

RECORD CHEQUE

I have just received from J. A. Kearney, secretary of Olds Local Union, No. 11, a cheque for \$100 in payment of membership dues, which I think constitutes a record for dues from any local sent in at one time. This is the second cheque received this year and makes a total of two hundred and forty-nine members for the Olds Local for 1917. The record is the more remarkable as our figures since 1912 show the following number of members:

1912, 40; 1913, 30; 1914, 21; 1915, 32; 1916, 20 and 1917, 249.

In 1915 and 1916 the union was to all intents and purposes dead. Some of the best organizers we had were sent there with apparently no effect. In the spring of 1916 President Wood personally made two visits to the local, and it is on record that on one occasion he spoke for one hour and a half to less than a dozen men in an effort to have them keep the union going, with results which apparently are about to be realized. A very considerable number of our locals this year are showing a most gratifying increase in their membership, but up to the present Olds is easily to the front. Who will be the next to take the lead?

AN EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING

I understand that at a recent meeting of Blackie Local, No. 309, the question of the increase in the membership fee to \$2.00 as discussed at the convention was taken into consideration and a very lively and enthusiastic debate followed. The suggestion was made and ultimately endorsed by resolution, that each member instead of paying \$2.00 as membership fee for 1917 should make himself responsible for at least one new member, and that any present member who failed to secure another member by the end of the year should forfeit the sum of \$1.00 which would be forwarded to the central office as a contribution to the general funds. This is a practical application of the suggestion which I made to our convention twelve months ago, when I suggested that a better way to assist the central office would be to double our membership instead of doubling our fee. While the suggestion was received with enthusiasm, very few of the locals made any particular effort to put it into effect. Owing to the shortage of labor it is going to be difficult to undertake as much organization work as we would like this year, and it will be up to each member to do what he can to assist. It is surely not asking a very great deal or placing a very heavy obligation on each of our members when we ask them to secure one new member in the next few months or forfeit to the general funds the sum of \$1.00, which represents the membership fee that a new member would pay. The Blackie Local has set the example. I hope that every other local in the province will adopt this plan with enthusiasm.

THE ALBERTA SPIRIT

The replies to Circular No. 5 are beginning to come in and indicate quite clearly that those pages of our history in regard to our part in the great war, which we have not, out of respect for those who have gone, seen fit to parade and advertise to the public at large, are pages of which we do not need to be ashamed, but of which on the contrary we have a just right to be proud. Pine Lake Local, No. 463, is not a large local and never has been, but there are seventeen members of that local on active service; one has made the supreme sacrifice, four are reported as wounded. The Winnipeg Free Press will be interested in the following resolution:

Moved, seconded and carried unanimously by the members of Pine Lake Local Union, No. 463: "Resolved that we send to the central office a Roll of Honor of our local members and sons of members, who have gone overseas, and that in regard to our subscriptions to the various relief funds our members rest content that they are doing their duty."

Incidentally, it might be mentioned that the column for nationality is producing some very interesting statistics. From one local, four out of nine members at the front were born in the United States, and the reports generally would indicate that the citizens of Alberta of whatever nationality, have

not been slow to indicate in a practical way their sense of responsibility as citizens of the British Empire.

\$314.50 FOR PATRIOTIC FUND

P. L. Rogers, secretary of Belmont Local, No. 537, reports that owing to the weather this winter the meetings have been very poorly attended. The report of the delegate to the convention was well given at the last meeting and accepted with a vote of thanks. It was also decided that the secretary should take the agency for The Guide as per request of the central office. The union held a successful basket social in aid of the Patriotic Fund on St. Patrick's Eve. The total amount realized was \$314.50, the baskets averaging about \$9.33 each.

