



ALBERTA SECTION

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

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

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W. J. Tregillus - Calgary

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the U. F. A. was held in the Central Office, Calgary, on Thursday, November 2, 1911, there being present Jas. Bower, president; W. J. Tregillus, vice-president; D. W. Warner, J. Quinsey, directors; and E. J. Fream, secretary.

A communication from a company asking the U. F. A. to assist in securing a guarantee of bonds from the Dominion government for a certain line of railway was presented. It was decided that no assistance could be granted as the Association was not in favor of the principle of guaranteeing bonds to any private company, believing that if the government decided on this step it would be as well to go a little further and have straight government ownership and operation.

Correspondence with the Dominion government in regard to the Railway Act was read and approved, and instructions given to keep working along the same lines until the relief asked for was granted.

It was decided to approach Hon. R. L. Borden on the subjects of Government Ownership and operation of Terminal Elevators and the Hudson's Bay Railway, and assistance to the Chilled Meat Industry, expressing pleasure at his pronouncement on these questions and asking that suggestions from this Association be considered, these being in regard to the elevators that they be under the control of an Independent Commission, that provision be made for terminal facilities at the Pacific Coast, for Calgary so that the grain could be shipped either eastward or westward with a greater degree of safety and efficiency for the farmer; that line elevator operators must notify the owners of grain in store at the initial point of his intention to ship the grain to a terminal point previous to shipment, instead of after as at present, so that the owner could have the privilege of shipping either east or west. On the chilled meat question it was decided to point out that we are opposed to the government granting assistance in the shape of guaranteeing bonds, granting franchises or bonuses to any company, but that a feasible scheme could be worked out, either for government ownership or municipal ownership under some plan of government assistance and supervision, at very little expense to the country, that our suggestion is for a scheme which will mean that both the producer and the consumer is adequately protected; further, that our proposal is for a government scheme which would instal abatements through the country as feeders for an export system, or preferably, that a uniform system of municipal owned abattoirs could be established and used as feeders to the larger government export scheme.

The Secretary presented copies of letters which had been written to the government in connection with the coal strike and the temporary removal of the duty on store cattle, and his action was approved.

Several letters from different individuals and firms asking for a list of the locals or the members of the U. F. A. were presented, and after some discussion on the merits thereof, it was moved and carried, "That we approve of the action of the Secretary in not giving information to persons or companies asking for lists of names or Unions of the U. F. A. when it is not specifically stated what this list will be used for, and further, that if in any case where this information is given and he may be in doubt as to the advisability of granting same that the communication be referred to the executive before action is taken."

In connection with the government ownership of line elevators, it was decided to present a memorial to the local government at once asking that immediate steps be taken to provide for a line of public owned elevators in the Province of Alberta, recommending that a scheme worked out along the lines of the one now in force in Saskatchewan would be the most feasible, and requesting the government to assist in getting the

Manitoba Grain Act so amended that it will be more workable for western shipments, in accordance with the report of the Elevator Committee.

It was decided further to ascertain what steps the government would be prepared to take to secure money on the credit of the province and advance it to the farmers, presumably on a first mortgage, at a rate of interest considerably less than that now charged.

The proposed Act of Incorporation will be held in abeyance for the present, pending the completion of the work of revising the constitution, as this must be a large part of the Act of Incorporation when it is applied for.

The attention of the government will be called to the present unsatisfactory plan of rural telephones.

The matter of taxation of rural lands was taken up and the Attorney-General for Alberta will be advised that the plan which has been proposed is not a fair one, and that in the opinion of the executive all rural lands should be assessed on the single tax basis, all improvements being exempt.

The proposed regulations governing the shipment of live stock were taken up, but owing to the fact that a report of the meeting held in Edmonton early in October had not been received it was decided to postpone action till the next meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

EDWARD J. FREAM, Sec'y.

WHAT THE UNIONS ARE DOING

Fertile Plains Union is keeping busy and would like to know what the prospects are for a provincial elevator system in Alberta, similar to that now in force in Saskatchewan. Another question is, would a bill providing an easier method of incorporation be received with favor by the present government? The members of our Union desire to have an elevator next fall and realize that they must begin now to take steps to become incorporated at the coming session of the legislature, unless an easier method than now obtains can be secured from the coming session of the provincial house. We hardly look for an early favorable action by the present Dominion government upon the Co-operative Bill. We favor the plan of having mutual fire insurance companies for insuring rural buildings, assessments being made when required to meet losses and operating expenses, no notes to be given. How would a proposal to amend the constitution of the U. F. A. so that the membership fee would be large enough to entitle each member to the Grain Growers' Guide be received? We hope to send in some resolutions soon for consideration at the annual convention and expect to be at Red Deer with a goodly deputation. We are eagerly looking forward for that meeting.

W. S. HENRY, Sec'y.

Bow Island, Alta.

Streamstown Union discussed the Rural Municipalities question recently and the result was the passing of a resolution favoring the present system of Local Improvement Districts being continued, but that power be added whereby the Councils will have power to impose a surtax on unoccupied or unutilized lands. In the event of Rural Municipalities we are in favor of nine in preference to sixteen townships.

EDWIN C. DAVISON, Sec'y.

Streamstown, Alta.

At the last meeting of Amisk Valley Union, held on October 28, a discussion on Direct Legislation took place and a resolution in favor of same was adopted. The question of having a regular place to hold meetings was considered, and a motion was carried arranging for a special meeting when the business for consideration will be that of devising ways and means for building a U. F. A. hall, also to take a vote on the municipal question.

