



ALBERTA SECTION

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

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

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HELP THE CAMPAIGN FUND

Have you read about the U.F.A. Campaign Fund? Some of our unions are already busy and Berrywater Union, No. 194 has sent in the first instalment. We want to see all our unions working on this Ten Cent Fund. Just think what ten cents per member for the whole association would mean. Think what it would mean if we could persuade each one to contribute that much every month for the rest of the year. It would mean that all our old Unions could be visited. It would mean that meetings could be held and new unions organized in practically every township in Alberta. Just think this over and then get busy with the spare "dimes." How about a U.F.A. Tag Day? Let us have some suggestions from our unions as to how this "patriotic" fund can be boosted. We are proud of our association. We certainly ought to be. So let us take hold of this fund for the complete organization of the Province and make it go with a swing. The sooner we have the money, the sooner we can start work. The plans are laid. Our men are eager to take the field. So everyone get busy please and send in their mite to swell the U.F.A. Campaign Fund.

WHAT THE UNIONS ARE DOING

Carlstadt Union, No. 320, of the U.F.A., had a very interesting meeting last night when many questions of interest were discussed and dealt with. After the general opening exercises, the meeting was turned over to Mr. Glambek, of Queenstown. His subject was the organized effort of the farmers and grain growers, the farmers' relation to other business and enterprise, elevators, car shortage, freight rates and special stress was thrown on the recent amendment to the Grain Act, relative to the distribution of cars. He advised the building of a local elevator by the farmers, which they already have under consideration. Carlstadt union now numbers about one hundred, after transferring several members to unions to the north of us. The members of Carlstadt Union are wide awake and alive to every issue confronting the farmer. Committees have been appointed to wait on dealers and manufacturers in various parts of the country re the buying in car load lots of the many and varied commodities consumed by the farmer.

Stainsleigh Union report that their meeting, held on March 9 was "marked by our first step in co-operation outside of the purchase of formalin and binder-twine." This great privilege has been used by the members to establish ourselves in pure Marquis wheat. The action was brought about by a general discussion on the subject of the "Improvement of our grain," led by J. H. Mallough. At the close of the discussion it was proposed by Messrs. Thompson and Tweddle that as it would be somewhat difficult to keep a small quantity of pure grain separate and perfectly clean, that we have a co-operative grain plot. This proposition met the unanimous approval of all present. C. Larsen then offered to lease 25 acres of new, well-prepared land for this purpose; his remuneration for same to be struck by the profit from 25 acres sown to common wheat lying alongside. A definite arrangement was made and an agreement drawn up, and up to date 15 members have subscribed \$10 each for the purchase of the wheat. A committee of six was formed to manage the affair. The question of buying formalin in bulk was brought up and a committee appointed, with instructions to purchase a quantity of same at the lowest tender. The secretary was instructed to send for a number of copies of "Protection or Free Trade" by Henry George.

A. E. MALLOUGH,
Sec'y-Treas.

On Friday, March 1, Cummings Union, No. 326 held a box social in the Heatherbell School to defray the expenses of our delegate to the Annual Convention at Edmonton in January. The members

and others contributed songs and recitations and after the sale of boxes supper was partaken of. Dancing was then indulged in till daylight. The sale of boxes brought \$48.75. Considering that a box social which was held in the same school on Feb. 16 to start a library collected \$92.00, we considered this very satisfactory. Union No. 326 started on January 5 in a district six years old and has to-day, March 1, members to the number of 41.

J. WINTERSGILL,
Sec'y-Treas.

Kia Ora Union, No. 62 having been dormant for 12 months or more, recently decided that the period of hibernation had lasted sufficiently long, so a request was sent to the Central for an organizer. In response to this appeal P. P. Woodbridge, the assistant secretary, was sent up and from the way the farmers turned out it was evident that they are hungry (for knowledge) after so long a sleep. Over twenty farmers paid in their dollar at the initial meeting, since when we have gone ahead rapidly until we are fast nearing the 100 mark. Our members realize the increased importance of the work the U.F.A. is doing and are fully determined to take their part in the still greater work which is ahead. At our initial meeting it was decided to change the name of our union to Acme as that will be our future meeting place. In the general discussion which followed the address it was decided to offer a new hat to the member who brought in the most new members during the year, and we were also informed that there was a standing offer of \$10 awaiting the first man who could prove he had secured 20 new members by his own individual efforts, so that there are quite a few of us out canvassing. There is no doubt that Acme Union has come to stay and will frequently be in the limelight from now on.

E. H. F. GENGE, Sec'y-Treas.

Carlton Local Union of the U.F.A. was organized Feb. 18, 1911. There being no schoolhouse in the district, the meetings were held at the house of E. L. Woods, who was elected vice-president. Fourteen joined at the organization meeting and membership at present stands at 42. It was decided that we should build a hall for the holding of meetings and other purposes. The matter of finance was a difficult proposition as the country was only then being settled, and people were not in a position to undertake the erection of an expensive building. Subscription lists were circulated and sufficient money was promised to warrant the union going ahead. So we decided to build a hall 16 by 24, the walls to be built of sod with a good lumber roof and floor. The labor was all done by the members gratis.

