

United Farmers of Alberta

Conducted Officially for the United Farmers of Alberta
by the Secretary

H. Higginbotham, Calgary, Alta.

the Central office at the end of August, after almost three months continuous campaigning.

Hay and Feed

RECENT rains are improving the feed situation in Southern Alberta, but large quantities of roughage will be required by farmers in the south to put their stock over the winter. Most of the men with large bunches of stock have either shipped their stock north or gone north themselves to make arrangements for their winter supply of hay. Many small farmers, particularly those who are alone on their farms, have been unable to do this and some complaints have reached the Central office that the needs of the small farmer were being overlooked. This phase of the matter was laid before the provincial department of agriculture and the reply of the deputy minister of agriculture is as follows:

"The department feels it would be a very difficult matter to purchase and ship feed for the small farmer. You will agree with me that it would be very hard to satisfy him as to price and quality. Furthermore, the task would be a gigantic one. It seems to me that where the farmers are organized that they would be acting wisely to appoint one of their number to come north and make a deal for all those who were not in a position to look after the business themselves. In this way one man could be sent up at very small expense, provision having been made for the shipping of this feed free of charge. I am of the opinion that the small farmer can easily have his wants looked after in this way."

The suggestion of the deputy minister of agriculture could no doubt be carried out by many of our locals. In unorganized territory it will be more difficult to arrange, but in the local associations of the U.F.A. there already exists the machinery by which farmers can co-operate and secure all the advantages which can be secured by the larger individuals.

The central office is also prepared to act as a medium of exchange between the farmers of the north and those of the south and vice versa. If locals in the north will send to the Central office at Calgary particulars regarding the amount, quality and price of feed available, hay or green feed, the Central office will pass the information along to locals in the south who would like to get in touch directly with locals in the north. Southern locals requiring roughage should also therefore write the Central office. The Central office cannot, of course, accept any responsibility for the resulting transactions. We might, however, ask locals in the north to see that any feed shipped is exactly according to description, while locals in the south should be prepared to pay a fair price for feed of good quality, remembering that farmers in the north have not enjoyed the same advantages in regard to wheat prices that southern farmers have of late, and that roughage and coarse grains are the principal crops in the north. We presume that all our locals have been made familiar through the press with the arrangements that have been made by the federal and provincial governments acting in co-operation with the railways for free transportation of stock north and hay south, and haying outfits north at half the usual rate.

Supply of Hog Feed

Some of our locals have reported a considerable shortage of hog feed owing to the difficulty of securing bran, shorts and middlings, except in very limited quantities. Advice from Ottawa state that there are no restrictions against the sale or use of these feeds, but that many of the mills are closed down temporarily and the available supply has been exhausted. This condition will likely continue until the grinding of the new wheat begins and possibly for some time to come, as the mills have no reserves on hand. H. S. Arkell, Dominion Livestock Commissioner, Ottawa, reports that screenings are available at a cost of \$35.50 f.o.b. Fort William. This price is likely to hold good, having

varied very little for some months past. The freight rate, Fort William to Calgary or Edmonton, is 33½ cents per hundred. A considerable quantity of these screenings have been shipped into Wetaskiwin by the large hog raisers there who report favorably on their feeding value. G. H. Hutton, director of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Lacombe, who has conducted considerable experimental work in feeding screenings to hogs, also gives a good report of them. The Provincial Department of Agriculture has been arranging for shipments of these screenings to points in Alberta at actual cost. As the screenings are only handled in bulk (carload lots), some of the smaller feeders who are unable to handle a carload have been unable to avail themselves of this feed. It is suggested therefore that our local associations might arrange to get in this feed by the carload and distribute it among their members. Members could arrange to haul out the screenings in tight grain wagons or better still sack it on arrival. The cars hold from 30 to 35 tons. A given weight of car cannot be guaranteed as the elevators take the first available car. Orders can be placed with the department of agriculture, Edmonton, accompanied by a deposit of \$100, the balance payable on sight draft when car arrives, the purchaser also paying freight.

Work in Plowing Fireguards

Locals between Calgary and Red

deer have, we understand, been asked by the Canadian Pacific Railway if they will assist the railway by undertaking to plow fireguards along the right-of-way. The regulations of the board of railway commissioners require the railways to plow a sixteen foot guard on both sides of the track. Owing to the difficulty of securing labor the C.P.R. recently applied to the railway commissioners for permission to plow eight foot guards instead of sixteen foot guards. The commissioners suggested that the C.P.R. consult the board of directors of the U.F.A. on the matter. Your board did not feel like accepting the responsibility for such reduction as they were not satisfied that the narrower guard would serve the purpose, but offered to recommend to the farmers of the province through our locals that they assist the railways by accepting work in plowing guards. The conditions under which this work is done can be obtained from G. J. Fox, superintendent, C.P.R., Calgary.

Resolutions for Convention

Locals desiring to submit resolutions at the next annual convention should send these to the Central office as soon as prepared. This will facilitate the work of the Central office and your resolution will get more careful consideration than if sent in just shortly before the convention. Resolutions sent to the Central for submission at the convention should be accompanied by a fee of 50 cents for each resolution to be submitted. This is to defray the cost of having the resolutions printed and circulated. It is not necessary to remit this fee with resolutions intended

Remittances to Central

Some of our locals are not complying with the constitution in regard to the remittance of dues to the Central office. Paragraph 3, Section 11, of the constitution states that proposed amendments to the constitution must be sent to the Central secretary not later than December 1.