JOHN DAVIDSON, Sec'y.

Amisk, Alta.

There was a good crowd in attendance at the last meeting of Altorado Union and plenty of enthusiasm was displayed, although we are handicapped by being so far from the railway. Our business is light at present, but in future we intend holding monthly meetings. A discussion on the municipalities question was held, but we are undecided. We are trying to secure a seed fair and also to have lectures on agriculture for the winter months. Our next meeting will have an added attraction, as our president, Mr. P. E. Baker, will deliver an address on Direct Legislation.

HARVEY MACKENZIE, Sec'y.

Altorado, Alta.

Warner Union wants information relative to a car order book. Are the local agents required to keep in use a car order book? Some are experiencing considerable trouble in securing cars and our members want to find out what they can regarding the matter. What should we do to secure immediate relief, as at present the elevators seem to have the preference?

W. L. MISENSOL, Sec'y.

Warner, Alta.

A local Union has been organized at Carlstadt with a membership of 27. The first officers elected are: president, A. Cole; vice-president, J. Y. Clark; secretary-treasurer, A. S. Lockrem. The chances for a live and active propaganda in our district are good and we hope to have a membership of at least 100 before the end of November.

A. S. LOCKREM, Sec'y.

Carlstadt, Alta.

At the last meeting of Kasimir Union the resignations of the president and vice-president were received and accepted. Mr. A. Walker was elected president and Mr. C. Thurlow, vice-president. We are in favor of the Red Willow plan of taxation, and of the Dewberry resolution, re eight hour day and wages for local improvement work. We are also in favor of having the Central Office handle farm produce on behalf of the members. We do not endorse the proposal for government ownership of coal mines, but we think the government should see to the life and health of the miners without attempting to acquire and operate the mines.

L. L. CUTLER, Sec'y.

Sundial, Alta.

Olds Union is not dead, nor yet sleeping, but times have been so busy that we missed holding any meetings lately. The rush will soon be over now and then we will get into harness once more. At our last meeting we discussed the question of rural municipalities and a resolution was adopted favoring the present system of taxation and enlarging the size of the districts to nine townships. The flour question was then taken up and it was decided to order another car. This makes the third car this season and as we are getting the best flour everybody is satisfied. The Olds local will be heard from this winter, as we are active and have a membership list of 112.

J. E. STAUFFER, Sec'y.

Olds, Alta.

Times have been busy at Queenstown so we have not been heard from lately. We are doing good work though, and have all arrangements completed to meet the Inspector when he visits our district and reinspects the closed leases in this neighbourhood. Conditions are not too good in our district at present and for that reason some are feeling discouraged. We are a long way from the railway, and have had other drawbacks which mean plenty of determination to overcome. We are also badly handicapped over the shortage of threshing machines and a large amount of our crops are still in the stock and cannot be attended to.

JOHN GLAMBECK, Sec'y.

Milo, Alta.

Tring Union is getting down to business again and at the last meeting discussed

several important questions. We fully approve of the Initiative and Referendum petition. In regard to the cattle business the stock was practically all bought up in this district last summer at the following prices: Three year old steers, \$50.00; two year old steers, \$40.00; yearlings, \$25.00. We have had about four buyers round, but this being a new district there are not many cattle for sale so far. We are not shipping any grain, as we are twenty miles from the railway and the farmers are therefore compelled to sell to the elevator companies. Our nearest market town is Kitscoty and the prices paid for hogs are about three cents lower than Winnipeg prices. The market for eggs, butter and potatoes is very poor. In this district the farmers are practically all going in for mixed farming. The district is young and until this summer half the land was held by the C. P. R., consequently this part is not thickly settled. We favor the Saskatchewan Municipal plan on the whole but are in favor of sixteen townships to each municipality and we consider taxation of land values would be fairest to all.

J. WESTON, Sec'y.

Lea Park, Alta.

ELECTRICITY WANTED

"In our yearly report for 1910 we stated we were flourishing like a young bay tree. Alas! our membership now is but 23 compared with 35 last year. I have just been appointed secretary-treasurer, the branch having had two changes recently and I mean to round up all the non-members. Will you be good enough to wire me vim, electric spark or any other rousing stuff, as something is certainly needed here. I would like to see this inserted in The Guide as it might do good."

The writer of the above evidently has all the vim and electric spark necessary for his particular district. One good, live man, with determination enough to say "I will" and keep on saying it, at the same time doing what he says, is worth a dozen dreamers. A man who will write as above need not fear of success, it is bound to come to him, but all the same he can depend on the Central helping him out as far as possible in making his campaign a success. If we had one man like that in every district our troubles would be at an end, for there would be a sure guarantee that the assistance, financial and otherwise, necessary to enable the different enterprises being carried out, would be forthcoming.

E. J. F.

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITIES QUESTION

May I be allowed to make a few remarks re the proposed change of Local Improvement Districts into Municipalities. If this bill becomes law it will place increased responsibilities on the men elected by the people to handle the larger amounts of money which the issue of bonds will place at their disposal, and in view of the strong movement in this province towards true representative government would it not be a good thing to have the principles of Direct Legislation inserted in this bill?

It would serve a two fold purpose, first as a demonstration of the workings of Direct Legislation, and second, place the disposal of the large amounts of money which will be raised by municipal bonds in the right hands, the people who have the responsibility of repaying same in the form of taxes.

F. B. SULMAN.

Blackfoot, Alta.