

Hon. Pres.—James Bower Red Deer
 President—W. J. Tregillus Calgary
 Vice-Presidents—First, D. W. Warner,
 Edmonton; Second, James Speakman,
 Penhold; Third, E. Carswell, Red Deer;
 Fourth, Rice Sheppard, Strathcona.
 Hon. Sec.—E. J. Fream Calgary
 Sec. Treas.—P. P. Woodbridge Calgary

DIRECTOR TREGO'S LETTER

The following letter has been sent by W. D. Trego, the newly appointed Director for the Medicine Hat constituency to all the secretaries of Local Unions in his district. We hope that it will receive general attention from our members.—P. P. W.

Medicine Hat District U.F.A.

Gleichen, Alta., Feb. 1, 1914.

Dear Sir,—Another convention has passed and I think we were all very much pleased with most things that took place. It was especially gratifying to me to notice that the members of the Alberta Government have come to consider the United Farmers of Alberta as a power to be reckoned upon, and that we will be able to get some support from them at least in the future.

I was, however, disappointed that the matter of co-operative buying was passed up with so little discussion, as it was very evident from the resolutions presented, that the time is about ripe for a move in that direction for the benefit of all. It is my personal opinion that a good strong wholesale store, operated at Calgary, with sufficient capital to be able to buy everything we use direct from the manufacturers, would be able to make a very great saving for every farmer in Alberta, and in fact all consumers of Calgary, who would be able to buy supplies in wholesale quantities. The same organization could do a great amount of good in the marketing of farmers' produce in a wholesale way. It is true that The Grain Growers' Grain Company and the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company Limited can do us a great deal of good along certain lines, but I think we need another organization to handle such articles as they are not able to handle.

I am of the opinion that if the matter were taken up in the proper manner, that by going to the farmers of the entire province and the laboring classes as well that we could get enough stock subscribed to start a good strong company, and by going to the government for a loan, for the money to buy the necessary property and erect the buildings, the loan to be along the same lines as the loan to the elevator company, I do not see why we could not get the business started in the present year. Will you take this matter up in your union and see how your members feel, and report back to me, so I may take the matter up with the Board of Directors, if sufficient interest is manifested to warrant it.

Organization Work

Another thing I wish to discuss with you is the matter of pushing the organization work. It is very evident from the reports from Ottawa, that the strength of the organized farmers of the West is not being reckoned on down there very much yet, or they would not treat our demands for tariff reduction with silent contempt, nor would they be considering another donation of the people's money to the Canadian Northern Railway to the enormous amount of \$25,000,000.

It is very evident that if we are not to be fleeced indefinitely by the leaders of the political parties that we must all get together and not keep one half of the people pulling against the other half, and the only way of doing this is by all getting together in the United Farmers of Alberta and all reading and following the instructions laid down in The Guide. Have you stopped to think what a large scope of country the Medicine Hat District covers, and how many farmers are living within this district who are not yet members of the United Farmers of Alberta nor readers of The Grain Growers' Guide? Most of them would be glad to become both members of the organization and readers of The Grain Growers' Guide if the matter was only presented to them in the right manner. I would like to be able to put the matter up to every one of them, but this is out of the question. I, like yourself, have a family to support, but I am ready

and anxious to do what I can to help the good work along and I sincerely hope that you feel the same way.

Getting New Guide Readers

Now is the time, from now until spring, to do this work while we have the time to spare, and while the other farmers have the time to get out to meetings to listen and to read the articles which are appearing in The Guide every week. It is a pity that these articles are not sinking deep into the minds of every farmer throughout the entire West, but more especially those who are among us, to whom we could go out and spread the gospel, if we only woke up and got busy.

Will you do your part to try to get every farmer in this entire district into the ranks before seeding time, this coming spring? Do you know of any other men in your locality who could go out and help with this work? If so, see them and get them to write to me at once, as I want to get every available man busy right away. I presume you are an agent for The Grain Growers' Guide, and I would ask that you see to it that every member who is not reading it starts in at an early date. If you cannot get them to subscribe, get them to promise to read a few sample copies and get them started in that way, and if they have any desire to better their conditions they can hardly refrain from continuing to read such a paper.

