



ALBERTA SECTION

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

ARRANGING FOR IMPORTANT CONFERENCE

As was to be expected, after the report presented by the transportation committee at annual convention of the U. F. A., it is intended to endeavor to improve market conditions between the two provinces of Alberta and British Columbia very materially at an early date. This committee carried out a short investigation last year and met with good results, but the time has now arrived when some steps must be taken to further improve conditions.

The investigations carried on last year brought forth the fact that there was need for improvement and it was also discovered that the people of British Columbia were willing to assist in the work, but that they expected Alberta to take the lead. The transportation committee have decided that they will take the lead on behalf of the U.F.A., and are making arrangements for the holding of a conference of representatives of all the different producing and consuming elements of the two provinces, as well as the heads of the two governments.

As the last convention was held in Alberta it is possible that this one will be held in Vancouver, and to find what the feeling of the country is the following letter has been forwarded to all the boards of trade, agricultural associations, lumber associations, and the fisheries and canning industries of the two provinces.

Letter Sent Out
March 24, 1910.

To—
Gentlemen:

Realizing the importance of the free and unfettered exchange of the natural products of the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, and believing that this exchange is not carried on to the extent it should be, the United Farmers of Alberta would like to bring this fact before your notice and respectfully solicit your co-operation in an attempt to bring about not only a freer interchange of commodities, but also to do it in a way that the present great difference in price between what the consumer pays and the producer receives shall be materially reduced.

In the first place we believe that the present high freight rates have a very retarding influence on the development of both provinces. We believe that these rates greatly discriminate against the west, and favor the east, thus hindering not only the development of inter-provincial trade but the development of the western grain route as well, besides keeping the western ports closed as a source of supply for the general merchandise which the residents of the inland provinces require.

It is quite plain that were it not for these discriminatory rates the lumber, fruit and fish of British Columbia and the general merchandise of the other lands could be laid down in Alberta at greatly reduced prices, while the grain, hay and live stock of the Alberta farms would command a much higher price.

We also believe that the present system of handling the live stock trade is one of the causes of the great difference in price between what the producer gets and what the consumer pays for his meat. To remedy this we would suggest a uniform system for both provinces of municipal abattoirs, under government inspection and control, where all dealers, both large and small, shall have the same advantage.

We are also suggesting a uniform system of hay inspection for both provinces to protect the buyer and seller from the trickery which is too often practised upon them, with its consequent loss.

Likewise a uniform system of licensing and bonding commission merchants, so as to establish confidence in the minds of those shippers who do business in this way.

Soliciting Co-operation

We are also inviting assistance from others as to the best means of bringing about these and many other needed reforms, and for this purpose we are

soliciting the co-operation of all the producing and consuming interests of both provinces, as represented by the boards of trade, the agricultural associations, the fruit growers, the lumbermen, the fishing interests, or any others who may have an interest in this matter.

To get this co-operation and to consolidate this strength we suggest, and we are taking steps for the holding of a conference at Vancouver at an early date, to which we cordially invite your board to send a representative.

We believe that at such a conference ways and means can be devised, sufficient strength and influence can be created, and the necessary evidence gathered, that when brought to bear on the railway commission or the government these much needed reforms can be brought into effect.

We will advise you later of the time chosen for the conference, and hoping you will see your way clear to send a delegate, and in the meantime to communicate to us the views of your board on this matter.

We are, on behalf of the United Farmers of Alberta, yours faithfully,
JAMES BOWER, Pres.
EDWARD J. FREAM, Sec.

ALBERTA'S HAIL PROBLEMS

For some time back the farmers of Alberta have been wrestling with the hail insurance problem, and it seems a very difficult task to devise a plan which will be acceptable to all. The votes of the different unions are coming to hand at a rapid rate, but the present prospects are that there will not be a clear majority in favor of any of the plans submitted, and, in fact, there is quite a strong opposition apparent all over the country against any kind of compulsory insurance.

"In answer to your favor of the 16th instant addressed to the attorney general, and which has been handed to me, I would refer you to Sec. 16 of Chapter 110 of the Consolidated Ordinances, which provides that, after the coming into force of this Ordinance no company, association, or society shall carry on the business of insurance against loss or injury to growing crops by hail.

"Each of the bills referred to by you, namely 25 and 26, contains the following proviso: This Act and the company hereby incorporated and the exercise of the powers hereby conferred shall be subject to the general laws in force or that may hereafter be in force in the province respecting insurance companies.

"Your protest, however, will be brought to the attention of the proper committee. I am sure that any scheme submitted by your association regarding hail insurance will be gladly received by the Premier and carefully considered by the cabinet."

At the time the protest was forwarded to the government the general provisions of the present hail insurance act of the province was known, and therefore no companies could transact business in Alberta until this act was repealed. But the same act was in force in Saskatchewan and it did not take very long to get same off the statute books there. If the farmers of Alberta are indifferent to the subject it would be a short time, probably, until the act was repealed also, and so as to be on the safe side the committee presented their objections. It is gratifying to know that these objections will be presented to the committee having charge of these bills, and it is to be hoped that they will withdraw the few objectionable words relating to hail insurance. Then there will not be the chance of misunderstandings later.

