

OFFICERS:	
Hon. President—James Bower	Red Deer
President—	
Vice-Presidents—	
First—D. W. Warner	Edmonton
Second—James Speakman	Fonhold
Third—E. Carswell	Red Deer
Fourth—Rice Sheppard	Strathcona
Hon. Secretary—E. J. Fream	Calgary
Hon. Treasurer—P. P. Woodbridge	Calgary

THE EDMONTON CONVENTION

We have just been informed by the Edmonton committee that the convention will be held in the Albion Hall, immediately at the rear of the big Ramsey Departmental Store, which is a conspicuous landmark in the city of Edmonton and will easily be found by the delegates. A strong reception committee has also been appointed, composed of members from U.F.A. unions and residents of the city of Edmonton, who will meet all trains at both stations. Probably a conspicuous sign will be found on the station and delegates on arrival should make for this sign in order to locate the representatives of this committee, who will have lists of hotels, prices, etc., and will be prepared to lead the delegates in parties to the hotel of their choice.

Electing District Directors

It has been suggested that the convention adjourn promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday for the purpose of holding preliminary caucuses for the position of district directors. These caucuses could be held very easily in the convention hall and adjoining committee rooms. The idea in mind would be to enable the different constituencies to eliminate a number of the nominees for office, thus saving considerable trouble and expense in the printing of ballot papers and some confusion and delay on account of there being so many candidates. Final nominations and ballots would take place in accordance with the program already sent you. Moreover, if this plan is followed out we should have only three or four candidates on the final ballot instead of ten or twelve as has been by no means uncommon in the past.

Delegates Bear in Mind

1—That you will greatly facilitate the work of the officers in charge by registering as soon as possible after your arrival at Edmonton. Members of the reception committee, who will be designated by special badges, can direct you to the registration office.

2—That the registration office will be open on the evening of January 18 until 10 p.m. and longer if necessary. We shall also be on hand in good time on Tuesday morning.

3—That your delegate's badge, which will bear at its bottom a number in red, will constitute your receipt for your standard certificates instead of the cards which we issued in former years. Keep that badge!

4—That we can assure the ladies who attend the women's convention of a splendid time in store for them and cannot too strongly urge upon them to come to Edmonton.

5—That your wife, mother, sister or daughter may secure the reduced railway fare (see back of credential card). Only official delegates, however, participate in the pool.

6—That your forethought and assistance can render this the best yet of our conventions, materially aiding your officers in carrying out the arrangements in connection therewith and considerably expediting the business of the convention.

SUNNY ALBERTA

Despite the fact that Sunny Alberta Union, No. 394, with headquarters at Hutton, is forty miles distant from a railway and is in a district which was hard hit by drought last year, the union is in a flourishing condition, having increased its membership in the past year by 100 per cent. Co-operative purchasing and the loyalty and active interest of its members has been responsible for the large measure of success attained this season. The union has handled one car of barbed wire, one half car of hog wire, two carloads of flour and a considerable quantity of fruit, formaldehyde and gopher poison. The financing of the co-operative purchasing has been placed on a sound business basis and the members generally are very well satisfied with the quality of the goods which have been supplied. The meetings of the union are generally well attended and some of them have been very enthusiastic. In addition, the social entertainments have been very successful, owing largely to the staunch support and energetic work

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.

of the ladies. On December 24, thru its second annual Xmas tree, the union served some 140 children of the adjacent district, covering a territory of ten miles wide by twenty miles long. Every child received a gift and treats of candy, nuts, apples, etc. An enjoyable program was given, one of the special features of which was a Japanese fan drill. Other events of the day were the big turkey shoot and the grand ball at night, both of which were largely attended. The members of the union regard this celebration as the most enjoyable event ever held by the union.

CEREAL DOING WELL

A. M. Phillips, secretary-treasurer of Cereal Union, No. 480, reports that the union held thirteen meetings during the past year, at which the total attendance was 285. The highest attendance at any one meeting was forty-one and the lowest ten, making an average of nearly twenty-two. Considerable buying in carloads has been done, amounting to \$3,080.35, which included three carloads of fence posts, one of flour and feed, two of coal and part cars of wire and binder twine. In all cases the members bought the several articles distributed, effecting a considerable saving. The financial state of the local is also very fair, there being a balance on hand of approximately \$18.

