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Hon. President—D. W. Warner	Edmonton
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S. S. Dunham	Lethbridge
Rice Sheppard	Edmonton
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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	Namoo
Strathcona—H. G. Vickery	Strome
Macleod—G. W. Buchanan	Cowley
Calgary—J. A. Bishop	Hedington
Red Deer—D. Buckingham	Stettler
Medicine Hat—E. E. Sparks	Jenar

THE PROHIBITION BILL

At a full directors' meeting on Friday, June 18, every member of the board being present, the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas the sentiment at our annual conventions in favor of the suppression of the liquor traffic has been so strongly expressed by the delegates thereat; and,

"Whereas we feel that the misleading and untruthful articles appearing in many newspapers as advertisements should be answered and this great question placed before the electors correctly and truthfully;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the board of directors of the U. F. A., feel it our duty to do all within our power to further the wishes of our Association in this matter; and,

"Be it further resolved that this meeting of the directors instruct our Central Office to prepare a special circular bearing on this matter, placing before our unions the clear duty of all voters to record their own vote and get as many other votes as possible in favor on July 21 next;

"Also that a facsimile of the ballot be obtained and enclosed with this circular with instructions on the proper method of marking same."

A standing vote was taken and the resolution passed with absolute unanimity. I was instructed to bring this matter before our unions and before the public. I have already appealed to our members to help in every way to secure the largest possible majority for the prohibition bill on July 21. I renew the appeal on behalf of the whole board of directors representing every district in the province. The bill may not be perfect, but it is a strong measure, which, if rightly administered, will absolutely prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor in Alberta as a beverage. If it becomes law, it will immensely improve the moral condition and the material prosperity of town and country and will make our province a better country for building up homes and bringing up our children.

The whole board of directors earnestly urges every member to be loyal in this matter to the resolution of our convention.

The name chosen for the Prohibition Bill is not very fortunate; please remember that the "Liquor Act" is the Prohibition Bill, and when you vote in favor of the "Liquor Act," you are voting for prohibition. We hope to illustrate this soon by a facsimile of the ballot paper.

Yours fraternally,
JAS. SPEAKMAN, President.

THE IRRIGATION TROUBLE

I am told there are a number of newspaper reports that give exaggerated statements in regard to the position of the U. F. A. in this irrigation fight, and our directors, who all sympathize with the irrigation farmers in their troubles, have asked me to make our position in this matter perfectly clear.

In our Lethbridge convention the following resolution was passed: "That this convention go on record as giving its moral support to the combined irrigation committees in their fight with the Natural Resources branch of the C. P. R. over the district east of Calgary, known as the Western section of the irrigation block, and we instruct our directors to go into the matter carefully and see in what practical way they can assist these people to get their rights, provided that this resolution shall not apply to Lethbridge irrigation project, where soil and climatic conditions are different."

Our Edmonton convention adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas the farmers' combined irrigation committees some time ago proposed to the Department of the Interior, which is conducting the re-classification of these so-called C.P.R. irrigable lands, in the company's western block, east of Calgary, to test the adaptability of the irrigation undertaking by farming a certain tract of land, comprising some 300 acres, the work to stand its test as a paying proposition, approximately one-half of the said lands, after government re-classification, being passed upon by the government as irrigable, and the balance being non-

irrigable, the farmers to handle the non-irrigable portion of the land on dry farming methods, and the Department of the Interior to raise by irrigation the whole of the crop on the so-called irrigable portion of the land.

