

OFFICERS:		
Hon. President—D. W. Warner	Edmonton	
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S. H. Dunham	Lethbridge	
Rice Sheppard	Edmonton	
W. D. Trego	Gleichen	
Sec.-Treasurer—P. P. Woodbridge	Calgary	

### FOR THE WOUNDED

The first donation of £150 sterling, being money raised under the resolution passed at the last annual convention to the fund known as the U.F.A. Patriotic Fund, was forwarded to the Right Honorable R. McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, about two months ago, and below are two letters in connection with this donation which are self-explanatory: P. P. Woodbridge, Esq.,

Sec'y U.F.A. Association.

Dear Sir:—I have forwarded the draft for £150 which accompanied your letter of August 25 to the St. John Ambulance Association, which, together with the Red Cross Society, is doing the chief work for the care of the wounded in this country. I need hardly say how much I appreciate your generous gift and I shall be pleased to receive any further contributions which you may care to forward.

Yours faithfully,

R. McKENNA.

Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S.W.  
21st September, 1915.

Secretary,

United Farmers of Alberta.

Dear Sir:—I have very much pleasure in acknowledging thru the Chancellor of the Exchequer the sum of £150 contributed by the United Farmers of Alberta Association. I trust that you will accept the very best thanks of the St. John Ambulance Association for the generous gift, which will be applied as far as possible to the relief of Canadian sick and wounded.

With repeated thanks, I am,

Yours faithfully,

WM. R. EDWARDS.

Accountant, St. John  
Ambulance Association.

St. John's Gate,  
Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

### PLODDING ALONG

J. C. Williamson, secretary of Colinton Union, No. 540, reports that during the past three months no membership fees have been paid into the union, but now that the harvest is over they are looking for brighter times. The union is still plodding along, but two of the best members have left the district and are greatly missed at the meetings. The members purchased their binder twine co-operatively and were well pleased with it, saving 1¼ cents per pound. At the next meeting the secretary is going to try and get up a program for the winter months. The farmers in the district are beginning to think that the U.F.A. is a good idea and are taking considerable interest in the Association.

### BUSY HARVESTING

H. M. Brunelle, secretary of Bigstone Union, No. 407, reports that altho the union is not doing anything at present, there are quite a number of active members. Owing to the busy harvest season no meetings are being held, but the officers hope to get things going again in the near future.

### TALBOT REPORTS

C. R. Kerr, secretary of Talbot Union, No. 674, reports that in July the union bought a car of lumber and one car of binder twine in conjunction with Bulwark Union. On July 21 the Talbot district voted dry by a good majority. On July 22 the union held its first picnic, which was a huge success in every way except financially. The August meeting was poorly attended and there were not enough present in September to make a quorum. I expect more interest will be shown now the busy season is over.

### INCORPORATION OF THE U.F.A.

The directors, at their recent meeting, endorsed a large scheme for incorporating the U.F.A., which we think will put our Association in a better position for consolidating and extending our work. In our convention of 1911 a resolution was passed instructing the directors to obtain

a charter of incorporation at the next session of the legislature. For reasons with which I am not particularly acquainted, probably chiefly lack of funds, that resolution has so far remained in abeyance. Incorporation at that time would, of course, have been on the basis of the constitution as it then existed and would only have given us such powers as were then contained in the constitution. Since then the U.F.A. has grown immensely and has especially developed new activities along the line of co-operative selling and buying. In 1914 over 170 unions engaged in such trading with a turnover of over \$300,000; sheds and warehouses were being erected in various parts of the province and it became urgently necessary to give a definite organization to all this business, to place it on a solid foundation and to give the Central office power to help the whole Association to develop this business along right lines.

### Convention will Decide

We intend, therefore, to ask the next convention to adopt some amendments to the constitution which will give the Association the necessary trading powers.

