

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

AMONG THE UNIONS

In February last an inquiry was received from W. H. Baker, of Benton, as to how to form a branch of the U.F.A. at that point. Information was sent there at once, and as a result the union was organized on March 2. While correspondence with the union has been light, it is paid up for forty-three members to date, and from the latest report would seem to be in very good shape.

On February 26 a union was formed at Sounding Creek, with thirty-three members to start. The union is now paid up for forty-one members. There would seem to have been some little trouble over the secretaryship of the union, but on July 20 we were informed that G. W. Cope had been appointed permanent secretary. The union has not been heard from since, but we hope that any little trouble of this kind that they may have had will not be allowed to interfere with their future usefulness to themselves and the Association.

On Friday, February 27, a meeting was held at the New Bliss schoolhouse, section 7-31-7, west of 4th, which resulted in the organization of a new branch of the Association, with twenty-two members. R. N. Mangles was appointed secretary. We have not heard from this union for a considerable length of time, but Mr. Mangles himself met us at Youngstown when recently in the district. We believe there is yet hope that this union will continue the work so well begun.

Wm. Washburn reported on March 2 the organization of a new union at Inga. This union now has a paid membership of thirteen. The number is said to be unlucky, but we trust that this has nothing to do with the fact that the union has not been heard from for several months.

We heard from Loughheed on February 17 last that the farmers in the Park Hill district were intending to form a branch of the U.F.A. Information as to how to go ahead was sent at once, with the result that the union was organized early in March. The union now has twenty-five members fully paid up on our books and promises well.

N. Berger personally reported the organization of a union at Parkland on March 11, with twelve members. This number has since been doubled. It is regrettable that we have very little correspondence with this union, but as the work would seem to be going right along we must be prepared to excuse same.

On March 7 a union was formed at Oyen and, the officers elected were W. D. Bentley, president; J. T. Tupper, vice-president; A. M. McQuarrie, secretary-treasurer, also six directors. The secretary forwarded \$1.90 for supplies, but neglected to state the number of members joining or to forward any membership dues. With the exception of this one letter reporting the organization itself we have received no communication from this union. A full report in regard to same is therefore impossible.

Earlie Union No. 607 was organized early in March, with Joseph Airey as secretary. At their meeting on April 25 the members were addressed by F. K. Sulman, of Blackfoot Union. The union is handicapped not having any permanent place in which to hold its meetings. Dues for fourteen members have been forwarded to date. We understand the union is holding meetings regularly.

F. J. Bullock, of Wood River, sent us information early in March in regard

to the organization of Pleasant Hill Union No. 608. This is only one of a number of new unions organized by Mr. Bullock, who has been doing very excellent work for us around Ponoka. The union is credited on our books with eighteen paid up members to date.

A number of farmers in the vicinity of Wilhelmina met on March 4, expecting a visit from members of the Wilhelmina Union. These gentlemen, however, failed to materialize. The farmers, not to be discouraged, went ahead and signed a petition asking for their organization to be completed. This was done, and the union is credited to date with eighteen paid up members. Correspondence has been fairly frequent, and we hope that this union will show a considerably increased membership before the end of the year.

Another union, organized this spring in the Ponoka district, is Leafield No. 610, with Lorne Thompson, secretary. This union is credited on the books at this office with twenty fully paid up members, twelve of whom joined on March 4, the date of organization, the balance joining at the next meeting. I have not heard from this union for some time, but understand that they are keeping things going.

A meeting was held in the Heath Schoolhouse on March 10, at which Union No. 611 was organized with a membership of fifteen fully paid up. A. H. Ford was appointed secretary. The union is now credited with thirty-six members fully paid up on our books. The union is interested in a pork packing plant and other work. We look to see this union continue to improve its position in the future as it has done up to the present.

After somewhat lengthy correspondence Sharrow Union No. 612 was eventually organized in March, with fourteen paid up members which has since been increased to thirty-one. The union is unfortunately hard hit with the drought conditions prevailing in that part of the country. We still continue to hear from their secretary, Mr. McKay, and hope that the Central Office will be able to assist them thru the hard times.

Butze Union No. 613 was organized on March 14. Mr. Dumont was elected president and J. Wright, secretary. The union is considerably interested in purchasing direct. Mr. Wright has proved himself an energetic correspondent as secretary. The union is now credited on our books with twenty-five fully paid up members including one lady.

Mr. Savage, of Streamstown, very kindly undertook to look after the organization of a union at Warrickville on March 18 last. The union started with ten fully paid up members which number has since been increased to thirteen. The union held a very successful picnic on July 13, in order to raise funds to send a delegate to our next convention. A number of ladies seem to be deeply interested in the work of this union, and meetings appear to be held regularly. The interest and progressive spirit being shown by the members would seem to warrant a larger membership than that of the report to date and possibly by the end of the year we shall find that the union is actually considerably larger than has at present been reported to this office.

D. Buckingham, director for Stettler constituency, organized a union at Scolard on March 13, with ten members to start. The union is now paid up for twenty-nine members, and has hopes of increasing this to fifty before the end of the year.

Burns Local Union No. 616 was or-

ganized on March 6, C. O. Pontius being appointed secretary. The union started off with a membership of twenty-two fully paid up. The members appear to be taking a considerable amount of interest in the work, and the secretary has been keeping up a regular correspondence with this office.

Riddellvale Union No. 617 was organized on March 21, J. Cuthbert being appointed secretary. Forty-three members signified their intention of joining the union at the organization meeting, thirty-seven of whom are fully paid up to date. They appear to be very interested in co-operative selling, purchasing, etc., and a considerable amount of correspondence in regard to same has been received at this office from time to time.

