

## STRATHCONA UNION

The first meeting of Strathcona Union this year was held in the Baalam Block on Saturday, January 29th. President G. R. Ball in the chair. The attendance was large and much interest taken in matters up for discussion. The president invited the delegates who attended the convention to report. F. H. Herbert stated that he thought the convention had got through a lot of important business and that much good would result. He dealt at some length with the resolutions passed; most of them he was able to support. Other delegates thought Mr. Herbert had covered the ground, so preferred not to take time. The president then called on Rice Sheppard to report. He stated that Strathcona Union No. 1 must be congratulated on the success achieved at the convention. As eight of the most important resolutions passed were sent in by Union No. 1, Strathcona, namely: Pork Packing Plant Resolution, Chilled Meat Export Resolution, Family Ticket, Life Membership, Amendments to Fair Ordinance, Car Distribution Act, More Prompt Payments of Grants to Seed Fairs, and Elevator Resolutions. This was a record to be proud of, and Strathcona Union had the honor of first life member in the person of its secretary, also T. Housby and G. E. Bentall have become life members, and paid the fees, \$10 each, so to date Strathcona had three life members.

A good deal of discussion followed on the Pork Packing Contract, that was passed at the convention, and the general feeling was that the contract was not just satisfactory, and that farmers should be advised to well consider what they were signing. On motion of Messrs. Herbert and Fulton the meeting decided to make a special effort to get the matter well discussed at next meeting. Moved by Messrs. Fulton and Groves "That the secretary get large posters printed requesting all farmers to be present at next meeting, and that the Live Stock Commissioner be asked to attend to answer questions in respect to the pork packing scheme."—Carried. Next meeting to be held on Saturday, February 26, at one p.m. in the Baalam Block. Moved by Messrs. Ewen McDonald and Schman "That local unions be asked to send delegates to this meeting."—Carried.

F. H. Herbert introduced the following resolution, seconded by C. Peel, and it was carried: "To Hon. Mr. Cushing, Minister of Public Works. Resolved, That the Strathcona Union No. 1 of the U.F.A. as farmers express their appreciation of the Government Telephone service, at a reasonable price, viz., \$15 a year, but we find that new phones now being installed are being charged \$20 and we have been informed that they are likely to be raised to \$25 a year. Under the present costly and unbusinesslike manner by which the lines are erected there seems to be no limit to what they may cost. We therefore ask the Department of Public Works to call for contracts for the erection of rural phones, believing that by so doing the cost will be much reduced to the public."

R. Weir moved, seconded by Mr. Allanson, "That we open our monthly meetings at 1 p.m. instead of 2 p.m."—Carried.

Some discussion took place on the milk question, and the general feeling of the farmers present was that the tax placed on the cows milked for the supply of the city of Edmonton was an imposition, and could not be collected. The question of forming a Milk Producers' Association was taken up, and it was decided that as a committee had been appointed to wait on the Edmonton Council, we wait the report of that committee before taking action. It was suggested that the U.F.A. be asked to take up the question and help the milk producers to fight out the matter, as most all are members of the U.F.A. This will be done, should the committee not be successful in getting the tax taken off.

Secretary Sheppard was requested to see the Minister of Agriculture re grants to Seed Fair, as the money is required to pay prizes.

## BLACKFOOT UNION

At the annual meeting of Blackfoot Union held on January 13, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. Donaldson; Vice-President, E. Plater; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Stone; Executive, G. Truscott, A. Gordon, J. Biddle, J. Preston, F. Sulman.

Satisfaction was expressed on the work done by the union in 1909. Organized

in March, the first work taken up was the concentration of the telephone, post-office and store under one roof. Previously they were in three separate spots and spread over two miles of ground. The farmers of the district have been taught the advantages of marketing their grain direct to the terminal elevators. A wagon scale has been placed at the Blackfoot siding. Several enthusiastic meetings and a first class picnic have been held, all of value in taking one's mind from the daily grind for a short time.

Twenty subscribers have been secured to THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, all of whom are satisfied that they are getting their money's worth, and would not be without the paper. This paper is raising very profitable and eye-opening discussions at every meeting of the union.