Buy a Life Membership

The Central office is glad to report an increase in the number of life members. The life membership fee is now \$15, and it is expected that it will be raised at the next convention. The life membership fees are deposited in a special savings account from which the interest only goes to the general revenue, the capital remaining untouched as a special reserve in case of emergency. Life members are only required to pay \$1.00 per year as their duty to the local, the \$15 relieving them of any further obligation to the Central office.

The Value of Self-Help

Pumping enthusiasm into a local from the outside is about as effective as blowing air into an air cushion with a leak in it—you can by great exertion inflate it for a few seconds, but directly you stop blowing everything goes flat. We have to teach our locals to stand on their own feet and to learn the benefit of self help. The more I see of the work the more convinced I am that the motive power to carry on the work must come from within the local itself, not from the outside.—Mrs. Walter Paribby, President, U.F.W.A. and member of U.F.A. Executive.

A handsome life membership certificate is issued to each life member, which, when framed, makes a very desirable ornament to any farmer's home, as well as a mark of distinction. Also it is good advertising for your movement to have your life membership certificate in the U.F.A. displayed where your neighbors and new settlers who visit your home may see it. If desired, the Central office will supply frames at actual cost.

President's Tour

President H. W. Wood concluded his series of lectures on the Chautauqua circuit on August 14 at Brier Creek, Saskatchewan, after having addressed approximately 50 meetings, 20 of which were in Alberta, 23 in Saskatchewan and 10 in Manitoba. All reports indicate that President Wood's lecture on "Democratic Organization" was exceedingly well received at all points. We believe that few opportunities have ever presented themselves of equal value to the opportunity which came to President Wood in the request from the Chautauqua circuit. Meetings addressed by Mr. Wood in Alberta have been a stimulant to our organization in the province. His appearance at some 30 points in Saskatchewan and Manitoba will tend to make for unity of thought and opinion in the farmers' movement throughout the prairie provinces, which is greatly to be desired. As president of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, Mr. Wood is particularly qualified to deliver a message which would help to unify the efforts of the farmers' organizations in the different provinces.

President Wood is expected back in

The Right Spirit

G. F. Hobbs, secretary of Iron Spring local U.F.A., who recently reorganized the Turin local, writes:—
"Thanks for your letter. I am only too pleased to do all I can to assist the farmers to band themselves together, as I firmly believe that inasmuch as we more firmly do so, the greater will be our power to cope with the great problems which present themselves to us now and will more so after this war is ended. Wishing your Central office great success, I beg to remain. Yours respectfully, G. F. Hobbs."

Confidence in Alberta

The department of colonization and development of the Canadian Pacific Railway will award a silver cup, valued at five hundred dollars, for the best bushel of hard spring wheat exhibited at the International Soil Products Exposition at Kansas City, Mo., October 16-20, 1918. It is hoped that Alberta farmers will be well represented in the competition. H. J. C. Strand, of the C.P.R., in writing the Central office re this, says:—

"The successful competitor will very possibly be found among the United Farmers of Alberta."

Affirmative Had a Cinch

At the meeting of the Bonnie Brer local held on August 7, the subject under debate was "Resolved that every farmer in Alberta should become a member of the U.F.A." The affirmative side winning unanimously. At the next meeting they propose having a debate on "Resolved that an engine is more economical in working of farm lands than horses." The question of co-operative buying and selling is to be taken up when the results of the crops are known.

Was a Money-Maker

The Edwell Local Union of the U.F.A. held their annual picnic last month, when a large crowd assembled for a good time. Interesting addresses were given by J. Mauffer, director for Red Deer constituency, and E. Carswell, of Calgary. The stalls realized the sum of \$119.14, which amount has been remitted to the Red Cross Society, Calgary, and the Red Cross Sewing Circle realized \$52 by their sale of work, and Aunt Sally raked in \$17.25 for the Prisoners of War Fund, so, from a financial point of view, the picnic was a decided success.

U.F.A. Briefs

A new local of the U.F.A. was organized at Brant on July 20, by O. W. Bowles, of Blackie, beginning with a membership of 13. The officers elected were: President, D. G. Bertrand; secretary-treasurer, R. B. Mills.

The Maple Leaf local held their annual picnic on July 1. The secretary, Nurlin Huseby, says it was a success as usual, considering the poor crop outlook. The proceeds, which amounted to \$33, was donated to the Red Cross Fund.

"Too much dance the night before" was the reason given for the poor attendance at the regular U.F.A. meeting Wildwood school, July 20.

On July 19 a picnic was held at Wildwood school, which was well patronized by the settlers of the district, followed during the evening by a dance in Mr. Marshall Stone's new barn. At a recent meeting in Wildwood School a discussion took place relative to the large number of cattle coming into the district to range from Southern Alberta when there is hardly enough hay and grass in the district for the cattle that belong to the settlers.