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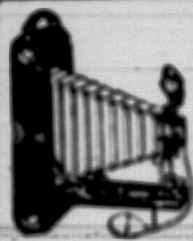
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Alberta

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.

AT THE END OF THE STEEL

As the Edmonton, Delvaegan and B.C. railway terminus halts modestly about four miles north of the city of Edmonton, the kindly services of a taxi were enlisted to convey us thither. In spite of the fact that during our progress one of the tires took a notion to run off in another direction, leaving us a mile or more from the station, with 15 minutes to cover it, the ubiquitous Ford came to our rescue and we were soon comfortably ensconced in the Imperial Limited of the north. The few hours of daylight left revealed a good country, interspersed with a considerable amount of brush. Reports state that we continued to traverse fairly level ground throughout the night, which brought us past Lesser Slave Lake, but one's impressions, or were they dreams, suggested acute undulations and brought memories of crossing the choppy English Channel. This is no doubt incidental to a new road bed and accounts for the solicitude of the authorities, which decrees that the rate at which we were hurtling through space should be kept below 20 miles per hour. But what's the hurry when the scenery is beautiful and the train a haven of rest and comfort? The writer would caution intending travellers that while the picking of flowers en route is feasible enough at any time, it is really necessary to let the train stop before gathering the wild strawberries which grow in such profusion along the track.

From the end of the Lake to Macleannan, where the train divides for Grande Prairie and Peace River respectively, the brush was fairly continuous and the growth of poplar finer, the course of the road cut through the statey avenue, receding at times the nave of a cathedral. Always, however, the fireweed and Indian point brush amongst numberless varieties of flowers provided glorious splashes of color, while the clearer spaces all gave evidence of the richness of the soil, the luxuriant growth of grasses and crops.

Adhering to the Peace River portion of the train, we progressed through country becoming more open until at about 2 p.m. the magnificent view of the junction of the Smoky with the Peace River burst upon us, about 700 feet below the level we had been maintaining, and the cautious descent to the crossing now in sight is begun, revealing at frequent turns delightful sketches of that great waterway up and down at Peace River Crossing, the northernmost agricultural town of the continent. After being welcomed under the hospitable roof of the Royal Hotel, by its genial hostess, we at once began to take our bearings. The steel ends here, having reached the crossing only last year, but a million dollar bridge, expected to open next spring, is intended to carry the line across the river where it is projected north 40 minutes, and west probably to the coast.

Peace River Crossing, with its 700 or 800 inhabitants, while still retaining interesting evidence of the frontier stage, is now assuming the characteristics of a thriving town with good stores and commodious residences springing up. With the railway presently extending from it in three directions, situated about the centre of a 600 mile stretch of navigable river, having such a hinterland of rich agricultural land, it is difficult to see how Peace River Crossing can avoid becoming a very important centre. One caught a glimpse of its possibilities as well as that of the country beyond on learning of a shipment by water from Fort Vermilion, 300 miles north, for loading on rail at the crossing of 10,000 bushels of wheat from one grower last season, who is reputed to have half that amount still on hand. There is coal in the immediate vicinity of the town and we were shown heavy crude oil taken from a well, but an easy distance down the river. The Peace River district, in common with the rest of the province, has experienced a dry hot spell, which caused some discomfort, but has been favored with intermittent rains during the past week, which are said to have saved the situation by a margin of "days only." Apparently nothing but the possibility of an early frost can hinder the assurance of a wheat crop averaging about 25 bushels with other grains in relation.

One had the privilege on Sunday of hearing the Bishop of Athabasca, ably assisted by the Incumbent of the Parish, and recognized what a splendid type of men were doing the pioneer work of the church in the north. The Bishop had just returned from a tour in his diocese, which we understand embraces a territory of about 25,000 square miles. An interesting incident during our stay at the crossing was the landing by boat from the north of the Esquimaux prisoners with their interpreters, being brought to Edmonton for trial. S. O. Tregillus, Assistant Secretary, U.F.A.

IRON SPRINGS SUCCESSFUL PICNIC

The Iron Springs Local, No. 172, held their annual picnic at Picture Butte store on Wednesday, July 25. The weather was ideal and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially the children who entered into their sports in real earnest. There was a splendid program, including men's races, ladies' races, pony races, bicycle races, ladies' nail driving competition and ladies' tug-of-war (married vs. single, married ladies winning). This was followed by a tug-of-war for the men, between Iron Springs and Turin, Iron Springs being the winners, then another between the members of Iron Springs and Picture Butte, which resulted in a victory for Picture Butte. A baseball game was played between Iron Springs and Turin, Turin winning with a score of 11 to 6. At the close of the ball game, President Marnock, of the Lethbridge Board of Trade, addressed the gathering, and this was followed by an address from S. O. Tregillus, assistant secretary of the U.F.A., who in a very able speech urged upon the farmers the importance of organization and co-operation. This address was very much appreciated by those present. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded both speakers. Supper was then served by the ladies, the proceeds of which, amounting to \$26.37, were handed over to the Red Cross Fund. The day was brought to a close with a ball game between Picture Butte and Iron Springs, the latter winning with a score of 7 to 5.