Hoping to hear from you at an early date, with a report stating that you are doing your very best to secure new members for your own union, and readers for The Guide, and are willing to go out and organize new unions, I beg to remain, yours respectfully,

W. D. TREGO,

Director, Medicine Hat District.

Keen Interest at Bingen

The following report has been received from A. J. Halquist, of Weybridge Local Union No. 458: We held a large farmers' meeting at Bingen on January 14, which was presided over by R. K. Peck, the organizer for the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. He spoke briefly and well to the point and answered all questions in a very able manner. We were well pleased with his remarks on co-operative buying and selling. We are hoping to have an elevator with shares fully subscribed and in readiness to market our grain at Nemiscan in the fall of the year. Our Local was very busy at the last meeting, when a keen interest was shown by members to send some delegates to our annual convention. After much discussion it was decided to send A. L. Hoer and H. W. Knauss and a committee of three were appointed to arrange a concert and dance to liquidate the delegates' expenses.

The annual meeting of the Amundson Union No. 413 was held on December 11. The meeting was called to order with the president as chairman. Officers for 1914 are as follows: President, G. Price; vice-president, W. J. Ewing; secretary-treasurer, E. R. Morley. The report of the financial standing was then read. Our secretary was instructed to pay our share of deficit re Highland banquet as soon as full statement is returned to him by the secretary of the Highland banquet. S. R. Sylvester was appointed by the chair to take orders for flour. An interesting address was delivered by G. Price on the subject of "Interest."

Ferry Bank Union Started

The following is a report of the Ferry Bank Union No. 578, which has just been organized: A meeting was called in the Ferry Bank schoolhouse for the purpose of forming a local of the United Farmers of Alberta. The meeting was opened with N. McEwen in the chair. Mr. Harper gave a short talk on the object of forming the U. F. A. and the advantages of belonging to same. Mr. Canning, of Lacombe, gave an example of the work done by the Locals of the U.F.A. around Lacombe. It was moved by W. Stewart,

and seconded by M. Arundel, that Wm. Hoar act as president. Moved by Jno. Stewart, seconded by W. R. Smith, that Chas. Kay be vice-president. Moved by Chas. Crandell, seconded by M. Crandell, that N. McEwen be secretary-treasurer. The following directors were also elected: W. R. Smith, M. Crandell, A. Siesel, S. Knudson, Chas. Crandell and D. W. Mays. It was moved and seconded that the next meeting be held at Ferry Bank schoolhouse, on Feb. 5. It was moved by Chas. Kay, and seconded by N. McEwen that a vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Bullock and Mr. Harper for kindly assisting us in forming this Local.

Raley Branch Organized

A meeting of the farmers of the Raley district was held at the Raley schoolhouse on January 19. After a little discussion in regard to the object of the meeting, the decision was arrived at to organize a local union of the United Farmers of Alberta. H. A. Walter was appointed temporary chairman and E. F. Church temporary secretary. We then proceeded to elect permanent officers of the union for the year 1914. L. H. Jeliff was unanimously elected president and H. A. Walter vice-president. A motion was moved, seconded and carried that the chairman make the appointment of six directors. The chairman appointed the following: A. G. Robertson, A. Dower, A. Darby, H. J. Flock, E. F. Church and C. H. Olson. A motion was carried that the regular monthly meetings be held at the Raley schoolhouse on the first Saturday evening of each month, the time of meeting to be 7.30 p.m. in the winter and 8 p.m. in summer. The directors were given an opportunity to confer in order to appoint a secretary-treasurer. The result of the conference was that E. F. Church was appointed secretary-treasurer.