Resolutions were passed at this meeting in favor of government-owned elevators, also that the provincial government be approached to subsidize well boring outfits. It is felt that sloughs and wells upon which dependence is now placed are not to be relied upon and the settlers are not strong enough financially to bear the whole cost of proper outfits for boring; these two facts make it impossible to feed cattle in any large quantities.

The C.N.R. passes through Blackfoot and there is considerable loss of stock on the track, the line is fenced except at crossings where there are no gates, thereby making the fence practically of no use or worse, making it a trap as once animals get in they cannot or will not get out. There are four people in the Blackfoot Union who would like to know if it is possible for the Central Association to start a test case.

At an executive meeting held on January 27, it was decided to address a letter to the member for Victoria constituency, also the Senator, urging them to support the bill introduced by Mr. Lloyd Harris for Co-operative Legislation.

## BARRHILL UNION

The greatest encouragement is being given to the United Farmers' Association at the present time by the number of districts which are calling meetings and organizing themselves into unions. A short time ago the residents of the Barrhill district wrote in asking for information and on same being supplied immediately called an organization meeting and got down to work. The secretary elected is A. E. Beningsfield, and there is no doubt this district will be heard from at an early date.

## PROVOST UNION

Early in the month of January some of the farmers in the Provost district wrote asking for information regarding

## KAVANAGH UNION

In answer to a request from members in that district Mr. R. C. Owens went to Kavanagh on January 17 and organized a union there, with an initial membership of 18, the first officers being: F. D. Folkenberg, president, and C. Bissett, secretary-treasurer. Two delegates were also sent to the annual convention, so the members were of the opinion that it would be better to get all the necessary information at once.

Mr. Owens, in the course of his address, referred to the aims and objects of the association and showed that although the matter of organization had only been taken up actively during the last few years still the membership in the three western provinces was now considerably over 20,000. Mr. Owens also explained the need of proper organization so that the farmer would secure the best price for his products and instanced the good work being done by the farmers in the Wetaskiwin district by co-operating. In reporting on the union, Mr. Owens said the members were very enthusiastic and there was every prospect of this district being heard from at an early date.

## GADSBY UNION

At a meeting of the farmers of the Gadsby district held on January 24 it was decided to form a union of the United Farmers of Alberta and thirty-seven signed the membership roll, which will give the union a splendid start. The following officers were elected: President, Jas. Presley; Vice-President, H. O. Bessey; Secretary, G. M. Drinnan; Executive, W. F. Reynolds, G. B. Hoover, R. Airey, J. Barry, J. Giles, W. J. Gillies, J. F. Hansel.

It was decided to meet at Gadsby on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 2 p.m. The secretary was instructed to write and ask that some good live member of the association or an organizer be sent to give a talk on the aims and work of the association and also to give some hints as to how the best use can be made of the union for educational and other purposes. It is also proposed to invite the members of Blue Ridge Union to be present at that time so as to make a good rousing meeting.

## MARKERVILLE UNION

The regular monthly meeting of Markerville Union was held in Pensola Hall, Markerville, on January 15, with the vice-president in the chair. A lengthy discussion took place in regard to the listing of beef cattle to be sold by the selling agent and the secretary was instructed to notify all who had cattle to sell of the wishes of the union. The matter of ordering flour and sugar

## SATISFIED WITH FARMERS' COMPANY

The following letters have been received by the Grain Growers' Grain Co.:

Gentlemen: Received your returns also balance of money for the car of wheat. I am glad to say that I am perfectly satisfied with the way you handled that car, and you can depend on my patronage in the future.

EMIL H. HANN.

Monarch, Alta., January 3, 1910.

## SAVED \$50 ON CAR

Gentlemen: Received yours of the 17th inst., regarding my car of wheat.

You certainly have my permission to publish that letter, and furthermore I have saved about \$50 on that car, by shipping it to your company instead of selling it locally, even if I had got my weights at the elevator.

EMIL H. HANN.

