

ployment to so many hands was used as the basis of their demands for cash bonuses and the right to levy a tribute on the people thru custom duties. As soon as war was declared the large implement manufacturing establishments of Toronto, Hamilton and Brantford were closed. The iron and steel plants of Nova Scotia and Ontario discharged their men and practically ceased operations, throwing thousands of men with their families on their own resources.

The question at once arises, why should the people be taxed in the interests of such institutions, to give employment to men in prosperous times, when employment is plentiful, but which will leave them to shift for themselves when employment is hard to get?

The plea offered is that war shut off their export business, consequently they had to cease operations. Government reports indicate that the two industries mentioned could not be affected in their export business to any great extent by the war as the largest percentage of their output was absorbed in Canada for domestic consumption.

The total iron and steel products in the census year 1911 is given as \$34,613,710 and the exports are less than \$2,500,000. The products of the agricultural implement factories is given as \$20,722,022. The total exports of that industry in 1912 are given as \$5,707,814, of which the following amounts have been sent to countries closed to us by the war:

Belgium	\$ 27,868
France	631,971
Germany	410,469
Roumania	101,016
Russia	1,405,889
Austria-Hungary ..	111,093
Total	\$2,688,306
Total Exports	\$5,707,814
	2,688,306
	\$3,019,508

The balance of their exports, \$3,019,508, has been sent to such countries as Britain, Argentina, Australia and other British possessions, which are still open to Canadian business. Only 13% of the agricultural implement manufacturing business has been adversely affected by the war.

As far as the agricultural implement industry is concerned, the facts are that about 70% of their output is disposed of on the home market. The trouble of the implement manufacturers, if they have trouble, is due, not to the war, but to the fact that the Canadian farmers' resources have been bled by business restrictions and economic burdens artificially imposed upon them in the interest of financial institutions, transportation companies and manufacturing industries to such an extent that their purchasing power is so reduced that they can no longer support those artificially created industries and big businesses.

An outstanding feature of the situation is that the people who were most active in propagating the doctrine of "build up Canada by building factories" are now just as actively trying to induce farmers to raise more crops to get the country out of "the hole" we got into by our economic folly. There is no suggestion made, however, by these men to remove the burden of tariff taxation placed upon our farmers that was the immediate cause of arresting the progress of agriculture in Canada, more especially in the prairie provinces.

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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

GENTLE REMINDERS

Altho there has been a voluminous correspondence between the secretary of North Pole Union, No. 501, and the Central office, no dues have been received since very early in the year, consequently this union has been placed on the suspended list. We cannot understand why, when there appears to be such an active interest taken in U.F.A. affairs, that the business affairs of the union should not have been more closely looked after.

Energetic Union, No. 502, has not lived up to its name this year as we have received no report from the secretary, but we hope that this will be remedied in the near future, now that the busy season of the year is past, and that there will be some evidence of life from this hitherto active union.

U.F.A. NEEDED

In his last letter to this office R. O. McClay, secretary of Maple Leaf Union, No. 504, writes as follows:—

"The drought has been severe here. There are no crops with a consequent scarcity of feed and money among the members. As for myself, I expect to move up to Eckville, close to Red Deer, and I think many more of our members would move if they had the means."

We have received no further reports from Mr. McClay and the union has been placed on the suspended list, so we have concluded that Mr. McClay is no longer secretary of the union and that there has been a failure to elect a new secretary. Altho conditions in this district are very discouraging to the settlers, on that very account it should be apparent to them that their need of the U.F.A. is greater than ever before and we hope to receive notice of a revival of interest there at an early date, as this has always been one of the liveliest union in that section of the province.

AN AMALGAMATION

Sometime during the spring S. L. Hooper, of Mere Union, No. 513, wrote that the members of Sibbald Union had decided that it would be better to unite with Mere Union and so make one strong organization instead of two weak ones. This union was accomplished and the results have been very satisfactory according to subsequent reports, a branch of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. having been established at their nearest railway point and many other activities engaged in. To date the secretary has remitted dues to this office for seventy-three members. The inclusion, therefore, of the Sibbald Union on the suspended list was an error as its former members are now in good standing as members of the Mere Union.

RE-ORGANIZATION NECESSARY

Golden Chief Union, No. 506, was organized in the spring of 1913 with Chas. Kent, secretary-treasurer and a remittance made for four members. Apparently little progress was made from this time on as shortly afterwards all correspondence from this point ceased. We should be only too glad to hear of or give any assistance to the re-organization of this union, as we are confident that their need of the U.F.A. is as great as it was a year ago.

AN ALARMING SILENCE

The last communication from W. J. Peck, of Four Ways Union, No. 507, was in the form of a request for prices on gopher poison. Altho this union is still in good standing, we are wondering for what purpose the gopher poison was used as the absence of reports recently would seem rather ominous in view of this request.

