

October 23, 1918

United Farmers of Alberta

Conducted Officially for the United Farmers of Alberta
by the Secretary

H. Higginbotham, Calgary, Alta.

Organization Vital

"ARE you aware that nearly every interest, trade and profession is organized—almost to the point of perfection, while we are not? The bulk of the farming class appear to take different—seemingly content to take what comes. I can assure you that 'after the war' that will be little and our burden bigger than ever, if some of the organizations opposed to us have their way. It is for you to say whether they will fatten while we grow lean. The farmer has lived a life of splendid isolation and independence, which we may call it that, but that independence is gone forever. He no longer raises everything he uses. Life has for him, too, become complex, so that our existence as a class depends on our being able to accommodate ourselves to the changed circumstances, and meet the close-knit and powerful capitalistic organizations opposed alike to us, with a monster farmers' organization."—S. Stevenson, president, Cragmoyle U.F.A.

Annual Convention

Mr. Rice Shepard and your general secretary attended a meeting called by the Mayor of Edmonton on October 9, regarding the entertainment of delegates to the next annual convention which will be held in the capital. Mayor Evans is flowing over with geniality and good will, notwithstanding his troubles about the financial condition of the city. The northern metropolis has been passing through lean days of late, but it looks as though Mayor Evans would succeed in surmounting the difficulties. It was refreshing to meet the Mayor and find him so genial and thoughtful for the well-being of our delegates while in the city during convention week. The First Presbyterian church has been engaged for the occasion. This is probably the most convenient building in the province for a large convention. In addition to the fine auditorium where the main convention will be held, and the lecture hall for the women's convention, the church has numerous large committee rooms and offices which afford ample accommodation, and all under one roof. The Associate Board of Trade, the Rotary Club, and the Auto Club are co-operating with the city to make the entertainment of the delegates such as will be pleasing to them and leave a favorable impression of the city's hospitality.

Understand the Constitution

Enquiries are constantly coming to the Central office in regard to matters which are set forth in the constitution, indicating that not all our locals are familiar with the constitution under which they are working. Why not appoint a committee on the constitution whose business it shall be to get a thorough understanding of same. The committee might give a report to be followed by discussion. You may find some things in the constitution which you may think should be changed and things left out which ought to be in. If so, your committee can suggest amendments to come before the annual convention.

Duties of Directors

The duty of the directors is to direct the activities of the local. Directors are usually appointed to represent the various districts from which the local members are drawn, and it is the duty of the director to extend the membership of the local in his section. The directors should also meet occasionally apart from the general meeting of the local and discuss plans of work.

U.G.G. Lowest Tender

A full meeting of the United Farmers in conjunction with the Farmers' Protective Association, was held in Coronation on Saturday, October 5. About 150 attended the meeting and some very satisfactory work was done. Prices on potatoes were submitted from various points, but the U.G.G. Elevator was the lowest of any bid, quality considered, and received the orders.

A resolution was drafted to President

Wood, so that he may present the needs of the district before the government, to the effect that no grain be shipped from that point until the farmers of the district have secured their seed and feed for the next year.

Mr. Molyneux, superintendent of organization, United Grain Growers, gave an interesting talk on farmers' organization, which no doubt will bear fruit.

Killed by Lightning

Central office much regrets to report the death of A. W. McDonnell, late secretary of the Melgrove Local Union, which occurred during a lightning storm on August 16, Mr. McDonnell being struck by lightning and instantly killed in the presence of his eight-year-old daughter. The loss to the district and to the Melgrove local is very great, as his enthusiasm for social amelioration was backed by much energy in its furtherance.

At the meeting on September 28, A. B. Grieve was appointed to carry on the secretarial duties until the annual election of officers. Mr. Grieve was secretary-treasurer to the original Loughheed local for a good number of years.

How Co-operation Grows

At a recent meeting of the Bear Lake local extracts from the report of the secretaries' convention were read, and proved not only instructive, but interesting and entertaining as well. The address of Mrs. Paribby met with a good reception and no doubt will leave some good effects. The speech of Mr. Brown-

lee likewise impressed the audience with the many benefits which may accrue to members of the association.

Co-operation in efforts to satisfy one's wants, grows, as not only did the members favor the securing of a supply of potatoes from another local, or at least with the assistance of another local, but voted in favor of at first supplying the needs of fellow members with seed before disposing of the grain which some of them fortunately saved from injury from the savage onslaught of Jack Frost. Many will have no wheat for any purpose, either for seed or feed, but on the other hand they will have oats suitable for seed or feed, although the amount may not be large. Practically every one will have some grain, much less than the prospects of early summer indicated, but abundant supplies of fodder have been vouchsafed to all. Those successful in garnering their crops without serious damage will be able to furnish enough seed of both wheat and oats—and of excellent grade at that, the kernels being abnormally large and plump—for themselves and neighbors. The farmers are not by any means pessimistic but convinced that the adverse weather conditions of last July occur only once in a lifetime and that a soil and climate which will bring to maturity crops so sorely afflicted possess qualities admirably suitable for the production of our banner wheat.

John Knox Local

Hugh McGrandle, secretary of John Knox local, Wetaskiwin, reports that

there will be no grain threshed in that district. Some of the farmers cut after the frost for green feed and have since cut a second crop which was much heavier than the first.