INTEREST REVIVING

Broadview Local, No. 342 held the first meeting of the year on Saturday, March 17. The secretary remarks that they have been in a very lethargic state for the past nine months but judging from this meeting he expects new life will be given them as all members seemed enthusiastic and anxious to get the local to full strength at this, which was practically the annual meeting. The election of officers took place and resulted as follows: President, Jos. LeBlanc; vice-president, G. W. Sturmer; sec-treas., Hugh Bower. The union voted in favor of the hail insurance scheme as outlined in Circular No. 4 and have appointed the new secretary, Mr. Bower, to act as agent. The union decided that the dues for this year should be \$1.50 each, and trust all other locals will see the necessity of increasing their dues to this amount as \$1.00 is really not enough to carry on the work of the association as it should be done.

DISTRICT LOCAL ORGANIZED

W. H. Soper, president of the South Athabasca Local, reports that there is quite a revival in U.F.A. work in that district recently, caused no doubt thru the efforts of the locals to secure an elevator, also thru the personal efforts of all the members of the South Athabasca and Colinton Locals. On March 15, Mr. Soper organized a local at Meenook with a membership of eighteen and great things are expected of this local as they have a large field to draw from and they are after a large membership. On March 16 he drove eighteen miles north of the landing to Pleasant Valley and organized a local at that point also. The meeting was well attended, some of those present having driven seven and eight miles. Mr. Soper explained the objects of the U.F.A. and the benefits derived from organization and at the close of meeting every farmer present signed the roll. On March 19, a district local was organized, delegates from Colinton, Stocks, Poplar Ridge, Grosmont, West Athabasca and South Athabasca being present, about 100 in all. Joe Williamson was elected president, Max Ziegler, vice-president and W. H. Soper secretary-treasurer. The next meeting of this association was called for March 24, when they hope to complete the organization.

TOOK STOCK

On Wednesday, March 14, the president and secretary of Edwell Local, No. 53 went to Hill End School to hold a meeting of the Hill End Branch of this local. It was a fine night and several members turned out. Lively discussions took place on several matters contained in the head office circulars, especially on the financial part of the business. One member considered that the U.F.A. should take stringent action against members who take advantage of the co-operative business of the local and who do not come up with their dues. The secretary took several orders for formalin, gopher poison, also some subscriptions for The Grain Growers' Guide and last but not least a further share subscription to the

co-operative elevator to be erected at Penhold. Altogether the members had a very enjoyable meeting, one member stating that it was worth the dues alone to meet his fellow members and have a talk. The meeting adjourned at a late hour to meet at Willowdale, on Wednesday, March 28.

U.F.W.A. ORGANIZED AT RED ROSE

Roy O. German, secretary of Red Rose No. 523, reports that at the last meeting of the local the ladies organized a branch of the U.F.W.A. with Mrs. German as president and Mrs. A. L. Sanders as secretary-treasurer. The local decided in favor of the Hail Insurance scheme as outlined in Circular No. 4, and appointed the secretary as agent. Four of the members intend driving down to organize a union at Lonebutte and Fraserston in the near future, the President and W. L. Summerby taking the Lonebutte and the Secretary and H. A. LeBlanc taking Fraserston meetings.

PUSHING ORGANIZATION WORK

The following letter is being sent out to the locals in his constituency by Director H. E. Spencer of Battle River, Edgerton, Alta.

March 24, 1917.
The members of the Battle River Constituency, United Farmers of Alberta: It was with sincere pleasure I received the news that I had been elected Director of Battle River Constituency, as I had been keenly interested in the association for the past eight years. My only regret was that I might not be able to fill the post to your satisfaction.

I take this opportunity of thanking those who thought fit to vote for me; and to those who did not, as a farmer, I thank you for having the farmers' interest sufficiently at heart to attend the convention.

We have a great work in front of us to better conditions of farm life, from the social, educational and economic sides. We need the help of not only every member but of every farmer. To get this our organization has got to be complete. The following plan works well:

Divide the district into wards, make lists of every possible member in each. Then put a director or committee man in charge making if need be a house to house canvass. These lists should be checked over at your monthly meetings, so that the man who will not join will be known.

