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WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

At the request of Mrs. R. W. Barritt, I take pleasure in inserting on this page the following paragraph:

At the recent convention of the United Farmers of Alberta and women delegates held in Edmonton, a provincial executive for the Women's Auxiliaries of the United Farmers of Alberta was formed, composed of the following officers: Miss J. C. Reed, Alix, president; Mrs. Rice-Jones, Veteran, vice-president; Mrs. R. W. Barritt, Mirror, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. J. C. McDaniels, Whitlaw; Mrs. O. S. Young, Lacombe, and Mrs. J. C. Davis, Sr., Acme, directors.

All Women's Auxiliaries of the United Farmers of Alberta and Farm Women's Clubs are requested to report to the provincial secretary, Mrs. R. W. Barritt, just as soon as possible, so that the central organization may get in touch with the local ones and find out where they are and what they are doing. This organization, we are sure, will supply a long-felt need, and be a source of gratification to the women of the province.

SEED GRAIN

We have been very active recently in the matter of seed grain. There would appear to have been some dispute or misunderstanding between the Dominion and provincial governments in regard to the area and terms on which seed grain was to be supplied to settlers this year. Within the last few days I have secured an interview with Hon. Duncan Marshall, minister of agriculture for the province, and in spite of statements in the newspapers that the area in which the Dominion government would distribute seed grain to settlers on lands patented or unpatented would be strictly defined and adhered to, the government claims that they have a definite agreement signed by Hon. Dr. Roche, minister of the interior, guaranteeing seed grain to destitute settlers in any part of the province on any land, provided that an investigation of the circumstances shows that such distribution is warranted. The area defined in statements sent out from J. Bruce Walker, commissioner of immigration at Winnipeg, is that area south of the north boundary of township 34 and east of the western boundary of range 25. I recommend, therefore, that any farmers outside of that area who thru no fault of their own find themselves without sufficient seed grain to crop their land or without the wherewithal to buy that seed grain, should send in a statement to the department of agriculture, at Edmonton, if they find themselves unable to secure satisfaction thru the commissioner of immigration at Winnipeg. Hon. Duncan Marshall has given us definite assurance that the province has this agreement with the Dominion, and that his department will give personal attention to any case where the settler is unable to secure seed grain from the Dominion government thru the regular channels.

WANT LOADING PLATFORM

Messassin Local, No. 319, have again applied to us, asking for our influence in aiding them to secure a loading platform at Duffield, on the G.T.P. We had this matter investigated about a year or more ago, and at that time the traffic was not sufficient to warrant putting a loading platform in. However, things have improved since then, and we hope at this time it will be shown that the business has increased sufficiently to make it worth while.

SEED GRAIN CERTIFICATES

For the benefit of readers of this page, I may say that settlers securing seed grain thru the Dominion government do not need to make use of the special certificates being distributed from this office, the government having

already made arrangements with the railway for the cheap rate.

WILDMERE ORGANIZED

A meeting was recently held at Preston schoolhouse, resulting in the organization of a new union of the United Farmers of Alberta, No. 698. Thomas Cairns has been appointed secretary of the new union, which is to be known as Wildmere. Fred Wright is president.

TWIN BUTTE AWAKENS

F. F. Allred, of Twin Butte, reports "The dead have arisen." On January 30 the members of the Twin Butte United Farmers of Alberta held a post mortem over their once active body, which was supposed to be dead, but was only sleeping. After a little rubbing and scratching it was found that every member but one contained some life and stood on his feet when the call for re-organization was made. J. E. Hillier was elected president, and twenty-three members signed the roll.

DEER CREEK HEARD FROM

We are also pleased to hear from A. McLaughlan, and it would appear that the Deer Creek Union, No. 411, will also reorganize at an early date.

Another of our old unions to reorganize is Rodney, No. 57, with V. B. Arnold as secretary.

THE LADIES WILL DO IT

One of our secretaries writes in for information in regard to forming a Ladies' Auxiliary to the United Farmers of Alberta. We have, of course, referred him to the provincial secretary of the Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. R. W. Barritt, of Mirror. This secretary claims that some are afraid the auxiliary will try to run the United Farmers of Alberta in that district, but they are willing to give the women a fair trial. I do not think there is very much danger, as they have a live union down there. Our records show, however, that in some districts at least there is need for someone to get in and run the local unions at those points. According to the decision of our recent convention the women are now eligible to do this, and we certainly hope they will wherever the opportunity presents itself. I do not know that I have ever been an ardent supporter of the Woman Suffrage movement, but I certainly believe in giving them a chance to get in and do something where the men have shown themselves either unable or unwilling.

WAR RELIEF FUNDS

Twin Lake Union, No. 635, has the honor of being the first union to act on the resolution passed at our recent convention of the special United Farmers of Alberta War Relief Fund. A recent communication, signed by the president and vice-president, reads as follows:

"According to resolution passed at the convention, I called Twin Lake Union together when I came home, and we collected thirty-nine bushels of wheat and eighteen dollars and sixty-five cents in cash. We could not ship the wheat to Calgary free, but they would send it free to the Belgian consul at Winnipeg. So we decided to sell the wheat here and got \$1.40 per bushel, and if you want to send the wheat you can buy it at Calgary for the same money or less. Please find enclosed money order for \$75.00 as a contribution from the Twin Lake Union of the United Farmers of Alberta. Hoping this is satisfactory."