HOW'S COLHOLME?

Colholme Local Union, No. 508, was another one of our unions organized in the spring of 1913, which for some reason also became dormant shortly after organization and remained so until this summer. The re-organization was effected with the assistance of Messrs. Fee and Dunkley, of Northampton Union. Up to this time, however, the only indication of the activity of this union has been a small purchase of supplies. We are at a loss

to understand why the membership dues from this union have not been forwarded and cannot think that it is because of lack of funds in the treasury of this union, as we understand that a considerable sum was turned over to the present secretary from the old organization, but as no report or remittance has been made, Colholme Union should properly be placed on the suspended list.

SWALWELL QUIET

Swalwell Union, No. 509, is apparently at a standstill having made no gain in membership dues this year to our knowledge. No reports have reached us from the newly appointed secretary of this union beyond the one letter in which was enclosed dues for thirteen members.

ALTORADO RE-INSTATED

Altorado Union, No. 268, published among our list of suspended unions, is now re-instated and re-appears on our list of active unions, having forwarded dues for seventeen members.

A LEIGHTON NOTE

Leighton Union, No. 512, is credited on our books with dues for fifteen members, but no accounts have reached us on any of the union's activities.

WHY THIS SLUMBER?

Ranching Union, No. 516, and Rose-lynn Union, No. 517, apparently have made no progress since organization and have not reported this year at all. These cases are by no means unusual, for unions are enthusiastic enough at organization, but die in their early infancy. It would be interesting to hear from some of these unions as to the cause of their hibernation.

CLEMENS WORKING

One of our active unions is Clemens, No. 522, Henry R. Rice, of Clemens, secretary. The union has a membership of twenty-five, fully paid up, and is very interested in co-operative purchasing, etc. In the last letter received the secretary reports that they have taken orders for nearly three carloads of Drumheller coal, which they have been able to secure at a considerable saving.

RED ROSE UNION

Red Rose Union, No. 523, is credited on our books with nineteen paid up members for this year. J. F. Portfors, secretary of the union, reports regularly and in his last letter to this office informed us that there were twenty-eight paid up members on his books. Doubtless a remittance will be coming thru shortly which will give this union an increase in membership over last year.

A STIMULANT NEEDED

Metiskow Branch of the U.F.A. got away to a good start in 1913, with a membership of twenty-two, but is now dormant. As there are so many unions to which the same thing has happened we should like to hear from any of their officers or members with suggestions as to means of revival.

WANT CO-OPERATIVE STORE

J. A. Dunkley, the energetic secretary of Northampton Union, No. 525, has remitted for twenty-three members so far this year. Crops in this district were very poor this year, but the union is not discouraged on this account, but recognizes the increased value of co-operative effort. They have been considering the establishment of a co-operative store for some time, but we understand that the leading members of the union will keep hammering at this proposition until it becomes an accomplished fact.

A GROWING UNION

The secretary of Miner's Coulee Union, No. 503, states that their membership is thirty-four strong, dues for twenty-four of whom have been sent to this office. This is a gratifying increase in membership which will probably be further added to before the end of the year.

CO-OPERATION WILL HELP

Custer Union, No. 526, also continues to make substantial gains. Their secretary reports that attendance and interest

have lapsed somewhat during the summer, but that he expected an increase in both in the fall as the union then expected to make co-operative purchases of flour, coal and various other commodities.

NEWS WANTED FROM EDBERG

Edberg Union, No. 528, forwarded dues for eighteen members in January, 1914, but with the exception of one letter received on February 12 nothing has been heard from them since. Now that the busy season is over we trust that the members will get together again and hold regular meetings.

LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN

Scotstoun Union, No. 529, is another one of our lost, strayed or stolen unions. The union is still in good standing as we received a letter from the secretary in March enclosing dues for four members. Any information furnished concerning this union will be welcomed by the Central office. Altho the membership of this union has never been very large, they made co-operative purchases last year to a considerable extent and it is to be hoped that reports will soon be coming in again regularly.

IN THE DRY BELT

Berenice Union, No. 531, which is in the dry belt, just north of Medicine Hat, reports no crops this year, in addition to which prairie fires did considerable damage. Most of the members had been absent during harvest and threshing in more fortunate districts, but their secretary, J. F. McLarnan, states that they are beginning to return and their local will soon be under full swing again.

BREED CREEK PROGRESSING

O. B. Wickersham, of Aden, secretary of the Breed Creek Local, No. 533, has reported regularly, with the exception of two or three months in the summer. Mr. Wickersham has remitted for thirty-one members this year, which is an improvement over last year's record. Mr. Wickersham also says: "Our local is coming on very well, altho it seems hard to get many farmers interested enough to attend the meetings."

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