"Whereas this request was turned down by the Department of the Interior with the excuse that its officers lack the special training for the practice of agriculture;

"Whereas these same officers of the Department of the Interior have, nevertheless, been conducting agricultural experiments on small patches of land on the C. P. R. Demonstration Farm at Strathmore;

"Whereas the actual expenses involved in preparing and raising the grain on such 'kindergarten' patches is out of all proportion to the results obtained and entirely misleading as a business proposition;

"Whereas we do appreciate that almost any results can be obtained where theoretical experiments are conducted regardless of expenses, inasmuch as even fancy flowers and fruits are raised on the prairie, but in the hothouse of the C. P. R. Demonstration Farm at Strathmore, and

"Whereas the aforesaid officers of the Department of the Interior have now made public, thru the press, the following bold statement, that the results of the experiments conducted show that wheat upon irrigated lands produced 50.1 bushels per acre as against 16.8 bushels per acre on non-irrigable lands;

"Be it therefore resolved: That we do utterly condemn the action of the officers of the Department of the Interior to play with a matter which involves the welfare of the farmers in these districts, more especially after the Department of the Interior has turned down the proposal of the farmers for reasons such as the Department of the Interior stated, to conduct serious work as a test along practical farming lines."

Mr. Sorensen moved and Mr. Glambek seconded, that the resolution be adopted.

These resolutions defined the position of the U. F. A. Most of us knew but little of the details of the trouble. We accepted the statements of the men from the district; we published our belief that the farmers in the Western irrigation block of the C. P. R. were suffering a serious wrong; we extended our moral support to these farmers and instructed our directors to "go into the matter carefully and see in what practical way they can assist these people to get their rights." We simply pledged our moral support to the irrigation men; we took no further responsibility, all the actual fighting was left to the combined irrigation committee.

This is exactly where the U. F. A. stands today. A short-time ago one of the irrigation farmers had a lawsuit against the Natural Resources Department of the C. P. R. In view of the resolutions passed at our last conventions I thought it my duty as president to attend the sittings in court, to become more fully acquainted with the whole matter. I was, of course, simply a listener at the trial. I published my personal impressions of what happened at the trial. After the trial I went more fully into the matter, going thru the files of documents and questioning such irrigation farmers as I met. I gave the results of my inquiries as information for our members, in the issue of 'The Guide' of June 9. These personal reports of mine of course in no way change the position of the U. F. A. in the matter, until the U. F. A. thru its board of directors or in its convention takes further steps. So far the U. F. A. stands in this matter exactly as defined in the resolutions of our last two conventions.

In all the reports I have published I have carefully limited the whole matter to the block of land lying east of Calgary, called the Western Irrigation block. This ought not to prejudice the minds of people against irrigation generally. In the Lethbridge district I am given to understand the soil conditions are quite different, and apparently a considerable success has been made there,

particularly with alfalfa. And irrigation has been successful in many places. I don't know the early history of irrigation in the successful districts of the United States, but probably they had their difficulties until they had found the exact methods for successful irrigation. Whether the same thing may ultimately happen in the particular district, or some parts of it, in the present trouble, seems doubtful. I personally should be glad to have the matter settled by a reasonable arrangement. Lawsuits are good neither for the farmers nor for the railway.

JAS. SPEAKMAN.

POLL EVERY VOTE

The Needmore local Union has just passed the following resolution and wishes it to be submitted to all the unions:

"Whereas in most of the country districts the temperance vote is considered safe; and,

"Whereas it is considered likely that the cities will need all possible help on July 21; be it therefore resolved that the country unions who can safely spare one or two helpers for the prohibition cause send their men to the nearest town or city and place their service at the disposal of the Temperance and Moral Reform League officials on July 21."

We have sent this resolution to the general secretary of the league to see what use can be made of it.

We must remember, however, that no man can vote by proxy and no man can vote outside his own polling division unless he is appointed as agent or scrutineer somewhere else. And let us not consider any country district so safe that we can safely lose one vote. Let every man vote as if his vote would be the one vote necessary to ensure a majority. The only thing that can defeat us will be over-confidence on our part, and we want not merely to win, but to win with the biggest possible majority.

PRACTICAL BROTHERHOOD

I am in receipt of a very interesting report from E. B. Welshimer, secretary of Chedle Union, No. 677. From the report I understand that one of the members of this union was overtaken with sickness and as a result the landlord tried to put him off his farm, but the union saw to it that he was able to keep possession, and what is better still, the members went on to the place and plowed and seeded sixty acres in order to help him out. The secretary remarks that two of the members when asked to join "simply threw out a five spot apiece." I do not know just exactly what this means, but it sounds good anyway, and whether it went to the union or to the man who was sick, it was a good cause. The Chedle Union purchased gopher poison co-operatively and have a car of twine on order. They claim that the seed grain rate, secured from the railways by the organized farmers, saved this union alone \$150. It is expected that a picnic will be held early in July, and a request has been made to the Central office for a speaker.

