



ALBERTA SECTION

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

Convention at Edmonton

Official Circular No. 15, 1911

Gentlemen:

We are just in receipt of the following resolution from the Red Deer Board of Trade:

"Owing to changed conditions, the Board of Trade feels that Red Deer cannot guarantee adequate, comfortable accommodation to the farmers' convention to be held in January, 1912; that the secretary be instructed to extend to the U. F. A. regrets of the Board that they cannot extend their hospitality at that time, but that the Board hopes to have the pleasure of entertaining the society in 1913."

Before Red Deer was decided upon for the annual convention, a committee was appointed to ascertain if the necessary accommodation could be provided, and after interviewing some of the officials and receiving their assurance, it was decided that everything would be properly arranged, and with this in view the invitation to hold the Convention at Red Deer was accepted. Now, after all the arrangements for the convention had been completed, the receipt of such a of such a communication means a lot of extra work for this association, as it would be folly to try and hold the convention there with such conditions facing us, and for that reason the official circular No. 14, relating to the calling of the convention, is hereby cancelled and in place thereof, notice is given as follows:

"Amended notice is hereby given that the annual convention of the association will be held in the city of Edmonton, at the Mechanics' Hall, Third Street, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 16, 17 and 18, 1912, commencing at ten o'clock a.m. on the first day."

Section 28 of the constitution reads as follows:

"Each union shall be entitled to elect one delegate to the association for each ten paid-up members, provided such union is not in arrears to the association."

The credential certificates which were sent out with circular No 14 will be sufficient to answer the purpose, but I would ask each secretary to send me a list of his delegates as soon as possible, so that a copy of this amended notice may be sent him for his guidance. You are also asked to change the words "Red Deer" to "Edmonton," on the credential cards.

Instructions to Delegates

To enable the resolution dealing with the travelling expenses of the delegates to be put into force, it will be necessary for every delegate to purchase a regular one way ticket from his nearest home station to Edmonton or Strathcona, and secure at the same time from the agent a standard certificate. These certificates will be countersigned by the secretary and will enable the delegates to return home at a reduced rate. The certificates must be secured not more than three days after the close of the convention.

Section 29 of the Constitution reads: "The travelling expenses of all duly qualified delegates to the convention shall be borne equally by the delegates, and for this purpose the central executive shall prepare a statement at each annual convention, and shall divide the railway fare between all the delegates, collecting or paying the difference in the fare from or to the delegate before surrendering the standard certificate."

The instructions contained in this section of the constitution will be carried out and your assistance is requested in order that the whole matter will work smoothly.

On account of the pooling of rates, the delegates from the farthest part of the province will be at no greater expense than those living close to Edmonton, and the full attendance of delegates is therefore solicited. The work which will be done at the convention is important and we want the assistance of as large a representation as possible.

The balance of circular No. 14, relating

to amendments to the constitution, will stand.

Don't forget: The convention will be held at Edmonton, on January 16, 17 and 18, 1912, and we want all delegates to be present.

Your obedient servant,
EDWARD J. FREAM, Sec'y
Calgary, Dec. 11.

The portion of Official Circular No. 14 which is unaffected by the above is as follows:

Amendments to Constitution

As announced earlier, the board of directors appointed a special committee consisting of J. Bower, president; W. J. Tregillus, vice-president; J. Speakman, director, and the secretary (ex-officio) to revise the Constitution.

In accordance with the instructions given the committee now gives notice as follows:

That the Constitution of the United Farmers of Alberta as it now reads be cancelled, and the following revised Constitution be substituted therefor:

Constitution

NAME

1. This association shall be called the United Farmers of Alberta.

OBJECTS

2. The objects of the association shall be:

(1) To further the interests of farmers and ranchers in all branches of agriculture; to promote the best methods of farm business, to seek to enlarge and increase our markets; to gather market information; to obtain by united effort profitable and equitable prices for farm produce, and to secure the best and cheapest transportation.

(2) To study and teach the principles of co-operation and to promote the establishment of co-operative societies.

(3) To watch and influence and promote legislation relative to the object specified in the preceding subsections (1) and (2) and to any other matter affecting the farmers' business and to take any political action necessary for this purpose.

(4) To promote social intercourse and the study of economic and social questions bearing on our interest as farmers.

(5) To settle disputes between members without recourse to law whenever possible.

(6) To take into consideration any member's case of grievance, hardship or litigation and to defend our members as far as it may be possible.

THE ASSOCIATION

3. The Association shall consist of all duly admitted and fully paid up members of Unions.

4. The Association shall be governed by the annual convention to be held in the last half of January of each year, composed of delegates from each union not in arrears to the association, elected in the ratio of one delegate for every ten, and major portion of ten, paid up members.

5. The business of the annual convention shall be:

(1) To receive and discuss the reports of the executive officers and the board of directors and to decide on any question arising out of such reports.

(2) To elect by ballot from duly accredited delegates present at the convention the board of directors, consisting of president and four vice-presidents elected by the whole convention, and one director for each federal constituency in the province, each such director to be elected by the delegates from his own constituency; and two auditors. All officers shall hold office till their successors are elected.

(3) To decide on any new business brought before the convention by the board of directors, or by any union in good standing. No resolution from any union shall be brought before the convention unless it has been sent to the secretary,

in writing, signed by the president and secretary of the union, previous to the opening of the convention.

