

OVER \$1,000 FOR Y.M.C.A.

The following communication has been received from Geo. C. Weger, president of the Lakeside local:

"Enclosed please find cheque for \$1,005.60 which amount we wish to add to the U.F.A. fund for the Y.M.C.A. at the front. This sum represents the net return from a joint auction sale held in Lacombe on December 1, under the auspices of the three local unions directly contiguous to Lacombe, viz., Arbordale, Spruceville and Lakeside. With very few exceptions every article donated, and every cash subscription came from the farmers. And the purchasers at the sale were all farmers.

"One rooster brought \$100.50 which we think, is close to a record. Had it not been for the sudden very cold and stormy weather our returns would have at least been doubled. The response was so generous that we have decided to hold a sale of this kind about every three months.

Your office has not received many patriotic donations from this locality because our local organizations have solicited us most religiously for the good of the cause. However, in view of the fact that certain press agents reported at our last annual, that there was a lack of response and patriotic fervour in the assembly, we trust this small contribution will further help to discredit such unwarranted assertions.

"Will you kindly acknowledge receipt to the secretaries of each of these local unions, viz., Arbordale, Spruceville and Lakeside, so they each may know their efforts were appreciated?"

GOOD MEETING AT ALIX

A special meeting was called for Friday, December 7, in Alix, when very interesting addresses were given by H. W. Wood, president, U.F.A., and W. F. Stevens, livestock commissioner. The meeting was held at 8 p.m. and considering the weather which was the worst sample we have had this year, the attendance, between 70 and 80, was very satisfactory. The chief object of the meeting was to encourage increased hog production. Mr. Stevens gave figures showing the serious decrease in the number of livestock in the Allied countries in Europe, especially in hogs, and pointed out the vital necessity of bacon in the feeding of our armies. He did not ask farmers to go in for hog raising on a very large scale, but insisted that it was the patriotic duty of every farmer to keep a few brood sows and that by doing so they would be doing their bit towards winning the war as the men at the front and the munition workers were doing theirs. Mr. Wood said that competition fostered militarism, and the only way to destroy militarism was to substitute co-operation for competition. He pointed out that in the early ages co-operation was confined to the family; from the family it spread to the tribe; from the tribe to the nation, and today we see the spectacle of all the Allied nations co-operating together to destroy militarism and save democracy. He emphasized the critical position of transportation and that owing to their proximity to Europe and the shortage of shipping, the Allies were almost wholly dependent on Canada and the United States to supply them and their armies with food. We cannot win the war if we cannot feed our armies. The number of men the United States can send over is limited by their ability to furnish them with food and to transport them to Europe. There was considerable discussion on the hog market and the packers and their methods came in for a good deal of criticism from those present. The meeting seemed to be of opinion that the most satisfactory results could be obtained by farmers selling through their own company, the United Grain Growers.

ORGANIZE A SEED CENTRE

The Grain Growers' Guide has arranged to give absolutely free of charge to every local association in Manitoba sufficient of world prize winning registered wheat, oats, or barley to provide foundation stock for every member of the local. By securing this grain and organizing a seed centre, the yield of the entire community can be increased by at least five bushels per acre. Information is being forwarded to every local secretary. We will be pleased to forward full details to any member of any local making application. Address, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

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.

LIVESTOCK RESOLUTIONS

The following are some of the resolutions passed at the conference of representatives of the various livestock interests of Western Canada and the U.F.A. in regard to increased hog production. The meeting was held in Ottawa in November:

We, the representatives of the swine growing interests of the four western provinces here assembled, believe that the buying policy of Great Britain, as announced by the associated press of November 7 to the effect that all buying of meats for the allied countries shall hereafter be done at Chicago will prove detrimental to the Canadian meat-producing interests in that it will tend to put the meat trade of the Dominion in the hands of our strongest competitors, and thereby develop an economic situation after the war is over that will be detrimental to the interests of Canada;

And we would respectfully ask that the Honorable the Minister of Trade and Commerce immediately open negotiations to have direct trade relations re-established between this Dominion and the mother country.

Marketing Livestock

We, the representatives of the stock growing interests of the four western provinces here assembled, recommend that the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture do at once make such arrangements as may be necessary to properly transport and store our animals and animal products, particularly we would ask that cold storage facilities be established and operated by the government at Halifax, N.S., to care for all Canadian perishable food stuffs for export.

Whereas, during the past the markets and especially the hog markets have been repeatedly depressed temporarily by over supply, thus causing severe financial loss to the producers, and

Whereas, notwithstanding this reduced price paid the producer, the finished product has not been sold to the home consumers, the British empire or to our allies at correspondingly low values, but has simply augmented the profits of the packers, and

Whereas, these temporary depressions are in a great many cases avoidable by the distribution of information advising produce and country buyers and other interested parties to withhold shipments for a time.

Therefore be it resolved that the Food Controller be asked to supply for Canada wide publication through effective channels information as to the existence of conditions which, by blocking of export of products at certain times or other causes, might temporarily depress the market and that with this information be coupled proper advice as to the quantity that could be profitably absorbed.

Conscript Vacant Land

Whereas it has been represented to us, the delegates of the swine growing interests of the four western provinces, that the greatest needs, not only of the Dominion of Canada, but also of the allied countries are meats and wool.

And whereas, there are in our western provinces large areas of unoccupied lands which are unused and upon which the grass is permitted to accumulate from year to year until it becomes a menace to the settlers of the adjacent districts because of fire;

Therefore, be it resolved that the grazing possibilities of such unused areas be conscripted as a war measure and as a measure of safeguarding the lives and property of the settlers and that they be administered by the department of agriculture in such a way as will result in the largest possible use of such land by the settlers in the vicinity, and where not required by such settlers to induce stockmen from other districts or provinces to use under suitable regulations, the material that is now annually going to waste on such lands.