SUCCESSFUL EGG CIRCLE

Keep Hills Union, No. 639, has a very successful egg circle. At a recent meeting the income of the circle was stated to have been over \$300; most of which was for the 1000 dozen of eggshipped to Edmonton. The officers were re-elected and a more progressive program outlined for the coming season. A hundred turkeys have been sold from the Keep Hills Union at a saving to the members. At the same meeting the government distribution of pure-bred livestock was thoroughly discussed and the Keep Hills Shorthorn Breeders' Association formed. Potato growing in large quantities by the district was also discussed and the possibility of securing a rural free delivery.

BIG BUSINESS AT PONOKA

Ponoka District Association held its annual meeting on December 12 and all the 1914 officers were returned for the ensuing year. During the season the association has bought goods to the amount of \$12,800 and in addition has sold about \$40,000 worth of hogs. As the membership is expected to increase during the coming season, the officers naturally expect an increase in the amount of business done.

EDGERTON'S SAVINGS

On December 20, 1913, the Edgerton District Association was formed with Joseph Macleod, of the Winona Union, as president, and John W. Guthrie, of Sunnyvale Union, as secretary-treasurer. On the various articles handled thru the association last year the savings have been as follows: On formaldehyde and gopher poison, \$600; two carloads of wire, \$150; 40,000 lbs. of twine at 2½ cents saving on the lb., \$1,000; one carload of oats for feed, \$150; two carloads of apples, consisting of 320 barrels on which the saving was \$2 per barrel, \$640; nett savings for the district, \$2,490; earnings of district on commission, \$104.75.

WARRICKVILLE REPORTS

From a report received from Warrickville Union, No. 614, we note that although meetings have not been held very regularly during the busy season, they have commenced again. At a recent meeting, A. D. Currie was elected President for the coming year, and was also appointed delegate to the annual convention.

BUTTONS EVERYWHERE

Creighton Local Union, No. 191, held their annual meeting on the 1st instant, but owing to bad weather, the attendance was rather small. The same officers were elected for the coming year,

namely: President, Geo. Bennett; Vice-President, Harry G. Shannon, and Secretary-Treasurer, J. C. Shannon. The union has had a very successful year, having done considerable co-operative purchasing, and the co-operative spirit is very strong in the district. The district is rather a small one, but practically every farmer is wearing the U.F.A. button. The union is sending two delegates to the convention at Edmonton.

ALL HAVE BENEFITED

The Cayley Local U.F.A. annual meeting was held at Cayley on Friday afternoon, December 18. The members of the union are expecting every farmer in the district present at this meeting, as they are sure that they all have reaped some benefit from the union. They have handled half a car of wire, 5 carloads of posts, 1 car of binder twine, 3 cars of flour, bran and shorts, also 1 car of Ontario apples co-operatively during the past year, at a saving of about \$1,500. Besides this, the local branch of the Co-operative Elevator Company has kept the price of grain from three to seven cents per bushel higher than at points where there is no branch of the company. It is hoped that a good crowd will be in attendance at the meeting on the 18th.

EDWELL NEWS

The regular meeting of the Edwell Local Union, No. 53, was held in the school house on Wednesday, December 16. Although the attendance was not very large the members who were present were very wide awake. After the disposal of the minutes of the previous meeting the secretary read official communications from the head office, which were thoroughly discussed. These had reference principally to the forthcoming convention at Edmonton, at which this local union hopes to do its share. F. J. Powell proposed that this local union hold discussions on some subjects of interest to members generally, or that members either give an address or read a paper on some interesting subject each evening during the winter session, regular meetings being held once a fortnight. This proposition was seconded by J. F. Day, and carried unanimously. The secretary would like to hear from any member who will give a hand to make these meetings enjoyable, and would also be glad if he would state his subject. As this local union is about to enter on a new year's work, the secretary called the attention of the members to the fact that there were many farmers in the district, who, although appreciating the work of the U.F.A., did not think it necessary to become members, notwithstanding the fact that they benefited by the legislation obtained by its efforts. The secretary appealed to the members to make the Edwell Local Union the best and strongest in the district, as it is only by co-operating together that the best results can be obtained. The annual general meeting will be held on December 30, at 7.30 p.m. at which the elections for the coming year will take place.