On March 17 a meeting was held in Clive for the purpose of organizing a local union of the U.F.A., which they were successful in doing, being credited on our books with twenty-two members paid up to date. W. H. Baker was elected president, and Guy C. Wilson, secretary.

On March 23, C. Rice Jones, secretary of the Veteran Union, organized a union at Wiste, known as the Little Gem branch. S. F. Daley was appointed secretary. Twelve members are paid up to date and five others have transferred from the Broadview Union, making a membership of seventeen in all. Arrangements were made for a picnic on July 17, but so far no report of same has reached us.

At a meeting of the farmers of the Keswick school district, held on March 25, a local known as Keswick Union No. 620 was organized under the able direction of John P. Korabeck, president of the Buffalo Bird local. This local will serve a district hitherto unorganized, and altho it is not numerically strong, the paid up membership to date appearing on our books being only six, yet from the interest and enthusiasm shown by the members, we believe that it will be a very active one, and trust that the membership will be increased as the work of our Association becomes more widely known thruout the district.

On Friday, March 20, a meeting was held at the house of a farmer in the Fallis district for the purpose of organizing a branch of the U.F.A. The union, which is known as the Minahik Local No. 621, was organized, G. L. Barker being elected president and Henry Davison secretary-treasurer. Twenty-six farmers attended the meeting, of which twenty-two gave their names as being desirous of becoming members, but so far no dues have been received at this office.

On March 28, Tofield Union No. 622 was organized, starting off with a membership of twenty-five fully paid up. D. W. Warner, of Edmonton, first vice-president of our Association, addressed the meeting, pointing out the benefits of organization for the farmers, and giving an outline of what the U.F.A. has done and hopes to do. The first Wednesday in each month was selected as the meeting date. On June 22 dues for six new members were forwarded to us.

In April we received word from E. A. Edwards, of Iowalta, that the farmers in that vicinity had organized a branch union of the U.F.A., with F. H. Taylor, president, and A. Frizell, vice-president. The union started with eleven members, and expressed hopes of increasing this number at their next meeting, to be held April 7. Membership dues for five only, however, were remitted, and since this first communication no more has been heard from the union. We trust that if this notice should be read by any of the farmers or members of this union that they will take steps to see that the union is either reorganized or that sufficient funds are forwarded to place the union in good standing on our books.

Pine Coulee Union No. 624 was organized on March 31, under the auspices of R. Cunningham. Twelve members were taken in at the first meeting, in-

cluding three juniors, and the secretary expressed hopes of more than doubling this number. Later on two seniors and three more juniors were added to the list, making seventeen altogether. In July we heard that meetings had to be suspended on account of the country being flooded and the roads practically impassable. The union, however, proposes to resume regular meetings again this fall.

Hawkesdale Union No. 625 was organized the latter part of March with twelve fully paid up members, but nothing further has been heard from the union since. The union can hardly claim to have given the organization a fair trial, and we hope that a re-organization will take place this fall.

Hunting Hill Union No. 626 organized on March 31, with Ralph Marks, of Steeveville, as president. J. E. Kinyon was in charge of the meeting. Ten members paid in their dollar at the opening meeting, but the secretary's reports since then have been none too optimistic. The district should be good for considerably more members than this and efforts will be made to get the district started once more this fall.

One of the most promising of the unions formed in the Spring is Lone Ridge No. 627, Thos. Toreson, of Wetaskiwin, secretary. This union started with twenty-three members, and now has thirty-eight on our books. The union from the start showed great interest in bulk purchasing, also co-operative selling. At the picnic held in July the treasury of the union was helped to the extent of a little over \$18, in addition to several new members being secured. Binder twine was purchased thru the union at a considerable saving, and the union appears to be in a very flourishing condition all round.

Another of our unions in the Ponoka district is Grand Meadow No. 628, organized on March 27 last, under the auspices of F. J. Bullock. Eleven farmers paid in dues, and a number transferred from other unions. This union is one of the Ponoka District Association. If any criticism at all can be levelled at the Ponoka district it is the possibility that the large number of unions organized there will prevent any of them becoming of a size which will permit of them deriving the benefit that they should from discussions on various matters and the social end of the business. Of course the organization of unions must largely be left to the discretion of those on the spot acquainted with local conditions, but the best unions are undoubtedly those consisting of from forty to fifty members. Such a number should be within anyone's power to handle, and with even a bare majority of the members in attendance a very interesting meeting will result.

A new union was formed at Bardo on March 28 and made a splendid start, twenty-five members joining and paying in their dollar at the first meeting. P. B. Anderson, of Bardo, was appointed secretary, and W. E. Parker, president. The union, however, seems to have done nothing further since the date of organization. It is astonishing how our farmers, the majority of whom are always complaining of the difficulty of making a dollar, think nothing of spending a dollar or more to join the U.F.A. and then trouble no further about it. Apparently this union is one of the number organized every year whose action, or rather lack of action, is in accordance with the above statement. Some cynical person has said that the average farmer puts his dollar into the U.F.A. the same as he puts wheat into the ground and expects it to yield "some ten, some one hundred, and some a thousandfold," and in many cases he gives the dollar even less attention than he does the wheat. The U.F.A. Union cannot be made to pay dividends by simply giving a dollar to someone to look after it for you, and the members of this union, after having made such a splendid start, would do well to get busy and see that their meetings are continued. In that way only can they test the U.F.A. and give their union an opportunity to show its real worth.