Monarch, Alta., January 29, 1910.

the U.F.A. and for the prospects of securing an organizer at Provost. Full information was forwarded, with a request that as it was then so close to the annual convention it would be better for those interested to get together and organize a union. This was done, with the result that at the first meeting forty-three members paid up their subscription and the union starts our strong and active and prepared to make a name for itself. Two delegates attended the annual convention, so as to be in a position to explain to their members just what was being done by the Association. The first officers of Provost Union are, Thomas Fleming, president, and Guy W. Johnson, secretary-treasurer.

in large quantities was discussed and the secretary instructed to write to several wholesale houses and local merchants asking for quotations. The question of placing a stock scales at Markerville was again brought before the meeting and after some discussion it was thought advisable to lay this matter over till the next meeting and continue selling shares.

## TRING UNION

Mr. Rice Sheppard gave a very interesting address at the residence of Messrs. Goodall Brothers on January 12th, there being a good attendance of farmers from the surrounding district. Mr. Sheppard

gave a brief outline of the first formation of the association some five years ago and the work carried on up to the present time, showing how the membership had increased year by year and also what the association had done for the farmers of Alberta, dealing more extensively with the pork packing and elevator problems, and his address was listened to with great interest by all present.

A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously tendered Mr. Sheppard for his interesting address, to which Mr. Sheppard briefly replied. Mr. Sheppard was entertained for the night by the secretary, Mr. C. W. Harrington, and driven by him to Kitacoty to catch the night train. Nothing could show more conclusively that the members were interested in the address than to state that Mr. Sheppard spoke for three hours and that he was listened to attentively during the whole course of his address.

## POSSIBILITIES OF A WELL ORGANIZED UNION

Report of the Retiring Officers of Tring Union for the year ending December 31, 1909

The membership at the end of 1908 increased to 55. During 1909 five new members joined the Union. Twenty-two memberships lapsed, according to section 22 of the constitution, leaving a paid up membership of only 33, nine of the 22 having left the district. The officers much regret the lapse of membership and hope that all the members will reclaim them as well as make some little exertion to persuade new members to join the Association.

The officers elected at the last meeting have all been prompt in their attendance at the meetings. Owing to the resignation of T. J. Berridge and J. F. Shaw, the following were elected directors to fill their unexpired terms, T. Addison and S. C. Harrington, and at an executive meeting held on October 16, the resignation of G. E. Goodall as secretary-treasurer and C. W. Harrington appointed in his place. The officers consider that the attendance at meetings has been poor during the year, the average being 15 and hope that the meetings during the coming year will be better attended and that members will take more interest in the work of the Association by attending the meetings regularly.

The following are the principal resolutions that have been passed during the year: At a general meeting held on December 5th, 1908, it was decided to hold a Hall annually under the auspices of the Union. At an executive meeting held January 18, it was decided that in view of the fact that the U.F.A. is not a commercial institution the executive committee of this Union resolve that this Union shall not enter into any transactions of a commercial nature. At a general meeting held on February 6, it was decided that a committee be appointed by the Chair to draft a petition either to the C.N.R. or to the government for a branch railway to go through the district. This resolution was acted upon; the petition was signed by most of the settlers in the district and at a later meeting two delegates, A. M. Campbell and T. A. Farrell, were appointed to convey the same to Edmonton for presentation to the government.

It was resolved at the general meeting held July 3, that the Local Improvement Act as now in force was perfectly satisfactory, but that the following changes be advocated:—"That government road work should be let by sealed tender in each district and a fully qualified highway inspector appointed to advise with Local Improvement District Councils when called upon by them to do so." The following resolution was forwarded to the general secretary with the request that it be forwarded to the Unions for discussion: "Resolved that in view of the fact that it is almost impossible for farmers to market their grain in time to meet notes falling due on November 1, and that notes falling due thus early prevents farmers from getting the best prices for their products by forcing too great a proportion of the crop on to the market at once and thereby reducing prices, also causing them to haul their grain when they should be fall plowing, thus endangering the crop of next year, this Union does most earnestly represent the necessity of pressing the machinery manufacturers to make all notes payable in February. At the same meeting it was unanimously resolved to endorse the Chilled Meat Report. At a meeting held July 31, it was decided to request