TOFIELD ANNUAL REPORT

J. B. Warner, secretary of Tofield Union, No. 622, in submitting his annual report, states that that union is making very satisfactory progress. The membership is forty-three, nearly all of whom are actual farmers. The union is anxious to bring the social and instructive side of the association to the front in the coming year, and we wish them every success in the efforts they are making.

WAVY PLAIN REPORTS

We have again heard from Wavy Plain Union, No. 572. Fred Cox reports that the last meeting was held on November 12. Orders were taken for a carload of coal. Mr. Cox feels anxious in regard to the response to the appeal for new membership on account of the union being in the dry district, but from his report the union is evidently making

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

Victoria—P. S. Austin	Ranfurly
Edmonton—F. C. Clare	North Edmonton
Strathcona—W. G. Vicary	Strome
Red Deer—D. Buckingham	Stettler
Calgary—H. W. Wood	Strathmore
Macleod—J. Quinsey	Noble
Medicine Hat—W. D. Trego	Gleichen

itself felt, and doing a great deal of good in the district, not only in the way of saving money, but in bringing its influence to bear in the distribution of supplies, seed grain, and so on. The farmers will surely realize that their union is a great benefit to them in matters of this kind, and there should be no difficulty in keeping the union going, even tho the times may be hard.

NEW UNIONS

We have received reports of several new unions lately, two of them being in the vicinity of Empress. C. G. Price reported the organization of Pancras Union, No. 671, and forwarded membership dues for forty-two paid-up members, which constitutes almost a record for the organization meeting of a new union. It is hoped that this union will continue to make progress in accordance with the splendid start.

The other union in this vicinity is Empress Union, No. 673, which starts off with a total paid-up membership of twenty-one. Both of these unions are in what is known as the dried out district, so that their splendid starts are all the more creditable.

A new union to be known as the Talbot Local Union, No. 674, was organized on December 17 last, starting off with a membership of thirteen fully paid-up. C. R. Kerr has been appointed secretary-treasurer.

RED CROSS LEAGUE

The following poem is to hand from the secretary of Summerview Union, No. 147, together with the remittance of \$25.60 for the funds of the Red Cross League:—

Where the shrapnel shells are bursting,
Over trench and wood and glen,
And the rifle bullets' zip-zap
Sings the death song to our men;
Where our allies and our brethren
Risking life and health and limb,
Fight for happiness and freedom,
For the loved ones left behind.

Where the shrieking shells of siege guns
Batter frowning fortress walls
Making village, town and city,
But a hellish carnival.
Where the sabres go a-flashing;
Front of bayonets' vicious gleam,
Shearing limbs and leaving ghastly
Maimed humanity between.

Who are these that there's seen flitting,
Undismayed of death's near aim,
Rendering succour to our brethren
Lying writhing in their pain?
Who when evening shadows gather,
Or when searchlight from across,
Lights the darkness of the midnight,
Searching for our valiant host?

Who thru night and early dawning,
Darkness battling with the light,
Comes seeking, listening, learning,
Human suffering to aright?
Who are listening to our brethren
When at their last faint suffering breath
Whispered words of wife or sweetheart
Ebbing sighs from stiffening lips?

Who, the gruesome murder ended,
When the rage of battle's o'er,
When but pain and anguish linger,
When hope all but closed its doors?
Whose the staying words of comfort,
To our brethren sore in wounds,
Who that brings the quenching crystals,
Slaking thirst of burning tongue?

Who, that smooths the sufferer's pillow,
Wipes perspiring forehead smooth,
Stems the rising pain wroth billow,
Sooths the fever-wrinkled brow;
Who, but you, Oh, matchless heroes,
Sisters, brethren of our land,
Who in love went forth to succour
Miseries dealt by foeman's hand?

Hail to you, ye truly noble!
Noble League of holiest sign;
Your reward each mother's prayer
For the Red Cross League
Of our Empire land.