROSS DANCE

P. Jensen, of Birdaholm, has forwarded the sum of \$11 to the Central office for the Red Cross fund. This amount was raised at a dance held at Bradley Gerke Schoolhouse on July 7.

CREIGHTON'S ANNUAL PICNIC

J. C. Shannon, secretary, reports that Creighton Local, No. 191, observed U.F.A. Sunday, May 21, and had a very profitable and pleasant day. Rev. Mr. Aldriche, of Edmonton, and the local minister, Rev. Mr. Smith, addressed the meeting in the schoolhouse, which was filled to overflowing. The topic was, "Work, Education and Votes," which seemed to fall right in line with U.F.A. work. As far as this union is concerned, they consider that U.F.A. Sunday is a very good thing. The annual picnic was held on June 27, and altho it threatened to rain all the forenoon, there was a good crowd and everybody enjoyed themselves. There was a good program of sports and everything went off without a hitch. The event of the day was a tug-of-war between the married and unmarried ladies, which was won by the unmarried ladies. The U.F.A. had a booth on the grounds and did a good business in ice cream and soft drinks. The total receipts were \$67; however, as they had to buy everything the profits were not large. The ladies served a bountiful supper, and everyone went home feeling the better of having come there.

RICH VALLEY HAS 30 MEMBERS

H. Ellingsen, secretary of Rich Valley Local, No. 257, reports that they have now thirty paid up members, and it is hoped that several others will join later on. Things are brightening up considerably in various ways, and he expects that the union will make good progress in the future.

U.F.A. HOME DEFENCE

Vice-president Rice Sheppard reports: On July 19, at the request of Onoway Local, No. 131, I attended their annual picnic. The day was ideal and a large number of farmers and their families were present. Races and games were part of the pastime. Refreshments were provided of the finest quality, and great praise is due the ladies for the splendid spread of lunch and supper. At 3.30 p.m., all games were called off and those present were requested to gather round the speakers. Mr. Priestly, the president, acted as chairman, and stated that I had been asked to give a talk on U.F.A. work, and also to introduce the U.F.A. Home Defence movement. This I did, and at the close of the address a vote was taken on the question, "Shall we form a U.F.A. Home Defence unit?" The crowd was unanimously in favor of same, not only the men but the ladies also, and it is expected that about thirty men will sign up and drilling will commence at once.

CHERRY GROVE'S GOOD MEETING

Cherry Grove Local, No. 236, held their picnic on July 1, which was a very great success. The day was an ideal one and a large crowd of people turned out. Rice Sheppard, of Edmonton, was there and addressed the members on different questions. There was a good program of athletic sports, so everybody was kept interested. At the booth \$27.75 was cleared, which came in very handy to pay a grant of \$25 to the Wetaakiwin Agricultural Society. The local is growing at every meeting, twelve new members being enrolled at the last, making a total of fifty-seven paid up.