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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.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

At a meeting of the executive of the U.F.A., held in Edmonton, August 4, 5 and 7, 1916, all members were present, with Director A. Rafn and F. C. Clare. The secretary reported in regard to last year's enlarged annual report, and in view of the success of same it was decided to issue a similar report this coming year if the necessary support was forthcoming.

The matter of certain articles which had appeared in the press intimating that the farmers were divided and not prepared to support the resolution of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, condemning the increase in tariff on B.C. apples and advising our unions to purchase their supply elsewhere, was discussed, and a strong resolution passed reaffirming our attitude on this question and calling on our unions to support the Central Office by purchasing their apples this year outside B.C. if at all possible.

An appeal was read in regard to the Serbian Relief Fund and the secretary was instructed to recommend this fund to our members as worthy of their support. The secretary was also appointed to represent the Association on a joint committee for the purpose of working out details of the proposed fall fair to be held in Calgary. A number of other matters were discussed, notably the hospital question, details of which have already been published. The following financial report up to July 31 was submitted to the meeting by the secretary and is published herewith on resolution of the executive:—

Financial Statement

The following is a brief statement covering the principal items in connection with the general financial standing of the Association up to and including July 31, 1916:—

Total receipts to date \$10,730 against \$8,222 for the same period last year; an increase of \$2,508. Membership receipts show \$4,761 for the men against \$4,000 last year; women \$247 against \$158. Life members (three) \$36. Sale of buttons \$280 against \$154 last year. Sale of general supplies \$886 against \$550 last year.

Our expenditure is \$9,366 against \$7,213; an increase of \$2,153. The main items in this increase are covered in the cost of printing the three editions of the annual report, some \$600 increase in officers' expenditures, and a similar item in convention expenses which were not figured in the statement last year and are really offset by equivalent items on the receipt side as outlined in my last report.

Association Prosperous

Generally speaking, therefore, the Association may be considered in a very prosperous condition compared with previous years, both financially and from the point of view of membership. Altogether some eighty new unions have been organized since the beginning of the year, with a total membership to date of nearly 2,000, so that our old unions have not quite held their own. We did not, however, make any special effort to get in membership dues at the close of the half year as we did in 1915. Had we done so our membership receipts would probably be fully equal to last year, but in any case our relative position is very much better than it has been in any of the last three years during which I have been keeping comparative records.

P. P. W.

SPLENDID BOTTREL PICNIC

The Bottrel U.F.A. Local, No. 286, held their annual picnic on July 14 on their beautiful picnic grounds, situated on the ranch of E. V. Thompson of Dog Pound. Mr. Thompson very kindly granted the union free use of these grounds for picnic purposes, and the union has erected at considerable cost a splendid building 20 by 52 feet on same, which is known as the Bottrel U.F.A. Hall. The union holds its meetings in this hall, and on picnic occasions part of the building is used as a booth and the remainder for dancing and other social gatherings. The morning of the 14th being fine and the roads in good condition, the people from the surrounding districts turned out

in great numbers to take in the sports and to otherwise enjoy themselves during the day. The sports committee had arranged a splendid program consisting of horse racing, bucking contest and athletic sports, all of which were keenly contested. Seventy-five dollars in prizes was paid to the winners of the different events. The net proceeds from the booth were \$110, \$80 of which the union donated to the Canadian Patriotic Fund. One feature of the day's proceedings which is entitled to special mention was the splendid work done by the ladies of the Red Cross organization, who in a large tent erected for the purpose served lunches with tea and coffee to the hungry ones during the whole afternoon. A number of the young girls in connection with the Red Cross also took part in the day's work and spent the afternoon selling flowers to the visitors. The amount raised from the sale of lunches and flowers was \$100 for the benefit of the Red Cross and other Patriotic purposes. Dancing took place in the hall in the evening and music of a high class was supplied by the local orchestra. The union desires to take this opportunity of thanking all those who assisted in making the affair the great success it turned out to be.

RESOLUTIONS RE HARVEST

The following resolutions have been received from one of our unions in the southern half of the province, and are published at their request for the guidance of any other unions who may have been considering this matter:—

Resolution No. 1—"That it is the opinion of the members of this local union that any charges for threshing of over six cents for oats and ten cents for wheat in ordinary condition is an extortion."

Resolution No. 2—"That the members of this union will pay as a maximum wage \$3.00 a day to competent men in the harvest field, and that the head office be requested to distribute this information to all secretaries of other locals in Southern Alberta."