The chief amendment necessary will be to add in the chapter dealing with the "Objects of the Association" a new section as follows:—"To carry on any business and to exercise any power of trade as the executive may deem advisable when authorized by act of the legislature or parliament." If the convention passes this, we shall then ask the legislature to grant us a charter of incorporation, giving us all the trading powers that we need, to do the business of the Association.

If all this is adopted our incorporation will make the U.F.A. a co-operative society without shares, every U.F.A. member becoming a member by virtue of his membership fee. The liability will be limited; no member will be liable beyond his membership fee. The Association would then have, in addition to its present educative and organizing work, the power to do co-operative business. We would be free to make a binding contract with our Elevator Company as we have done, or with the Grain Growers' Grain Company as Saskatchewan has done, or to help our unions by any other kind of business arrangement that may be feasible. Provision would be made, if our unions did profitable business thru us, to distribute dividends back to them, according to the business each union puts in. The Central board would distribute such surplus profit to each union and each union would divide it among its members according to the amount of business done by each member. Provision would also be made for the affiliation with the U.F.A. of any of our unions or groups of unions incorporated as co-operative societies on shares under the Alberta Co-operative Societies Act.

### No Working Capital

An objection has been raised to this scheme, that it does not provide any working capital, apart from membership fees. We are hoping not to need any business capital. We do not intend, unless it proves necessary, to turn our Central office into a business office, but to try to work thru one of our commercial organizations as we have been doing. Our arrangement with the Elevator Company so far has not been very successful, not because the Elevator Company has not given good service, but because few of our unions have taken advantage of the offered service. I hope that the proposed incorporation, enabling us to make an arrangement on a co-operative basis, whereby any surplus profits will flow back into the unions, will provide a way for interesting all the unions in the scheme. If all our honest efforts to do the business thru our business organization should fail, our charter will make provision for raising business capital, when the need for it arises. But I don't think it can rightly be done by incorporating on shares. Every society that we organize on shares would be a new society, separate from the U.F.A. and governed by its shareholders. Only by being incorporated as a whole Association, on the basis of the membership fees, can an incorporated society be

and remain in all matters absolutely a U.F.A. organization entirely under U.F.A. control.

### Trade and Education

Some good friends object to including trading powers in our charter. They fear this will commercialize the U.F.A. and crowd out our grand educational and legislative work. I thoroughly sympathize with the spirit of this objection. One important good law that we help to pass may be worth more even commercially than all the money we can save by co-operative trading. But why can't all the work go together? It is right that we should organize trade and put it on a fair and just basis and many other reforms depend on this. Our experience during the last few years has thrown a good deal of light on this question. We have been preaching and organizing co-operation. We got a co-operative law, we helped to establish co-operative societies and we have found that many of our members, interested chiefly in the making or saving dollars by co-operative trading, lost their interest in the U.F.A. when their commercial needs were met by separate co-operative societies, and so our very success along this line tended to weaken us in our greater work. We must find a way to keep all the work within the U.F.A., to get a chance to broaden our commercially minded brothers and get their interest and support for all our work. All depends on the spirit actuating the convention and the leaders chosen by the convention. So far our convention generally has responded to our higher ideals; as our work grows larger and more difficult, no doubt our conventions will be more and more careful in the choice of leaders, perhaps the most important work that any convention can do.

JAS. SPEAKMAN.

### ORGANIZATION

The organization report, adopted by the directors at their recent meeting, contains several suggestions which I would like to bring more fully before the unions.