LOMOND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

I was able to make a trip into the Lomond district for a district meeting held there on June 5, at which a number of unions were represented. The object was to form a district association and incorporate if such a step should be found necessary, make provision for installing a set of scales at Lomond in the name of the district association and the carrying on of other lines of business. The trip had to be made via Vulcan, but in spite of the very stormy weather it was successfully accomplished and a successful meeting resulted. The attendance was perhaps not as large as it might have been, but that could hardly be expected on account of the fact that very short notice had been given as to an outside speaker being present. The committees from the various unions had met in the afternoon and an outline of the steps it was proposed to take was already drawn up when I arrived. I am very much afraid, however, that the committees will need to meet again and revise their proposed plan as it was largely based on what I am inclined to look upon as an incorrect understanding in regard

to the laws of this province, which would probably nullify the whole plan, and in any case would not from a legal point of view cover all the activities in which it was proposed to engage. I would judge from the interest shown at the meeting and the determination of the active members of the unions present to make a success of their work, that the time was well spent and that the Lomond district will eventually organize on a sound basis, and if it does we may look for great progress there in the near future. A number of different matters were taken up at the meeting which lasted till 1.30 in the morning, and altogether I think a very profitable time was spent, both to those in attendance and to myself personally. Prospects are splendid in this part of the country and with the erection of two elevators in the new town of Lomond, including a unit of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co., the farmers should certainly be in a much better position this fall than they have ever been before.

PATRIOTIC ACRE

H. J. Austin, secretary of Fairacres Union, No. 514, reports that the question of the Special U.F.A. Patriotic Fund was taken up at the last meeting of the union. It was decided that under present conditions the members were unable to do anything for this fund, but a motion was passed approving of the "Patriotic Acre" scheme, and the following is a list of those who have pledged themselves to give an acre of wheat: R. Cates, Chas. A. Wicks, B. E. Hosford, F. Townsend, C. Dodridge, R. Cunningham, J. E. Brown, B. F. Van Horne, B. C. Watts and H. J. Austin.

Mr. Austin states that he thinks it possible that some others may be added to this list in the near future.

U.F.A. SUNDAY

The following is a resolution of Roseview Union, No. 63:

"That we, the Roseview Union, No. 63, desire to present to the local unions the advisability of holding an annual U.F.A. Sunday, on the Sunday nearest Empire Day, in each local or union of locals in our province. "To give vision to the common life and to inspire for service to common needs."

Knowing that righteousness exalteth a nation and desiring the highest for our country, we present this resolution.

Therefore be it resolved that the Sunday nearest May 24, Empire Day, be officially declared U.F.A. Sunday, to be set apart for religious services by the unions.

The report of the second annual U.F.A. Sunday held by this union appeared recently. It is likely that this resolution will come up at the convention, meanwhile any of our unions might do well to consider same and we shall be glad to have the views of any of our unions on this matter if they will forward same to the Central office.

INNISFREE PROSPERING

S. E. Nodwell, of Innisfree Union, reports that during the winter months this union has been holding business meetings and social gatherings alternately. As a result a much better spirit of sociability has been created in the neighborhood. Credit for this work may be claimed mostly by the ladies who have taken great interest in making things go and helping along the work. The union purchased their formaline this spring in bulk and are greatly pleased with the result, prices being cheap and the article being good. Arrangements are being made for binder twine. A picnic will be held in July on the farm of J. M. Lawrie, when it is expected that the membership will be considerably increased. An invitation is extended to any member of the executive or board of directors of the Central office who can attend.

THE GREAT OBSTACLES

The two great obstacles that lie in the way of enlightened legislation are ignorance, and the spoils of office.—Chicago Public.