SUN PRAIRIE PICNIC

Mrs. J. P. Ransom, secretary of Sun Prairie U.F.W.A., reports as follows: "Our great day of the Sun Prairie Local, No. 367, was the picnic held on July 12. The weather was all that could be wished for, beautiful sunshine and a nice breeze. The U.F.A. gave the lunch, hot tea, coffee, iced tea, sandwiches, cake and pie being served. The band of the 137th battalion and the 211th baseball boys all came down, free of charge, except out of pocket expenses. There was a good program of sports and a glance in the fair building at night. After all expenses were paid we had \$57.50 to put towards our rest room, which we hope will be ready for use by the 1st of September."

SELL TWINE AND COAL

J. H. Berg, secretary of Wetaskiwin District Association U.F.A., reports that they have disposed of all the twine ordered thru the Association and are now getting in touch with mine owners and dealers for coal, of which they expect to be able to purchase five or six carloads.

HAVE CAR OF CATTLE

J. H. Livesey, secretary of Dunstall Local Union, No. 345, reports that at their July meeting arrangements were partially made for the shipping of a carload of beef cattle by the local. Some of the members, however, thought it advisable to wait a little while longer, until beef prices advanced, so nothing further will be done for the present. The local union held a successful picnic and dance on August 4. A good crowd attended and had a very enjoyable time. One new member was enrolled at the July meeting.

FLOURISHING NORTHERN LOCAL

H. I. Dundas, secretary of Bear Lake Local, No. 148, recently organized in the Peace River country, reports that the third meeting of this union was held on July 29, on which occasion six new members were enrolled. Altho the attendance so far at meetings had been sparse on account of this being a busy season of the year, the prospects are good for a

large number joining the union. The farmers of this district almost without exception have evinced a desire to identify themselves with the aims and objects which the Association advocates. An active attempt is being made to interest the ladies to such an extent that they will see their way clear to form a club of their own and on occasions hold joint entertainments with our union. Miss Nellie Miller has already taken twelve subscriptions for The Grain Growers' Guide and expects to add still more names to her list.

RESULTS OF ADVERTISING

Some time ago at the request of Chas. M. Bonar, of Flat Creek, Alta., secretary of Silver Fox Local, No. 699, we published a notice to the effect that several of the homesteaders in that district were anxious to secure work in the haying or harvest fields in Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. We have now received a letter from Mr. Bonar to the effect that in two mails he received no less than fifty-three applications from farmers, each requiring from one to a dozen men. He states that he has sent out a considerable number of men and his supply is now almost exhausted. He regrets that owing to the large quantity of letters received he has not been able to reply to them all and asks us to publish this explanation, trusting that same will be satisfactory to the farmers concerned and that they will not be greatly disappointed.

INTERESTING SPEECHES

Ray Ferster, secretary of Orlando Local, No. 278, reports as follows:

We held a special meeting of the Orlando Local recently, combining business with pleasure by having a social and dance which was enjoyed by at least seventy-five people, especially the address so ably given by J. E. Blore, of Craigmyle, on a number of topics vital to farmers, such as government control of transportation, editing out the middleman, better roads, etc.

CIRCULAR 5 APPRECIATED

The following letter has been received from J. C. Bridges, secretary of Caledonian Local Union, No. 235: "At our last meeting official circular No. 5 was read and the members wished me to write and thank you for same, there being lots of helpful information therein. I am sorry to say that our last meetings have not been well attended, so little business has been done. We have now decided to hold them at 6.30 instead of 4 o'clock and hope that this will improve the attendance. The grain is coming fast now. Hope to have a fuller report to make after our next meeting on August 18."

WAR RELIEF FUNDS

Belgian Relief Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$3,138.65
Benton Local, No. 600	12.50
Langdon Local, No. 199	31.00
Namoo Local, No. 18	96.00
Battleview Local, No. 688	5.00
Total	\$3,283.15

Red Cross Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$2,487.93
Hindville U.F.W.A.	50.00
Battleview Local, No. 688	5.00
Langdon Local, No. 199	63.00
P. Jensen, Birdsholm (proceeds of dance at Bradley Gerke School)	11.00
Queenstown Local, No. 160	20.00
Alix Local, No. 569	75.00
Sulphur Springs Local, No. 466	39.39
Rathwell Local, No. 667	10.00
Total	\$2,761.23

U.F.A. Patriotic Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$1,799.20
Coaldale Local, No. 362	63.25
Langdon Local, No. 199	26.00
Total	\$1,888.45

Canadian Patriotic Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$1,392.10
H. C. Ficht, Champion	10.00
Spring Ridge Local, No. 80	9.00
Alix Local, No. 569	50.00
Summerview Local, No. 147	23.00
Total	\$1,484.10

Polish Relief Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$117.00
Benton Local, No. 600	12.50
Total	\$129.50