COLINTON'S PICNIC AND DANCE

On July 20, Colinton Local, No. 540, held a picnic and dance, the success of which, both from a financial and social point of view, far exceeded their expectations. The sports committee deserved great credit for the large and interesting program provided which included races, pole vaulting, hammer throwing, horse pulling contests and a baseball game between the Pine Creek and Colinton Local Unions, which was won by the latter. Two young ladies of the district sold Red Cross badges, realizing \$8.50 for same, which was sent in to the Central office of the U.F.A. A large number of people attended the dance in the evening and tripped the light fantastic to an early hour. At a meeting of the local held on July 28, a vote of thanks was recorded on the minutes to the committees in charge of the picnic, who worked so willingly and helped to make it a success. There is no doubt that the Colinton U.F.A. picnic will be an annual event and will be looked forward to each year as a very pleasant holiday.

RAISED \$100 AT NEW NORWAY

New Norway Local, No. 263, held their picnic on July 2, on which occasion the weather was all that could be wished for, and the various items on the program were very much enjoyed by the large crowd who were present. The New Norway team took the first prize in the baseball tournament. Director Jas. Miner, of Banff, gave a very fine address on the aims and objects of the U.F.A., which was thoroughly appreciated by his hearers. The members of the local wish to take this opportunity of thanking the citizens of New Norway and all the visitors for their help in making this picnic a success. A check for \$100, being the proceeds of the day, has been forwarded to the Central office to be turned over to the Red Cross Society.

We have just received a splendid dona-

tion of \$523 from Mere Local, No. 513, to be turned over to the Red Cross Fund. The amount has been raised by means of a subscription list, and we feel that great credit is due both to the members who looked after the collection of same and to all those who have so generously contributed.

BIG PICNIC AT HARDISTY

The members of the Hardisty and Battle Bend Locals are co-operating with the Arnold Local, No. 387, for the purpose of holding a big joint picnic at Hardisty on August 8. A splendid program has been arranged and about \$180 in prizes will be given. A great deal of time and thought has been given to making this picnic a grand success, and among other attractions, the Loughheed-Business Men's Band will be in attendance. It is also hoped that one or two good U.F.A. speakers will be in attendance.

THE WEED PROBLEM IN ALBERTA

We are in receipt of a check for \$289, being a contribution from Stonelaw Local, No. 655, raised at a very successful picnic held by the union on August 1. The success of this picnic was largely due to the untiring efforts of a very energetic committee. Sports of all kinds were enjoyed during the afternoon, and a dance was held in the evening in Geo. Earl's new barn with a large crowd in attendance. The music was furnished by the Monitor Brass Band, and during the evening a very interesting address was given by Geo. Hazlewood, one of the members, on the weed problem of Alberta. Mr. Hazlewood exhibited several kinds of noxious weeds which grow in the district, and afterwards a petition was passed round for signatures, asking that the government take some action regarding same.

GREAT CO-OPERATIVE WORK

The following interesting report has come to hand from E. H. Keith, secretary of Seaside Heights Local, No. 151, together with dues for four members, which brings their paid up membership for this year up to 56.

During the quarter just ended we have bought co-operatively \$1,700 worth of binder twine for our members. This amount plus our purchase during the first quarter of this year brings our total co-operative purchases up to \$2,600, and on these transactions we have saved our members at least \$450. So far we have been prevented from buying perishable goods in carload lots, owing to the absence of warehouses, etc. However, this difficulty will be removed shortly as there are at present two co-operative elevators being built on the prairie. We hope to be able to make arrangements with the operators of these elevators to act as our distributing agents, and as no doubt the elevators will be able to store goods for a short time, we are looking forward to the time when we can take advantage of purchasing in carlots many of the things needed on the farm.

The interest in our union is steadily increasing. Our district association observed U.F.A. Sunday on July 22, which was followed on Monday by U.F.A. sports and a business meeting, our union being well represented on both occasions. On the Sunday, five ministers of different denominations participated in discussing world events, etc., and the U.F.A.'s relation thereto. It certainly was a unique affair and a complete success.

MAKING EXTENSIVE PURCHASES

Kirkpatrick Local, No. 651, is very enthusiastic in regard to co-operative purchasing. They bought formaldehyde by the keg this spring at considerable saving to the members. They also took orders for dry goods, hardware and groceries at nearly every meeting, and as they take orders from 25 cents upwards, they have no trouble in making up freight shipments, and the money saved by the members in this way makes it well worth while. So far they are dealing with one of the mail order houses and have had splendid satisfaction. They handle coal all the year round, keeping two barrels in reserve so that they always have a supply on hand. They purchased a barrel of machine oil in the spring at a saving of about 30 cents a gallon, and also handled a car of cedar fence posts through The Grain Growers' Grain Company. The members are greatly interested in livestock shipping, and it is hoped that the union will be engaged in this work in the very near future as soon as the busy season on the farm is over.