

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.

BOW RIVER CIRCULAR

The following letter was sent out some time ago to all secretaries in the Bow River constituency:

Dear Sir:—At the first meeting of the board of directors a by-law was passed authorizing the directors of each constituency to take control of the organization work. Having had time to look to our personal affairs since returning home from the convention, and probably with a spell of six weeks before the opening of spring, let us now commence in earnest to establish a system of organization work that shall strengthen the foundation of our already existing local unions and afterwards branch out to every part of the country not yet represented by a local U.F.A.

First. Your delegates to the Calgary Convention will have given their reports and they alone should be a source of inspiration to the local, whilst the officers of the local will endue themselves with horse sense—one object in view—one solid effort, like six horses on a gang, all pulling together, making the work comparatively easy, and the foundation of your local a veritable rock.

Second. The constituency must be worked from its north boundary to its south, and from its east to its west in order to catch the outlying districts.

For this work I propose to call upon every live wire, and to establish in every local two or three such live members to take the localities immediately surrounding their local unions, ten, fifteen and twenty miles away, to be prepared to go out and preach the gospel of the U.F.A. whenever called upon, and to bring into line suspended local unions and organize new ones.

Your director is a very busy man, getting his living upon the farm. You would not wish your director to be otherwise situated. His joys in this U.F.A. cause will be yours. His problems yours also. I could not represent you satisfactorily as your director if this were not so. For the successful representation of your constituency I shall call upon the four members who pledged themselves to assist me in the work, and I will designate them "assistant directors." Their names and addresses are as follows: J. C. Buckley, Gleichen; J. Gumbel, Queenstown; P. J. Rock, Morrin, and N. Galbraith, Lomond.

Will the president and secretary kindly appoint these two or three live, sincere members to take their place in the organizing work at the first opportunity, and send their names and addresses, also name of local to the central office where I shall have a register prepared for the reception of their names; a copy of the same will be kept by myself also. I sincerely believe this move will give me a large company of workers. The results should be without precedent in the history of our organization by the time we next meet in convention assembly. Remember that our constituency's increased efficiency will doubly increase the efficiency of our central office at Calgary. There are many other points that must come up soon, which are calculated to assist our Central materially.

For the present let us endeavor to make this organizing scheme come thru. By so doing we can become more intimate with each other, and all co-operating together, begin a wholehearted campaign for the growth and well being of the U.F.A. in the Bow River constituency.

At present we have eighty locals. We can send the figures away over the 100 mark in a short time. Yours fraternally,

J. E. BLORE,

Director, Bow River Constituency.

ENTHUSIASM AT COLINTON

J. C. Williamson, secretary of Colinton Union No. 549 reports that altho it is over two months since they last reported to the Central Office they have

not been idle, and he predicts that better times are in store for the union. On February 18, they had a debate in Colinton, the subject being "Resolved that Free Trade would be most beneficial to the World." J. C. Williamson led for Free Trade and E. H. Goodwin seconded. The opponents were a Colinton merchant and a farmer, and the judges gave a unanimous verdict in favor of Free Trade. The union has got a banner made out of blue baize cloth 24 inches by 30 inches, with gold lettering similar to the U.F.A. button, and underneath Colinton No. 549, and at their socials and meetings it is hung upon the wall so that strangers and new members may know that Colinton Union is very much alive. The union hopes to take up the matter of co-operative purchasing and selling, as they believe that by so doing they will be better able to hold the members together and also to increase their membership. The secretary thinks that a district association with Edmonton as a centre would not be too far away from them to derive some benefit from, and one of their members, who is at present attending college in Edmonton was asked to attend the district convention in order to gain some information.

MANY NEW MEMBERS

Waterhole Local Union No. 383 held a meeting on January 4 and had a fair turnout considering the state of the weather. All present took a keen interest in every subject that was put before them for discussion. Eighteen new members were enrolled, which brings their membership up to twenty-nine, and they expect to get some more at the next meeting. The secretary enquires for prices on various commodities and states that the union hopes to do some co-operative purchasing in the near future.