We very much appreciate the action of the above union and the sound common-sense displayed in handling the situation, in view of the fact that no definite instructions have as yet been sent from this office advising our unions how to deal with the matter. The idea is, of course, that in any case

where grain or farm produce is contributed for this fund, it must be sold by the union, and the cash received—not the produce itself—forwarded to the Central office. The railway companies will not undertake the collection of odd shipments of produce from points all over the province for Calgary free of charge, even if it were advisable and the Central office had provided storage for the stuff on its arrival here. We were recently in receipt of some 500 pounds of low-grade wheat from one of our unions on which local freight had been prepaid, and on which we had to pay charges for delivery, as it was consigned to this office. We had to get out and find someone who would buy these three sacks of wheat for chicken feed, and then charges had to be paid again for the cartage of this wheat to its ultimate destination. The result, to cut a long story short, will be that the net returns to the Relief Fund will be very small in proportion to the actual value of the gift, from the point of view of those who gave it. The only way to handle these contributions of farm-produce is to sell them at once to the highest bidder and forward the cash to the Central office. I hope before long to send out a definite statement as to just how the board of directors intend to handle this matter.

RECENT ADDITIONS

Silver Fox, No. 699. This union is in the vicinity of Athabasca Landing, which is the second union to be organized in this northern region.

Another union has recently been added to the Edgerton District Association by J. W. Guthrie, the energetic secretary of that district. This brings the number of unions now registered on our books up to 700.

A LARGE DONATION

We have just received a remittance of \$170 from Onoway Local Union, No. 131, for the Relief Fund. This is the largest remittance we have yet received from any of our unions to any of the funds which we have opened at this office. The money was taken in at a successful concert, auction sale and dance, held on February 5, the arrangements being in charge of the committee of the local union with James Priestly, of the United Farmers of Alberta, in charge.

TIDE LAKE LOCAL

J. M. Hill writes in from Tide Lake Local Union, and advises that farmers in that district got together recently in the schoolhouse, and organized with twenty names on the list. While Mr. Hill does not mention the fact, we used to have a union in this district two years ago, so that this can be looked upon as another union reorganized.

RELIEF NEEDED

We are in receipt of a letter from Miss Erma Stocking, secretary of the Women's Section of the Saskatchewan Association, re a sad case of poverty in the New Bridgen district. I have written to the secretary of our union at New Bridgen, asking that the matter be looked into and that whatever is required to give immediate relief be supplied to this family in want.

One of our unions, the Roseview Union, No. 63, a short time ago forwarded us some funds for the relief of any cases of this kind that came to our notice. We still have a small amount on hand. If any of our readers know of a case where the need is particularly pressing, we will be glad to hear from them and do whatever we can so long as the funds last.

MAPLE LEAF FOREVER

We have heard again from our friends of the Maple Leaf Union, No. 504, which figured so prominently on this page a year or so ago. The union was

suspended last fall, but membership dues are again to hand, and we hope that the union will once again occupy its old position. It appears that owing to the dry season the majority of the members were away, but now that they have come back again to the district the union will be reorganized and get down to work once more.

NEW HOLLAND ORGANIZED

A new union has been organized near Suffield recently, to be known as New Holland No. 697. Twenty-two members joined as a start. The organization of this new union is due to C. A. Thomas, secretary of Blue Grass Union, to whom we are greatly indebted.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY REPORTS

The first Women's Auxiliary to report to this office since the convention is in connection with the Edgerton District Association, given thru our friend J. W. Guthrie. Eleven members joined, with officers as follows: President, Mrs. A. M. Postens, Heath; vice-president, Mrs. R. Carey, Heath; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Guthrie, Edgerton. The auxiliary is already planning to do great things. We wish them every success.

LIVELY AND PROFITABLE

Creighton Union, No. 199, had a lively as well as a profitable meeting when the report from the convention delegates was given. Discussions took place on "Votes for Women" and "Cheap Money for Farmers." By way of diversion orders were taken for plow shares amounting in number to twenty, with more to follow. Some orders were also taken for barbed wire. It is estimated that the saving on the plow shares will be \$1.50 each. The meeting closed at midnight.

EDWELL GOING STRONG

Edwell Union continues to keep well to the front. They recently held one of their most successful meetings, when the first of a series of papers was given by Mr. Lawrence, of the Pine Lake Union. The subject was "Eugenics," and was thoroughly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. The next paper will be given by T. J. Walton. The executive of the local has worked hard to make this a success, and it must be as pleasing to them as it is to us to know that their efforts are meeting with success.

COMREY REORGANIZED

Comrey Union, No. 438, reorganized on February 6. Mr. Ralston reports that considerable interest was shown by the members who had never taken active part before, and continues to state that he thinks the union has been to the lowest ebb and from now on will go ahead in efficiency and usefulness both to themselves and the association. J. J. Evenson is the new president, and great things are expected from him. Wm. Field is vice-president, assisted by a strong board of directors. The report comes from Secretary S. G. Rolfsen.

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$1,133.20
Rumsey Union, No. 400	102.00
Lakeview Union, No. 71	16.00
Twin Lakes Union, No. 635	75.00
Butze Union, No. 613	1.50
Onoway Union, No. 131	170.00
Leith Union, No. 591	5.00
Willow Hollow Union, No. 332	11.00
	\$1,513.70

PATRIOTIC FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$ 98.70
Leith Union, No. 591	4.00
	\$102.70

RED CROSS FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$271.35
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