The "outside" has been neatly trimmed and the inside finished with paper. Meetings were held monthly during the summer, the attendance during the busy season was small, but always enough to form a quorum. A picnic was held July 22, to advertise the U.F.A. and the project was a success. The winter program commenced with the opening of the hall on Dec. 8, when a successful box social and dance was held. Five other dances followed during the winter, the proceeds going to pay the remaining debt on the building. We are now free of debt and a balance in hand. The literary work has not been overlooked, debates having been held on the following topics, "Herd v. Fence Law," "Homesteads for Women," "Free Trade v. Protection" and "Votes for Women." Pamphlets dealing with Direct Legislation and Single Tax have been distributed among the members and addresses given. An address has also been given by Clarke Fraser on the new Rural Municipalities Act which was greatly appreciated by those present. The meetings during the winter have been held bi-monthly, good attendance was secured, the meetings terminating with an entertaining program. At our last meeting it was decided to co-operate in buying formalin, strychnine, wire and flour. The union has been instrumental in getting locals started at Coronation and Youngstown. At our next meeting we shall arrange a date for a picnic at which we hope to get a visit from an organizer.

J. J. PRICE,
Sec'y

Creole Belle Union, No. 334, held a meeting on March 9, when the following business was transacted. Since the last meeting six new members had been added. The members then took part in a discussion on "Deep plowing versus shallow-breaking and backsetting." The meeting went in favor of deep-plowing. As several ladies were present they were asked if they would mention a subject for discussion at our next meeting, but they declined, thanking the gentlemen for their offer. It was then decided to have a debate on "Horse vs. Cattle raising." Teams of four aside were chosen. It was announced that our membership contest should end on March 30 when we hope to have some interesting figures to send in. The meeting then adjourned.

N. W. DANN,
Sec'y-Treas.

The regular meeting of the Brunetta Union, No. 247, was held on March 16. We are just one year old, as we organized on March 16, 1911 and to say we are pleased with our success is a mild way of expressing our thanks to the association. A year ago we were like a scattered, beaten army, each of us finding all kinds of fault with the other. We could see no good things only in ourselves, but to-day

we are an organized strength. We are combined for one another's good. Men that one year ago passed each other on the road with hardly a nod, to-day will stop and talk and find in each other a great many good things that they had not known before. The bringing together of these men at our meetings has brought about this feeling of good fellowship. We had an entertainment on March 7 with nearly everyone in the district present. A merry time was enjoyed by everyone, with a bountiful lunch afterwards that could not help but make one feel good. During the year we have had good examples of co-operation in buying different articles we needed. We have bought 10,500 fence posts with a saving of over \$300. Also a car of wire with a saving of about \$150. Some farmers have saved \$25 in hard cash for the one dollar invested as membership fee to the U.F.A. We have about 90 per cent of the farmers in this district as members and we are going to the Midway schoolhouse on March 23 to organize a new local. We have quite a hard time occasionally to get our meetings adjourned which shows the great interest our members are taking. Our success is not due to any one or two members but due to the great interest every member is taking. Our one great drawback is a railroad and we are so far from one that it makes it hard for us in our co-operation work. I feel that if every union and every man that lives in this district between the two Bow rivers would join in one united cry for this much needed addition to our part of the country we would get it.

W. H. SMITH,
Sec'y-Treas.

Altorado Union held a general meeting on Thursday evening, February 29. A large crowd turned out. Business was not very heavy. The secretary quoted prices on wire and lumber. He also received orders from the members for about 1,100 posts. The gopher poison question was discussed and the secretary instructed to secure same from the Government if possible. The balance of the evening was spent on a debate. "Resolved that Canada should build her own Navy." The affirmative being taken by Messrs Wink and Turriff, while the negative was taken by the Rev. Perrin Baker and A. Taylor who handled the question very thoroughly. The next meeting will be held on March 28, when the subject up for discussion will be "Woman's Franchise." We always make our meetings as interesting as possible and of a sociable nature. We always have large crowds.

H. MCKENZIE,
Sec'y-Treas.

The monthly meeting of the Lakeview Union, No. 71 of the U.F.A. was held at Lakeview on March 16. Seven new members were admitted. The Secretary-treasurer reported having shipped two carloads of hogs through the Red Deer U.F.A. Co-operative association with very satisfactory results to the parties concerned and thus, once more, demonstrating the benefits of co-operation. A communication re seed grain from the Central office was read and laid on the table. Quite a number of the members have quantities of excellent seed grain of high germinating quality for sale at reasonable prices. Parties desiring further information in regard to same should communicate with the secretary-treasurer. The next meeting of the union will be at Lakeview on Saturday, April 13.

DONALD CAMERON,
Sec'y-Treas.

Rathwell and McBride Lake Union have held three good meetings lately to take up the question of co-operative buying. Twenty new members have been added to the roll and there will be a larger increase later, as several prospective members have been busy threshing and shipping wheat, also Allenfields and Ardenville districts intend to unite with this Union. We have formed a buying fund by the members contributing five dollars each. All members in good standing on paying in this sum receive a buyer's ticket, presentation of which entitles them to participate in the benefits derived from the fund. These tickets will be reissued annually to all members in good standing in the Union. A committee consisting of the President, Secretary and J. Horner, has been appointed to manage the fund for the present year. We have secured a large cut in the price of flour from a local dealer, also a fifty cent per ton cut in coal by the load as needed, have secured a better discount for cash trading at the local stores, and have been able to secure our formalin and strychnine at lower price than ever before in this district. Thus far we have not needed to draw on the fund, but the fact of having this to back us, has convinced the local merchants that we are in earnest in this matter and they have been willing to meet us. We intend to go into the posts and lumber question as soon as we secure prices.

At the meeting on February 23, Mr. J. Stenson read a good paper dealing with co-operation. A couple of communications have been received from Dr. Warnock, M.P. for Macleod, dealing with the car distribution question and other matters at Ottawa. The circular dealing with this question has been discussed, but no action taken as we had already forwarded a resolution dealing with car clause and there does not seem to be much of a kick at this point as regards receiving cars. At Piegan Siding where most of the members load, we have always been able to secure cars in a fairly reasonable time, though there is a great deal of kicking as regards the time occupied in transit.

W. H. SHIELD, Sec'y.