PROPOSED TELEPHONE LINE

D. S. Roberts, secretary, reports that Horsehaven Union held a meeting on Saturday, March 4. Up to the present they have a paid-up membership of thirty, but he looks forward to having at least eighty members in the near future. The union covers a wide district and it is a hard job to get members from a distance to attend the meetings. However, they are always willing to pay up their dollar and become members of the U.F.A. The union is quite a live one and meets the first and third Saturday of each month. Last year they did close on \$10,000 worth of business in carload lots, including coal, lumber, etc., saving the members at least 20 to 25 per cent. This year they have already handled six cars of lumber and coal. The members are talking of building a rural telephone line at present.

HELPING UNFORTUNATE MEMBERS

J. Rabston, secretary of Veteran Union No. 363 reports as follows:—

"Saturday, March 4, we had one of the most successful meetings that we have ever had. Everybody was enthusiastic over the U.F.A. Communications from the head office and district director were read and discussed. Good nature seemed to be the ruling spirit at this meeting. Members who as a rule sit on the back seat and say nothing, came right up to the front and gave their views on the different subjects discussed. It is a great help when the members take an interest in the meetings; it puts new life into the officers of a union, as they appreciate it and see that their work is not in vain. If a member has a grievance to report let him come to a meeting and state his case, and it will be looked into. The bigger the kick the harder we will work. We have the confidence of the people and they realize that the U.F.A. is a permanent institution; that it is here to stay. No doubt there are a few

kickers, you will find them everywhere, but they are very few and it won't be long until they drop into line. We had a visit from C. Rice Jones recently. We are always willing to listen to him, and it is too bad that he cannot be with us oftener. He had quite a job answering all the questions that were fired at him, but it was hard to stick him, as he always has an answer ready. He wanted to know why we weren't at the top of the list in membership, but we will show him that if we do not get to the top we will be very close to it. We also had a visit from T. Perrett, who is a very good U.F.A. man, but who unfortunately lives in British Columbia. Some day we hope he will be back amongst us. Some time ago one of our members had the misfortune to break his leg. The man was in hard circumstances, but the U.F.A. came to the rescue and collected over \$100.00 for him. At this meeting orders were taken for formaldehyde and gopher poison. We are going to make arrangements to have a big gathering of farmers here before spring work commences."

NEW ORLANDO LOCAL

Arnold F. Lund, secretary of Orlando Union No. 278, which has recently been organized, reports as follows:—

"An organization meeting was advertised for this district for February 21 in the Orlando schoolhouse and the response was very good. The meeting was called to order and A. Jamieson elected chairman with A. F. Lund secretary. The chairman then called upon J. E. Blore, director for the Bow River constituency, who addressed the meeting on live topics of interest to the farmers, and the result was that we started a union right there, to be known as the Orlando Local of the U.F.A. S. Stevenson, of Craigville Local Union, also gave a very good address. The officers elected were J. W. Morrow, president; A. C. Clayton, vice-president, and Arnold F. Lund secretary. A board of six directors was also elected. At our last meeting, which was held on February 26, twelve members paid in their dues. Regular meetings were set for the first Monday of each month. The union never will be a very big one, but I think it will be a very live one. We will probably not have more than twenty or twenty-five members, but half of these will be old U.F.A. men. Our intention is to work hand in hand with the Craigville Union and buy co-operatively."

DONATION TO RED CROSS

A. A. Brown, secretary of Onoway Union No. 131 reports that he handed \$230 over to the local secretary of the Red Cross Fund on March 4, being the proceeds of an entertainment and auction sale held by this union on January 25, which calls for hearty thanks to those who contributed to its success. The delegate to the Calgary convention gave a very glowing report of the proceedings there. The union is going ahead slowly but surely. They are shipping their own wheat and potatoes now, as well as hogs, and save considerable expense by clubbing purchases. A. Brown states that they are very much hampered by their inability to obtain a line of credit at the banks, but they have a committee working hard to try and solve this difficulty. The membership at present is forty-six. Six or more members are with the colors, two of whom have already made the great sacrifice.