Be it further resolved that with a view

to securing the greatest possible results from the foregoing, the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture, formulate at the earliest possible moment a policy for conserving and increasing the female stock of the country.

Whereas, a grave crisis exists in the matter of a sufficient supply of staple foods necessary for the sustenance of the soldiers and civilian populations of the allied European nations, and

Whereas, increased production in Canada is unquestionably dependent upon an adequate supply of efficient farm labor, and

Whereas, many farmers and farm laborers of military age will not claim exemption under the provision of the Military Service Act,

Therefore, we the members of this pork production conference consider it imperative that immediate action be taken to exempt automatically bona-fide farm laborers of military age.

Whereas there is a failure to secure regular delivery of a sufficient supply of mill feeds which are now going to the United States in large quantities, and

Whereas farmers or co-operative farmers' companies and societies are still having great difficulty in purchasing straight cars of bran and shorts without the inclusion of flour and patent meals, and

Whereas as yet no definite steps appear to have been taken to prevent the miller and the vendor of these feeds from manipulating market prices, and

Whereas the difficulties of transportation in getting immediate delivery of such feeds are yet a factor hindering increased production;

Be it resolved that this conference most heartily endorses the report of the committee on feeds appointed by the conference of eastern livestock representatives and wish to lay particular emphasis on the immediate needs of the farmer in obtaining mill by-products in large quantities at a fair valuation and free from adulteration, particularly with black seeds which are extremely detrimental in the feeding of young pigs.

H. E. SPENCER'S LETTER

The following is a copy of a letter from Director H. E. Spencer to the members in his constituency:

Now that the busy season of harvest, threshing and grain hauling is over, let us all throw our energies into the workings of our locals, and do our best not only to put in a good attendance, but to make meetings as interesting as possible.

At the present time, business is good for the farmer and labor is scarce. It is therefore quite to be expected that farmers should get a little slack in their U.F.A. work. Markets have been favorable for the farmer since the war, but we do not know when conditions may change, and the farmers will have to face much smaller profits for their labor, and will also have to face the necessity of helping to repay the huge war debts the country owes.

There are other sides of life to be considered besides the dollars and cents; but it is of little use trying to get better homes, healthier children, better schools and a brighter country, before the economic conditions are on a just and equitable basis.

One reason why farmers organize slowly, is because as a class they are isolated and have poor means of communication. For that very reason every effort should be made to build rural telephones, bring in mail delivery and encourage good roads; all of which can best be done by organized effort.

The motto today is organization; it is nation wide. Germany would have been beaten long ago had she not been so thoroughly organized; and now that our nation is putting forth her supreme effort, she is organizing on every hand, as only through it can she accomplish her best. It is more necessary than ever therefore for agriculture to organize, not only for the benefit of the

farmer, but for the nation's need at this time of trial and stress, for what benefits the country's basic industry must needs be of economic value to the nation.

Not until the communities organize and work as communities instead of the present individual work will they accomplish their best. We must cultivate the community spirit, not only for economic but social purposes, and realize our duty for community betterment, as well as personal gain. Many are showing they think this country worth dying for, we want to make it a country worth living in.

A feature of organization which should come home to the farmer is in the matter of marketing his livestock. A big movement is on foot in this province for farmers to co-operate in shipping their stock on consignment to the United Grain Growers at the stock yards at Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. This movement is being fought strenuously by the drovers or middle men. It is difficult to understand why the farmers, having the same market as the drover to which to ship their stock, have not seen this very businesslike and profitable way of selling their stock before.

Raising The Membership Fee

The question of raising the membership fee to \$2.00 will be taken up at the convention. I sincerely hope that the delegates will be instructed by their locals to vote for it; there are many reasons why it should be raised. The fee was put at one dollar when the association was small and did not undertake a great deal. The number of directors has been increased; and although they do not get the wage of ordinary labor, their travelling expenses, etc., have to be met. The Central office staff has been enlarged and it has been found necessary to engage the full time of our president. At the present time we accept a grant from the government; and though the association earns the money, it would be much better to finance ourselves. Nearly all other organizations have a higher subscription. A suggestion I would like to make is that each local obtain a copy of the School and Municipal Ordinances, the Grain Act and Government Loan Act, so that the members may keep in touch with these different phases of the country life.

The convention is drawing near, and I trust that each local will send its full number of delegates. It is an education for us all to meet there once a year, and if a man pays his own expenses, it is money well spent.

HENRY E. SPENCER.

Director.

Battle River Constituency.

A meeting of the executive of the U.F.A. was held in the Central office on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 11-12, at which a number of matters in connection with the convention were discussed and dealt with. The president, secretary and Mrs. Barrett, secretary of the U.F.W.A. were appointed a special committee to take charge of the program. It is anticipated that unless a number of new matters come up between now and the time of the convention that the resolutions received to date will not occupy the full time of the convention, and efforts will be made to secure two or three speakers on economic subjects, of national or even international fame, to address the delegates the latter part of the session. The hog production and other routine matters, including the hail insurance question were dealt with. The members present consisted of Messrs. H. W. Wood, W. D. Trego, P. Baker, S. S. Dunham and Mrs. W. Paribby.

Wm. Johnston of Elnora local writes: "We had with us at Elnora on Wednesday evening, December 12, District Director J. E. Blore of the U.F.A., but owing to the weather conditions there was not a large crowd present. Those in attendance, however, were very enthusiastic, so we resolved to re-organize and enrolled a number of fully paid-up members at the meeting. Officers were elected and a delegate appointed to represent us at the convention. For the winter's program it was arranged to have a series of papers and effect an exchange of speakers with the neighboring unions, which we trust will attract a good attendance and maintain the enthusiasm and activity of our members."