(4) To decide on the place for the next annual meeting.

6. The travelling expenses of all duly qualified delegates to the annual or special convention shall be borne equally by all the delegates, and for this purpose the central executive shall prepare a statement at each annual convention and shall divide the railway fare between all the delegates, collecting or paying the difference in the fare from or to the delegates before surrendering the standard certificate.

7. Special conventions may be called by the board of directors through the secretary by giving at least thirty days notice to each union; such notice to state the special business for which the convention is called and no other business to be allowed to be introduced. The ratio of representation to be the same as in the annual convention.

8. No voting by proxy shall be allowed in any convention.

9. The board of directors shall hold such meetings during each year as the president or any three of the directors may consider necessary; they shall appoint a secretary-treasurer and shall fix the amount of his salary and the terms of his appointment.

It shall be the duty of the board of directors to give effect to the resolution of the convention and to maintain and enlarge the organization either by their own action or through the executive, or through sub-committees appointed by the directors.

Any vacancy on the board of directors during the year shall be filled by the directors at the next meeting of the board.

10. The executive of the association shall consist of the president, vice-presidents and secretary-treasurer. They shall attend to the general current work of the association and to such business as may be referred to them by the convention or board of directors.

11. The year of the association and the unions shall end on December 31st.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

12. District associations may be formed by a number of unions grouping themselves together on the basis either of electoral constituencies, federal and provincial, or on the basis of useful combination for marketing purposes. Such district associations to be governed by conventions composed of delegates on the same ratio as association conventions.

MEMBERSHIP

13. Any farmer or other person directly interested in farming may join a union by being introduced by a member and paying the annual membership fee of not less than one dollar. Such application should be submitted to the regular meeting of the union for approval or rejection.

14. In every case when a married farmer becomes a member his wife and daughters shall be honorary members, and sons of farmers who are living at home and working on their father's farm, shall be admitted as members on what shall be known as the family ticket, at a fee of fifty per cent. of the full membership fee.

15. A member six months in arrears shall stand suspended without action of the union, but the secretary must report the same to the association and correct the membership roll. A member suspended for non-payment of dues may be reinstated by the payment of all arrears.

16. The secretary of a union shall report quarterly to the central office of the association on the membership of the union, and shall forward with such report one-half the membership fees collected during that term, and no union shall have status at an annual or special convention of the association until the membership report, together with the fees due, has been received.

UNIONS

17. Unions shall consist of members accepted into the association according to sections 13, 14 and 31 of this Constitution.

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

President:

James Bower - Red Deer

Vice-President:

W. J. Tregillus - Calgary

Secretary-Treasurer:

E. J. Fream - Calgary

Directors at Large

James Speakman, Penhold; D. W. Warner, Edmonton; J. Quinsey, Noble.

District Directors:

P. S. Austin, Ranfurly; George Long, Namao; J. R. Pointer, Strom; E. Carswell, Penhold, M. E. Sly, Strathmore; S. W. Buchanan, Cowley; J. E. Ostrander, Gleichen.

18. A union may be organized by at least ten qualified persons applying to a union or organizer to be so organized, on receipt of which application the union or organizer shall proceed to effect such organization and make due report thereof to the association; or, not less than ten persons as aforesaid may assemble of their own accord and proceed to organize themselves into a local union by subscribing to this Constitution, electing officers therein provided and making due report thereof to the association.

19. The officers of a union shall be president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, or secretary-treasurer, together with such officers as the union may decide to appoint. The official term shall be one year and regular elections shall be held in December of each year by ballot, except that in the case of only one candidate for an office election may be had by acclamation.

All officers serve until their successors are elected and qualified, and any vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled by the members at the next regular meeting.

20. Unions shall meet monthly, if possible, and it shall be the duty of the president, vice-president and secretary to see that there is an entertaining program or subject for consideration at each meeting.

(a) Five regular members must be present for a quorum.

(b) The president on his own initiative may, or at the request of at least six members shall, call a special meeting and all members of the union must be notified of the time and place of such meeting and the object for which it is called. At special meetings no business shall be transacted not mentioned in the notice.

21. Unions shall have power to deal with their members for offences against the union, and shall be governed by rules usually applied in such cases. The president shall preside at all trials (unless himself be the defendant in which case the vice-president shall preside) and the rules of evidence and methods of procedure shall be, as near as may be, the same as those observed in the courts. On conviction to be determined by a vote of guilty or not guilty, punishment may be reprimand, suspension or expulsion, also to be determined by a vote, voting first upon the severest penalty. If that fails to carry, then on to the next and so on until a penalty be fixed. Should no penalty be voted after a conviction the presiding officer shall administer a mild reprimand and dismiss the case. Suspension shall not exceed three months and the association must be notified of expulsion.

22. The executive of a union shall consist of the officers of the said union.

23. Each union shall hold an annual meeting during the month of December, at which all officers should be elected, the report of the executive officers received, delegates to the association and an auditor elected and such other business transacted as the members may decide.

Duties of Officers

24. The president shall preside at all meetings, shall maintain due decorum, decide all points of order (subject to appeal) and see that the laws and usages of the association are observed and enforced. He shall neither make nor second a motion, nor shall he vote on any question except to give the casting vote in case of a tie, but he shall not be denied the right to vote in the election of officers.

25. The vice-president shall assist the president in his duties when called upon, and in the president's absence he shall

Continued on Page 22