

Alberta Section

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

WHAT UNIONS ARE DOING

Strome Union is not in favor of any alteration in the municipality laws in Alberta, except that the Local Improvement Act should be amended so that the elections would be held the first Monday in November, instead of in January.

WM. LINDSAY, Sec'y.
Strome, Alta.

Jumbo Valley Union has decided in favor of the plan of Direct Legislation as laid down in the last circular of the central secretary. It was suggested that our plan of loading cars, so as to avoid demurrage charges, should be given. This is, when a farmer receives a car he notifies his neighbors and they help him haul until the car is loaded. By this plan there is hardly a dollar paid for demurrage in this district which is from five to eight miles from the station. A resolution was adopted in favor of a municipality of nine townships and approving of the single tax system of taxation.

Granum, Alta. D. CAMERON, Sec'y.

Moyerton Union has decided to meet on the second Monday of each month until further notice. The question of Direct Legislation came up and the members voted unanimously in favor of the petition as suggested in Circular No. 8. The decision of the central regarding the present political situation was highly endorsed, it being decided that it would be unwise to make any attempt at nominating candidates at such short notice.

HENRY BENNER, Sec'y.
Vanesti, Alta.

All the members of Windy Ridge Union are in favor of reciprocity and think it would be a good thing for Canada. We are also in favor of the organization of rural municipalities, same to consist of nine townships with nine divisions to a municipality. We favor the discontinuance of the straight acreage tax and are of opinion that the plan for the taxation of land values should be adopted. Land values should be taken to mean the value of land according to location, not improvements.

M. E. BABKA, Sec.
Windy Ridge, Alta.

Conditions in the Innisfree district are good. The crops are very heavy, but ten days later than last year. The grain is too far advanced now to get badly hurt, unless the frost is unusually heavy. For the first two weeks of August it was very dry, but since then there has been quite a lot of rain, which has delayed the ripening of the crops.

LEONARD T. NOBES, Sec.
Innisfree, Alta.

There is not much to report from the Beaver Creek Union at the present time as all the farmers are very busy with their harvesting. This is also a new part of

the country and settlement is not very thick, and as we have only a weekly mail service just at present, we are hampered. Wait till winter, though, and you will hear more of us.

J. A. DECHAINE, Sec.
Therion, Alta.

At the last meeting of Dalroy Union it was decided that an effort should be made to have E. J. Fream, the general secretary, and T. L. Swift, of the Grain Growers' Grain company, Calgary, pay this district a visit at as early a date as possible, and all being well, we expect a bumper crowd to meet them on Tuesday evening, September 12.

C. H. SCOTT, Sec.
Dalroy, Alta.

Nightingale Union has considered the municipal organization question, the result being the adoption of a resolution favoring the establishment of municipalities on the plan adopted in Saskatchewan, the size to be nine townships, or less, and the taxation of land values to be adopted.

HERBERT B. FRENCH, Sec.
Nightingale, Alta.

WHAT'S A FARMER?

While wishing to take part in this discussion, I do not want to give much consideration to the dictionary meaning of the word "business man." The dictionary is a useful book, an undisputed authority on some things, but it cannot settle this question satisfactorily. It must be determined by the spirit, the mind of the U. F. A., its objects, its aims, its policies. To refer to the dictionary for an answer to the question amounts almost to an evasion of the subject instead of facing the issue squarely, so please let us lay the book aside and deal with the matter from our own point of view and not take issue with anyone for the mistake he makes in the dictionary meaning of a word.

My opinion on the matter is somewhat different from those already expressed. As I understand the constitution, the U. F. A. was organized for the benefit of the farmer first, and secondarily for the good of the whole commonwealth, or in other words the reforms we seek would benefit the farmer directly and the great masses, including the business man, indirectly. If my view is right and the business men could see it in that way they ought to be willing to help the good work along, and it goes without saying that they could help us if they wished. I cannot see anything about the business man or his family that would unfit them for our social life. We can have friends in the town, welcome them to our house, visit them in their own homes to our mutual benefit, so why not welcome them to our Association. There can be no objection to their society and I think our interests are not conflicting. Where is the Alberta town in which the prosperity of the business man does not hinge upon the farmer?

Is it not reasonable to believe that out of the many business men in Alberta there could be found a goodly number that would help along a cause that offers relief to the masses and whose watchword is Equity?

We should look on all men as honest and honorable until they prove themselves otherwise, and when a business man seeks admission into the Association and wishes to become a bona fide member, with the avowed intention of helping along a movement which will make his life and the lives of all others brighter, we should welcome him. The business man is a useful member of society and is worthy of due respect, the same way that the foot is a useful member of our body even though it occupies a lowly position.

If a business man should join the association and it is found that he is seeking his own interests at the sacrifice of the farmers and the high standards which have been set up, then let him be dealt with accordingly, and let us determine right from the start that when any man, be he farmer or so-called business man, uses the association for anything save for the betterment of the masses, that he will be expelled, turned out in disgrace and never trusted again. The U. F. A. movement is meant for the farmers and the people and not for the individuals or the ring.

Dealing with the Endiang resolution

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References: Union Bank of Canada, Royal Bank of Canada.

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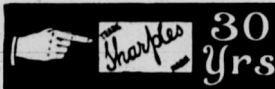
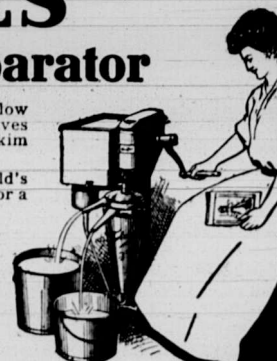
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as our own.

I believe someone stated that merchants barred all but merchants from their association and for that reason the farmers should follow suit. My answer to such an argument is that the Merchants' Association has for its aims their interests only. It is for their protection and it appeals only to themselves. Our aims are higher, nobler, more worthy of public recognition. They are far-reaching and we cannot afford to belittle them or to narrow our work down so that it will compare with the other associations. The reforms we seek would benefit the merchants while we do not stand to be benefitted by their work. They can if they wish work with us in bringing about the reforms we seek, but we cannot work with them, because their aims are for self-protection.

Let us always bear in mind that the U. F. A. was intended to educate men, to broaden their views, to enlarge their sympathy for others, to destroy class prejudice, to work together for the good of the country and to become better citizens.

AMOS WILTON.

Content, Alta.