Another good way is to have a member of the executive attend every social gathering in the district and make an individual canvass. When on these trips it is well to carry along a bit of the things the U.F.A. has done and is doing. This information can be obtained at the central office. Then when the usual question is put "What has the U.F.A. done?" you can show the questioner the numerous benefits he has got for nothing, and by someone else's labor. If this subject is put right up to a man, no self-respecting farmer will refuse. Let our motto be: "Every farmer a member."

We are supposed to have a representative government. How much it is, you all know. What with an unjust patronage system, political funds secretly subscribed and secretly disbursed, the farmer or worker is not likely to get a fair share of legislation. We now have a farmers' platform, and if we only support men (whether Grit or Tory) who will work for that platform, we shall gradually get a clean government, and be able to live under better and finer conditions. Nothing is given unless it is demanded, and that demand must have numbers behind it. Let not a man stand back because he is too busy or too far from meeting place; his name on the list will help central and his \$1.00 will help a little. The we can do very useful and needed work locally, we must not forget the more necessary work of supporting the central executive, without which we can do

nothing in the way of passing legislation.

And what is the use of growing a crop if you cannot sell it?

Now that the farmers are organized from Ontario to British Columbia, and all are affiliated in the Canadian Council of Agriculture, we are in a much better position to approach the Dominion as well as the Provincial Government in regard to rural legislation. But we cannot stand still, we either go forward or backward. Let there be no doubt as to the way we are going. We need co-operation in both men and money. Let us not forget that besides the economic, we must work to promote social intercourse, and bring about a higher standard of community life. In this respect the women of the constituency can be of great help by forming U.F.W.A.'s or joining the men.

The work in front of us might be classified as organization, education and co-operation. If you get the first, you can give the second and the third will come naturally. We need funds for central to be able to organize and educate. If proceeds from an entertainment were given to central once a year from each local it would strengthen our organization immensely.

I am hoping to be able to visit a lot of points after seeding. I may say the unorganized districts are in greater need of a visit that the organized ones, tho I would like to visit them all; but that is hardly possible on account of the cost of time and money. I shall be very glad if locals will report to central or to me, of any districts who wish to organize.

Remember, our motto is "Equity," equal rights and privileges to one and all. In conclusion, let us endeavor to make Battle River take first place in the ten constituencies.

HENRY E. SPENCER.
Edgerton, Alta., March 24.

WAR RELIEF FUNDS

Belgian Relief Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$3,582.15
Lone Ridge Local, No. 627	53.75
Beddington Local, No. 551	44.14
Rodney Local, No. 57	28.40
H. Branderob, Keoma	5.00
Rocky Coulee Local, No. 105	20.00
Sun Prairie U.F.W.A.	66.00
Carseland Local Union, No. 289	79.45
	\$3,578.89

Red Cross Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$3,081.75
Beddington Local, No. 551	44.14
Chailey Local, No. 151	10.00
Rodney Local, No. 57	28.45
Willow Hollow U.F.W.A.	30.00
Silver Lake Local, No. 196	28.00
University Local, No. 584	35.00
Little Round Lake, No. 224	40.00
Wavy Lake Local, No. 36	34.00
Caledonian Local, No. 235	62.00
Peerless Local, No. 340	36.00
H. Branderob, Keoma	5.00
Gwynne Local, No. 15	3.00
Sun Prairie U.F.W.A.	66.00
Gough Lake Local, No. 465	75.75
	\$3,581.09

U.F.A. Patriotic Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$2,081.55
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Canadian Patriotic Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$1,484.10
Rodney Local, No. 57	28.40
Lake de May Local, No. 290	17.80
	\$1,530.30

Polish Relief Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$144.50
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Armenian Relief Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$5.00
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Navy

Beddington Local, No. 551	\$44.14
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Y.M.C.A. Military Branch

Beddington Local, No. 551	\$44.14
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Serbian Relief Fund

Beddington Local, No. 551	\$44.14
A. T. Dickenson, Sheppard	10.00
	\$54.00