RURAL TELEPHONES

The following letter re rural telephone lines has been received from one of our unions in response to our request for information in regard to their Mutual Telephone Company:—

"Referring to your request of the 5th instant, I can readily understand the benefit one's experience, 'successful or otherwise,' would be to those who wish to plan along similar lines. I know with us many a question could have been explained and understood much more readily, at a time when it was badly needed, if we had been in communication with someone who had gone on before. The telephone is not 'first a luxury,' it is a necessity with the farmer as well as the business man in town, and it only requires the telephone in the farm home a few months

to convince him that that is the case. Often it has proved to be a gold brick that was really a brick of gold. The farmer has to be introduced to the telephone the same as the business man did when Professor Bell brought out his first telephone. At a U.F.A. meeting early in March, 1915, the question arose, 'Do we need a telephone?' and we thought we did. The questions also arose: 'Could we get the Alberta Government Telephones to serve us, or could we build our own high line, or would we use the barb wire fence that we had heard about?'

"The barb wire fence system at first was thought impracticable, besides, it wasn't thought good enough for us. Building our own high line was not understood, and the financing was too great for us to try; and it would take too long for the government machinery to be moved, if at all, in our favor. We wanted to get a telephone right away, so we returned to the barb wire fence scheme and discussed the possibilities, with the result that ten of us thought it would work for a starter. At a meeting on April 10, we organized, elected president, vice-president, and secretary treasurer; named our company, formed a few by-laws, collected \$21.00 from each of our members, and purchased ten of the best standard telephone wall sets for heavy loaded rural and long distance service. After seeding, each turned out to fix up the fences and raise the wires over gates and roadways, making sure no other wire came in contact with the one we were using for our telephone. We previously obtained permission from the Council to bring our wire across the right-of-way. After all was completed, and our ten telephones connected up, we had some fourteen miles of fencing in our service, and the services exceeded all expectations, besides which we had \$3.35 left over. Since then, we have increased our subscribers from ten to forty, engaging some sixty miles of fencing and giving good service for the money invested. With a prospect of 200 subscribers, we are looking forward to the time when our subscribers and services will demand a standard metallic high line. Very wet weather, stock bothering the fences and threshermen crossing the wire in the fall interfere with the service to some extent. Any further information or assistance within my power are yours for the asking."

WAR RELIEF FUNDS

Belgian Relief Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$2,920.15
Carbon Union No. 378	1.50
Valley View Union No. 360	7.50
	\$2,929.15

Red Cross Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$1,274.32
Veteran Union No. 363	25.00
Willow Hollow Union No. 332	10.00
J. P. Swayne, Paradise Valley	20.00
Winona U.F.W.A.	18.00
Universal Union No. 570	5.00
Bewberry Union No. 98	50.00
Altorado Union No. 268	
Miss S. Maddaugh	\$5.00
Miss M. Maddaugh	5.00
Mr. Jos. Maddaugh	5.00
Mr. O. Maddaugh	5.00
Mr. John Maddaugh	5.00
	\$1,427.32

U.F.A. Patriotic Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$1,346.50
Hiddellville Union No. 617	142.00
Carseland Union No. 289	18.00
	\$1,506.50

Canadian Patriotic Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$ 919.60
Glenada Union No. 518	60.75
North Amisk Union No. 450	2.50
Redalia Union No. 324	83.85
	\$1,066.70

We have just received dues for eleven new members from John E. Hansen, secretary of Heister Union No. 368, who states that they are changing their meeting place to Heister, as there are about fifteen or twenty farmers who are anxious for this move to be made so that they may be able to join the union. The secretary hopes that they will have a good strong union at that point in the near future.