The first suggestion refers to the forming of district associations for the purpose of co-operative trading and incorporating them as co-operative societies under the Alberta Act. It is clear that a number of unions grouped together round convenient shipping points and market towns could do much better work than single unions in collecting and shipping their produce and in buying carload lots of supplies. Such district associations can also work together to get a number of members to grow standard qualities of produce, for instance, of grain and potatoes, by combining to get the best seed of the same kind, so that they could ship carloads of the same standard quality and variety. We can often get 25 cents a bushel more for carloads of potatoes of uniform fine quality than for a mixed car with all sorts of stuff. This principle applies to all our produce, including livestock, and there is a great work before all our unions in this direction. The first step in co-operative selling should be to co-operate in raising the right kind of stuff, the stuff that the consumers want, good quality, uniform, reliable. And you don't get the best returns for this, when only a few farmers in a community raise fine quality, but when 200 or 300 farmers in a community combine to do this, their produce will sell like hot cakes at the best price, and their customers, like Oliver Twist, will always be "asking for more." When you are grouped together into a district association for co-operative trading, it is better to put the business on a good legal foundation by incorporating under the Alberta Act as a co-operative society. And remember, the Central office is ready and able to help you to organize and to form bylaws.

### Model Bylaws

The Edmonton government has prepared a set of standard bylaws and you can get them there if you pay \$10.00. We don't recommend you to do that, because they are not particularly good bylaws, and we can send you a better

set from the Central office without charging you \$10.00. Of course, if you object to get something for nothing, we are willing to receive a contribution from you for the Campaign Fund. One bylaw that we insert every time is that every member of the co-operative society must be a member of the U.F.A. I hope the organization of these district co-operative associations will go on rapidly now; we might in 1916 have eighty of these associations doing a business of two million dollars.

### Women's Auxiliaries

One pleasing feature in the organization report is the forming of about twenty women's auxiliaries. We ought to have two hundred. There is a great deal of good work for you women to do this winter. We "mere men" have worked heartily to put you on an equality with us. I mean on a legal equality. We acknowledge, of course, that in reality you are our "betters." We have helped to get the franchise for you. Now show that you are worth it and help to stir up the lazy men in our unions.

The members generally will notice that we propose to try to help the unions to make the monthly meetings more attractive and useful. We shall be glad to have suggestions from any of you for this purpose. Many of our members are not half alive to the need of close and thorough organization, to the immense work that every union could do if it were in earnest. Why should we organize and combine? One reason that very few seem to think of is the great change in the conditions of life, brought about by the use of machinery and the immense improvement of communication by telegraph, telephones, railroads and steamships. Formerly the farmer and his family raised what they could by hand work and took it into the nearest little town for sale. The little town depended on the farmers near by for food and the farmers lived by supplying their little local market. Now the whole world is our market; every little town can get supplies from farmers thousands of miles away; we farmers produce large quantities by machinery and have to sell in the ends of the earth. Formerly the farmer got into his own wagon and took his stuff to the families in town, whom he personally knew. Now to do good business we have to have world wide knowledge of market conditions and transportation. Can the mass of individual farmers on their farms get that? Don't we need organization for that? Great business men organized and gained all this knowledge; they collected and distributed the stuff that we sold and bought; they had the knowledge and the power and they made us pay for it; we were helpless in their hands; it is hardly too much to say we were slaves, lucky if we could make ends meet by the hardest toil of ourselves and our families. Can we get out of that by individual effort? Only here and there an exceptionally strong and able man can lift himself above that level.

### Much Accomplished

But the combined efforts of thousands can do it, has already begun to do it; step by step we are climbing to higher levels. It is strange to me to see farmers all over this province willing to share in the benefits that we have secured by hard work, but never thinking to give a hand or a dollar to help in the work. The organized farmers in the three provinces have raised the grain trade; it is a conservative estimate to say that a man marketing 10,000 bushels of wheat this year is getting 5 cents a bushel or \$500 more than he would have done if there had been no farmers' organization. And yet there are farmers this year marketing a hundred thousand bushels who don't even know that they owe anything to the farmers' associations. A similar thing is true in the livestock business. Every farmer who sells a beast or a hog is benefitting by the work of the farmers' organizations. I hope in following articles to go more into the question of helping the unions.

JAS. SPEAKMAN.

### 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	Beddington
Red Deer—D. Buckingham	Stettler
Medicine Hat—E. E. Sparks	Jenner