

Alberta Section

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by
P. P. Woodbridge, Secretary, Calgary, Alberta

DIRECTORS' MEETING

The regular fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the U.F.A. was held in Calgary, on Wednesday evening, October 16, a number of very important subjects being up for discussion. One of the first matters to receive attention was the number of tubercular cattle which are being brought into the Province of Alberta at the present time. A number of statements were made in connection with the personal experience of the various directors, and it was decided that that portion of the Public Health Act, referring to the inspection of dairy cattle, be gone into carefully and that a report of the whole matter be brought to the attention of the delegates to our annual convention for discussion and proper action. If any of our members have had any experience bearing on the subject, we shall be glad to hear from them, with a brief outline of their particular case, so that it can be kept on file for future use.

It was further stated that a number of cattle, ear-marked with a T, which is a particular mark used to denote that that particular animal shows signs of tuberculosis, are being brought into this province and we would take it as a great favor if anyone having knowledge of such cattle being in their district would advise us of the fact, together with the circumstances of how they came to be in the district. This latter matter is of particular importance, as we would like to gather as much evidence as possible in order to make out a strong case.

CONVENTION

The convention and its accompanying arrangements received the full discussion of the Board. A special circular making the official call will be sent out in the course of the next week or two, when it is hoped further details will be available. In the meantime it might be well to state that the dates are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 21, 22, 23, 1914. The convention will, of course, be held at Lethbridge, and the City of Lethbridge, through their Board of Trade, have placed the Majestic Theatre at our disposal. A special train will be run from Calgary to Lethbridge the day prior to the convention for the convenience of the delegates from the North and it is hoped that the North will make every effort to have a good representation at this convention, as the Central Office will have to put up a guarantee for the special train and we will need at least 200 delegates from the North to make a financial success of it. The more delegates using this train, the less will be the individual share of the cost that each has to bear. We anticipate no difficulty in getting the 200; in fact, it is expected that there will be at least 300. Every man over the required number of 200 will help to reduce the total fare each man has to pay to an amount below the fare he would have to pay travelling by ordinary train. It therefore means a saving to each union whose delegates travel on that special train. As already mentioned, full details of this special arrangement will be conveyed to the unions in a special circular giving the official call to the convention.

It might also be remarked that as usual the second evening of the convention will be turned into an open meeting for entertainment, interspersed with addresses. Every effort is being made to make this second evening of particular interest and importance to all farmers and the addresses will be all of a practical nature.

In the matter of resolutions there has been some slight trouble in past years. The Board wish to advise each union that the representative of any union bringing a resolution before the convention has the privilege of first speaking on that resolution, in fact, it is expected that any union bringing a resolution before the convention will have their representative on hand to explain the reasons why it has been brought before the convention.

HAIL INSURANCE

It was reported by one of the directors that he had been advised that a certain Hail Insurance Company, whose name he had not been able to ascertain, had

been operating in the province and taking premiums, but had failed to pay compensation where damage had been done. This is a most important matter and as the secretary has been instructed to investigate, we should be glad if anyone having knowledge of such a thing happening in his district would advise the Central Office at once of the name of the company concerned and the circumstances if possible.

Among other matters discussed was that of pre-emptions in the dry belt. This question is to come before the annual convention for full discussion. The Pork Packing proposition was also considered and every effort will be made during the next few months to bring this well to the front.

The Board passed a motion expressing sympathy with our first Vice-President, Mr. J. Quinsey, of Noble, who had just undergone a serious operation at the General Hospital, Calgary, and was consequently unable to attend. I am glad to say Mr. Quinsey is now well on his way to recovery.

CO-OPERATION TO EXTENT OF \$5000.

The following report has been received from the Horse Creek Union, No. 347:

I am pleased to inform you that our union is gaining strength in number. We have increased from about 36 to 70 this year up to now and I hope that we can reach the 100 mark by the end of 1913. We have done considerable business in the buying proposition, but nothing in the selling, in which I think we have been lacking, but I suppose this will come on in due time now as our members are beginning to realize that both ends require looking after. We have handled about \$5,000 worth of flour, feed, sugar and salt, etc., also put an order or two through our local stores. Wishing the U. F. A. every success in trying to get the farmer a square deal.

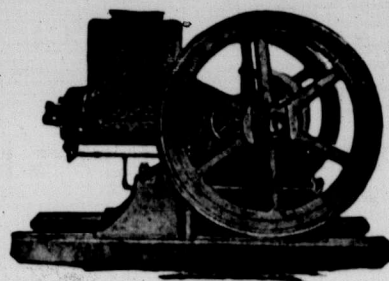
R. WHITFIELD, Secretary.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

A great deal of interest is being taken in these societies and there seems to be a general tendency or desire to organize all over the province, at least a great many requests for information reach the Central Office every week. As soon as possible a special circular dealing with the matter will be issued, but pressure of business has not permitted of this being sent out up to the present moment. It does not appear to be generally known that there are two very excellent magazines dealing with the subject of co-operation and the work of co-operative societies. These magazines are printed, one in Canada and the other in the States. The Canadian one, called the "Canadian Co-operator," is published in Brantford, Ontario, by Mr. George Keene, Hon. Secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada, and can be obtained for the small sum of 50 cents per annum. The other is published by the Right Relationship League of Minneapolis, Minn., the subscription to this magazine being \$1.00 per annum. Both are interesting papers and should be read by everyone interested in co-operation and the work which is being carried on on this basis in all parts of the world. The Canadian Co-operator, in its August number, is authority for the following letter from the London Daily Mail, England, with a circulation of nearly a million copies daily, to the leaders of the co-operative movement in Great Britain. This letter is particularly interesting in view of the statements of E. M. Trowern, Secretary of the Dominion Retail Merchants' Association, in his recent visit to the West, when he described co-operative trading societies as "the greatest frauds that ever struck the country," adding, "I have never seen an honest co-operative store yet, and there has not been one found in all Europe."

It is not suggested that anyone knowing anything at all about the movement would believe such statements as those of Mr. Trowern, but the letter from the proprietors of such an institution as the London Daily Mail, offering that medium as the Daily Organ of the British Co-operative Movement, should shatter the remnants of such an idea, if such remains in the mind of anyone, that there might be some truth in Mr. Trowern's statements. It is impossible

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Users of gasoline engines are paying from one-third to one-half more than actual value for engines bought through the wasteful out of date "agent-and-middleman" method. Never was there a greater opportunity for us to serve our customers than in gasoline engines. Never has there been a better chance for us to demonstrate the practical value of our "factory to farm" method.

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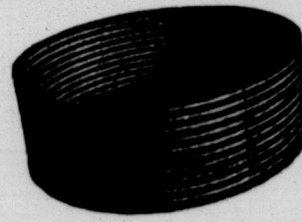
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to reproduce the whole letter and, therefore, only a few paragraphs are given as follows:

"Our suggestion is that while the co-operative movement has shown an extraordinary growth, this growth would be greatly accelerated if a comprehensive publicity campaign were carried out through the columns of the 'Daily Mail.' It is not generally understood by the public that the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, and the numerous retail distributive societies, taken together, form what is probably the largest productive and trading undertaking in the world. Still less is it understood that membership in a Co-operative

Society brings with it considerable educational, social, insurance, and other advantages apart from dividends.

"We need scarcely remind you that the 'Daily Mail' has a circulation of about 900,000 copies daily, and that it is read in the remotest hamlet in the Kingdom."

We should be glad if you would favor us with your own views as regards our proposal, so that we may know what further steps to take.

Yours faithfully,

WAREHAM SMITH,
Advertising Director,
Associated Newspapers Limited,
Carmelite House, London, E.C.