COWLEY CO-OPERATED TO EX-TENT OF \$8,421

The annual meeting of Cowley Local Union 106 was held on Saturday, Dec. 27, the hall being filled and many being unable to get inside. This speaks for the standing of our Association in the district. President Buchanan called the meeting to order at 2.15 p.m. commencing to review the year's work with the beef ring, which had proved such a success and saving to the farmers who took this opportunity of getting their beef at the cost of production, also the purchasing of three cars of flour and mill feed, one of salt, one of binder twine and four of coal. This collective buying enabled those who bought in small quantities to buy at wholesale prices. The president also remarked that last December we had a membership of fifty, today we have one hundred and fifty-three. This alone shows that farmers have come to realize that if we are to accomplish anything we must organize, and organization means "progress," the motto of our union. The balance sheet was read by L. M. Peel, who emphasized the amount saved to the members by purchasing in car lots, taking merchants' prices as the basis. The commodities handled by the Association amounted to the sum of \$8,421.00. A vote of thanks was moved by J. C. Drewry approving the excellent manner the directors and officers had managed their business in. The election of officers being the next business, W. T. Eddy nominated G. W. Buchanan for another term. He declined, thanking the members for their kindness and the courtesy which had been shown him during the five years he had occupied the president's chair. Mr. Buchanan was then elected honorary president, and L. M. Peel president, by acclamation; Thos. Sheppard, vice president; J. Kemmis, J. Bennett, C. V. Hodgson, J. McLean, R. Welsh and W. Nickason, directors; R. Coates, secretary. Fifteen delegates were appointed to go to Leth-

District Directors:

Victoria—P. S. Austin, Ranfurly; Edmonton—F. C. Clare, South 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.

bridge to take part in the deliberations of the U.F.A. annual convention. The matter of providing proper facilities for marketing live stock and the high freight rates charged from points in Southern Alberta to points in the United States were discussed. A committee, consisting of J. C. Drewry, C. Elton and R. Staunton, were appointed, and are now in communication with Mr. Stevens, Live Stock Commissioner, who will arrange for a committee to meet the Railway Commission. This brought to a close one of the best meetings held for a long time.

Annual Dance

The annual dance took place on January 16, which proved a splendid success, the fine weather enabling ninety-two couples to be present, the hall being far too small to accommodate such a large gathering. Dancing commenced at nine o'clock, the Coleman Orchestra furnishing the music, great credit being due to the performers. Refreshments were served at midnight, provided by the ladies of the Union, who must be complimented for the bountiful supply of cakes and sandwiches. After partaking of the good things provided, our president, Mr. Peel, spoke a few words, remarking that without any doubt this was the best and most enjoyable dance ever held in Cowley. It also gave him much pleasure to convey the wishes of the whole Union to our honorary president, Mr. Buchanan, wishing him many happy returns on this, his birthday. Mr. Peel urged all members to give the best of their energy to the scheme which would be laid before them on January 31, as nothing will help to solve the financial troubles of farmers more than co-operative trading. The past year's activities in co-operation and fellowship have proved that self-help is the only help that will bring permanent relief, and wherever you find men taking an active part in the public welfare there you find a live association. We have got away from the old pessimistic idea that farmers cannot stand together. Our enterprises during the past year have proved that "Unity is Strength," and to battle with the great interests we must unite. In conclusion, Mr. Peel urged all members to help along the monthly bulletin, both in advertising and any matter of interest for the good of the Union. V. B. Hawkins in his usual style sang "Till the sands of the desert grow cold," and "I would like to live in love land." Dancing was continued until four o'clock, everyone having enjoyed themselves and all were full of praise to the dance committee of Local 106.

How Co-operation Pays

The annual meeting of the Horsehaven U.F.A. No. 460 was held in the district schoolhouse on December 20, 1913. The turnout was a good one, there being about fifty-five present out of a roll of eighty-one members. The ordinary business of the meeting was first done and another carload of lumber ordered. The delegates to be present at the convention were appointed. Afterwards an account of the business done was read showing a turn-over of \$7,224. Since March the Union has bought eleven carloads of goods and another carload of lumber is on order. The good work of the U.F.A. is shown in the moderation in prices of lumber, flour, apples, etc. locally. Lumber can be bought from \$5 to \$6 per 1,000 feet cheaper, flour 30c to 40c per 100 lbs. cheaper and apples sold to the members at \$2 cost the non-members \$2.50. The officers for 1914 were then elected. We had two socials and dances to raise funds for the building of a barn at the schoolhouse to accommodate the members' teams during the meetings, and a third, to be held on New Year's Eve, will probably raise enough. Prospects for further expansion are good and our membership is likely to reach the 100 mark early in the New Year. We wish all our friends in the U.F.A. good luck and prosperity in 1914.