At the last meeting of the local the crop situation, seed grain and feed was discussed, no action being taken. Most of the members ship and buy through the Wetaskiwin U.F.A. Co-operative Association.

Real "Mixed Farming"

The usual meeting of the Thorild local took place on September 25, the attendance being small, owing to the busy season. The secretary, J. A. Barnes, reports that they are getting the members interested in cow testing, etc., and when haying and harvesting is over they expect many more members. Most of the members ship cream to Edmonton. Milk is produced cheaply in the district as yet, the farmers usually letting their cattle range on unoccupied land all summer, and cutting hay on their own land, or other vacant land, for feed for winter. Most of the farmers have rough log stables and have not spent much money in equipment other than mower and rake, separator, churn, and one or two have binders, which cut for a number of farms. A farm with 80 acres broken is a rarity, most of them being around 40 or 50 acres, with the rest in hay sloughs, woods and beaver dams. Good grain has been grown, but summer frosts tend to kill it, and this year it is all green feed.

Food Licenses

The Central office has received a number of enquiries regarding local handling apples, potatoes, etc., in ear-load lots. In reply the Central office is advising locals that it will be necessary for them to obtain a license from the Food Board at Ottawa, which costs \$2.00. Locals which are thinking of handling such commodities are advised to immediately write the Food Board at Ottawa, making application for license, at the same time enclosing \$2.00. If the ear has already been ordered a copy of the letter should be kept, and if the ear arrives before the license the local will be fully protected as they will be able to show that they have made application for license.

No license is required in connection with the serving of refreshments at socials, but the same regulations which apply to public eating houses also apply and should be observed.

U.F.A. Briefs

The Central office is prepared to supply, free of charge, to those who will make good use of their copies of a six-page pamphlet, entitled: "The U.F.A.—What it is, What it has done, What it aims to do."

A list of persons having hay and green feed for sale can be had on application to the Department of Agriculture, Edmonton. The Central office is also putting locals wanting feed in touch with those which have a surplus of feed.

The Central has a new circular: "How the U.F.A. and Rural Schools can Co-operate," written by a teacher who is also serving as local secretary.

A local secretary who has rather a trenchant pen suggests that a certain other local which has been writing the Central office rather frequently of late, "conserve their breath for the purpose of cooling their porridge." We suppose this is another war-time economy.

"It is hard to hold this local steady," says Wallace Archibald, secretary of Lochinvar, "but we are planning on a rally late this fall, for 1919 membership."

At the meeting of the Earlie local, held on September 7, the subject taken up was cattle being brought into the district, and all hay being cut, which, although benefiting the outsider, they consider is starving out the settler.



H. W. WOOD.

Trade and Tariff Board

By H. W. Wood, Pres. U.F.A.

Under this and the succeeding heading Mr. Parsons speaks of many things. He says "the time has come when the manufacturers can no longer keep silent either in their own interest, the interest of labor, or the great national interest." I cannot see any reason why they should keep silent in regard to their own interest. If labor wants to make them their spokesmen in defence of labor's interest, I can see no objection, though I would much prefer to hear from labor direct.

In so far as speaking for "the great national interest" is concerned, I think a beneficiary of the protective tariff places himself in a very embarrassing position when he appoints himself spokesman for national interest. Surely if protective tariff is the only prop that keeps our nationality from collapsing, some champion who is not financially international can be found who can and will speak for the national welfare. A jury weighs with suspicion the evidence of an interested witness. He just weighs with suspicion the evidence of an interested witness. It says the tariff was not enacted in the interest of any one class. It says the tariff was not enacted in the interest of one class, for Mr. Parsons himself certainly must act in the interest of one class, for Mr. Parsons himself says, a little later on, that his class could not exist without it.

As to its benefits to national welfare, there is a very great divergence of opinion between those who financially benefit by it and those who bear the burden. But if it can be demonstrated that protection is necessary to the well-being of the nation, then it becomes a national institution and to the well-being of the nation, then it becomes a national institution and should, and must be operated by the government as such. For a nationally supported industry to be operated for private gain is a national crime.

He advocates "A Trade and Tariff Board." This will be all right if said board can be properly constituted. It must be composed of big men and true, but not one of them must in any way have a financial interest in the retention of the tariff.

The people of Canada, the Canadian soldiers who are fighting for Canadian democracy, will not tolerate a national board composed of members who have a direct interest in the findings of the board. That kind of autocracy must be consigned to the scrap heap of wrecked barbarism.

He says "if it is not actually essential from a national standpoint, I say, away with the tariff." So say I. Another man once said "to hell with profits."

He says that various and sundry interests are interested in the tariff and must have a voice in considering it, but that the manufacturers would be willing to meet the western farmers and discuss this subject. I think much good can be accomplished by such meetings if all parties come together in the right spirit, and I have no serious fear that they will not.

Mr. Parsons will remember that there was a meeting of that kind at Regina, last March, but the manufacturers had no one there who could speak with authority for them, and no one else saw fit to take up the cause of protection. I hope our next meeting will be taken more seriously. A few sane and serious councils might do more good than many conflicts.