EDWARD J. FREAM.

One Family of English Immigrants recently arrived in Winnipeg.



They Could Start a Western Town

It will not be advisable to discuss these matters very fully at the present time, as it will be necessary to give a synopsis of the whole vote at an early date, but the legislative committee noticed that among the private bills presented to the legislature were two from insurance companies and both these companies asked for legislation authorizing them to insure against hail. The committee decided that it was better to be sure than sorry and registered a strong protest against the passing of such legislation, taking the stand that if companies were authorized to insure against hail it would be only a small move for the government to then step out of the business entirely and the farmers would then be at the mercy of the companies with a consequent increase in rates, etc., along the same lines as those adopted by the insurance companies in Saskatchewan. A copy of this protest was forwarded to Premier Rutherford, the attorney general and the minister of agriculture, and a reply received from the Hon. Duncan Marshall that the protest of the committee would receive every consideration. An interesting reply has also been received from the attorney general's department, and reads as follows:

A BUDGET FROM GAETZ VALLEY

A public meeting, called by Mr. G. W. Spires, was held in the Cumberland school house, Gaetz Valley, on March 12, 1910, at 2 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to get the general opinion as to whether it was advisable to organize a local union of the United Farmers of Alberta or not.

Mr. Spires was called to the chair and Mr. K. Em. Swalling was appointed secretary pro tem.

The chairman read aloud the constitution relating to a local union and after some deliberation it was decided that a local union was of need and would be beneficial to the farmers generally and ten signed the membership roll. The election of officers was then proceeded with and resulted as follows: President, Mr. Sidney Smith, on motion of Messrs. Swalling and McKay; vice-president, Mr. J. R. Golden, on motion of Messrs. Davidson and McKay. Directors, Messrs. G. W. Spires, James Davidson and James McKay, on motion of Messrs. Smith and Golden. Mr. Smith then took the chair and called the meeting to order. Mr. K. Em. Swalling was appointed secretary-treasurer on motion of Messrs. Spires and Davidson. It was unanimous-

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

PRESIDENT:

JAMES BOWER - RED DEER

VICE-PRESIDENT:

W. J. TREGILLUS - CALGARY

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

E. J. FREAM - INNISFAIR

DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

James Speakman, Penhold; D. W. Warner, Clover Bar; L. H. Jelliff, Spring Coulee.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

T. H. Balaam, Vegreville; George Long, Nampa; F. H. Langston, Rosebush; E. Carswell, Penhold; J. Quinsey, Barons; E. Greishack, Gleichen; A. Von Mieleicki, Calgary.

ly decided to call the union Cumberland and to meet once a month on that Wednesday coming on or before the new moon.

At the meeting held on March 23, there was a good attendance of the members and two new members were received. The secretary was instructed to get into communication with the Central office in regard to the pork packing plant and get full particulars and data regarding the proposition. A discussion took place re Valley District's resolution concerning hail insurance and after thoroughly considering the matter it was unanimously decided, upon motion of Messrs. Spires and Thorn, that Cumberland Union with the government to stay with the old plan and eventually raise the premium per acre insured if necessary. The secretary was instructed to get into touch with Mr. C. Norton, secretary of the Great Bend Union, and also to secure full information and particulars concerning the Red Deer Co-operative Association.

A long discussion then ensued on matters of general interest to the farmers of the district generally, and the meeting then adjourned till April 20.

A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

We had a most successful meeting at Lloydminster on March 12, when Mr. Stevens was here in connection with the proposed pork packing plant. Mr. Stevens was, I believe, quite satisfied with the result of his visit here and there seems to be a fair percentage of people in this district going in for hogs now that there is a likelihood of a good market for same. The majority of the farmers who were present seemed to have liked Mr. Bower, and I believe it will be the means of some more branches being started in the near future as I have been told of several lots of farmers who are beginning to see that the force of being united together is to their advantage, and anything I can do here I most certainly will with great pleasure.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Stevens and Mr. Bower for their addresses and unanimously carried.

In the evening, taking advantage of the presence of our president and Mr. Stevens, a most successful farmers' banquet was held in the Alberta Hotel, upwards of 50 farmers and their wives and friends sitting down to do justice to all the good things provided by three members of the local union who are now proprietors of the hotel. The chair was taken by our local president, Mr. A. J. Blackwell, J.P., and he was supported by the other members of the executive.

After dinner a musical program was provided, Mr. Keiser and Messrs. Keiser, Adams, Avenall, McCormick and Owen taking part in the program.

President Bower gave an excellent address on organization work and sternly impressed the farmers on the need of uniting together if they wished to attain good results. Mr. Stevens also spoke and he was followed by Mr. H. C. Lisle, M.P.P., and Mr. R. W. Miller, representing the Lloydminster board of trade.

Mr. J. Campbell proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bower, Mr. Stevens and the other gentlemen for their addresses, and the pleasant evening was brought to a close by singing the national anthem.

The arrangements were ably carried out by the local committee who had charge of same, and all are to be congratulated on the first of the happy re-unions of the U.F.A. in this district.

W. LINTON, Sec.