

ANNUAL REPORT ISSUED

The annual report is printed, and by now all those who have ordered copies will have received their order, or at least they should have if the postal authorities and express companies have done their duty. I wish to impress upon our unions once more the special features of this report which makes a new era in the work of our association, since it contains so many new features, and there appears to be no tangible reason why these new ideas which make the report far more complete and more extensive than any hitherto issued should not be continued and even enlarged upon in future years.

Our 1916 report runs to a full 160 pages, without the cover and two four-page inserts; that is to say, the report is twice as large as any report yet issued. I am giving herewith a draft of the general index of contents, which does not by any means cover all that you will find in the report, but which will at the same time give you some idea of its contents:

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One of the new features which you will probably find as interesting as any is "Who's Who in the U.F.A.". Then the four addresses given by officers of the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. are in themselves a valuable contribution and something that you will certainly enjoy reading. Some mention might also be made here of our advertisers, of whom there are more than seventy in number, every one of whom has some offer to make you and which it would be in your interest to know of.

Valuable Reference Work

What I want to emphasize most particularly in connection with this report is that it is not an ordinary cheap pamphlet, merely deserving of your casual attention and then to be consigned to the waste paper basket. The report is a magazine, a permanent record of the year's work of our association, a book that should be placed in your bookcase with other books and records which you prize, and which may be taken out from time to time and studied in your spare moments. It ought also to be drawn to the attention of visitors whom you may have in your house, who may not perhaps have hitherto been interested in the work of our association. I may say that requests have already been received, and in the very near future copies of this report will be found in many of the public and provincial libraries from one end of the Dominion to the other, and if these books are worthy of a place in such institutions, it is certainly even more desirable that they should be found on the bookshelves of every member of our association, in fact of every farmer who has the interests of the farming community at heart. I venture to predict that in years to come those who possess a complete series of the annual reports of the U.F.A. will look upon them as among the most valuable of their treasures in a literary way.

Extra Copies Still Available

By the time these lines appear in print about 8,000 of these reports will have been distributed. Of our final edition, consisting of 12,000 copies, there will still be 2,000 or 3,000 available after allowing for the necessary

reserve for new unions, etc., that may be organized between now and the end of the year. At the present not more than sixty per cent. of our unions have sent in orders for these reports. While some may consider that satisfactory, there should be orders in from at least 100 per cent. Those who have not already sent in their order should do so at once. It is not a very big thing that we are asking of you, and it does not require a very big effort or expenditure of money. It is merely to send in an order for some of the annual reports of your own association at five cents per copy, and distribute these among your members, and non-members, too, if you can. In that way you will be doing a real service not only to wards helping to make your local union a success, but the association as a whole.

Greater Effort Desired

I have just been trying to get a rough idea as to how our association stands in 1916 as compared with the same period for 1915, taking for that period the first three months of the year. Those who attended the convention will remember that considerable stress was laid on the necessity for improving the financial position of the association. It is gratifying to note that the total of all receipts for the first three months of the year was \$6,171.91, as compared with \$4,745.53 for last year. The actual amount paid in membership fees for men alone was \$3,118.66 as against \$2,769.50, while receipts from the women's section of the organization have increased nearly 300 per cent. In considering the increase in membership receipts from the men's unions, we do not need to be too elated over the apparent increase in our membership of approximately 700, as there has been a very considerable increase in the amount of arrears sent in, that is to say, in the membership dues received this year which properly speaking have to be credited to 1915. There are also a considerable number of new unions that did not appear on the lists at all last year. Taking these two away from our total receipts it is doubtful if we are anything more than equal with last year. It is obvious that very few of our unions have lived up to the amendment to the constitution passed at our last convention, which makes all dues payable on the first of the New Year. It is only reasonable to assume that these new regulations will take a little while to put into effect, and I do not think that we have any reason to feel worried at our showing up to date; at the same time, so far as actual membership dues are concerned, we should not let up in our efforts, but on the contrary put our shoulders to the wheel with more energy than ever and see if we cannot show an increase during this next quarter which even the most pessimistic cannot pick any holes in.

Life Membership

Another feature worthy of attention is that we have this year secured three life members, which I think is as many as we have secured for the past three years. Life membership does not cost very much, only twelve dollars, and most of our unions, particularly those engaged in co-operative buying and selling to any extent, have one or more members who could well afford this amount. If each of our active unions contributed two life members to the association it would give us a fund of \$12,000, which if invested in good securities or mortgages bearing only 6 per cent., would give a permanent revenue to the association of \$720 per year, not to mention the fact that it would provide collateral in securing a line of credit or raising money at a bank should the opportunity offer itself for undertaking important work in the interest of the association which required a certain amount of capital expenditure in its initial stages. Such a fund would, of course, have to be

looked after by a board of trustees, with proper regulations for safe-guarding the interests of the members of the association as a body to whom it would belong.

The Unions Should Help

In view of the figures quoted in the report it will be seen that the general increase in revenue of nearly \$1,500 is derived from innovations and ventures by the Central office alone. The Central office can undoubtedly devise many new ways whereby revenue can be secured, but this in itself is not sufficient, and the unions thru their own voluntary effort should also do something towards the same end. It is discouraging, not to say demoralizing, that so small a proportion of the cost of maintaining and carrying on the work of the organization is derived from membership fees sent in by the local unions. I believe that we have, as an association, earned every dollar that we have received in grants and donations during the past few years, and probably we have more than earned these sums, but the fact remains that, to the outside observer, it would look very much better if the association were self-supporting, and I believe further, that without money we can do nothing, and that these grants and donations should be in the nature of a reserve fund available for taking up special work, rather than for carrying on the necessary routine business of an organization such as ours.

What is the Trouble?

In our annual report will be found on page 54 a list of our paid up unions for 1915, all of whom would be, of course, entitled to one or more delegates to our annual convention. Further on in the report is a list of delegates attending the convention, and the unions from which they came. A statement of the unions entitled to send delegates and those who actually did send delegates would read as follows:

	Unions entitled to send delegates	Unions actually represented
Calgary, East and West	27	21
Bow River	52	30
Battle River	77	39
Edmonton, East and West	24	9
Strathcona	26	19
Victoria	41	18
Red Deer	39	23
Macleod	34	26
Medicine Hat	63	43
Lethbridge	19	11
	402	229

The list shows that of 402 actually entitled to delegates only 229 were represented, and that at the biggest and most successful convention which we have ever held. What is the trouble? We have pooled the railway rates so that every man knows that whatever part of the province the convention may be held in and whatever the distance he may have to go, the cost to him will not be more than \$7 for the return fare, and will average somewhere between \$5 and \$6. The total cost of sending a delegate to the annual convention, as pointed out a number of times, need not be more than \$20, and surely with twelve months to prepare for the convention even the poorest of unions can find some means of raising that \$20, and possibly \$5 extra to make sure that their representative does not have to exercise an unreasonable amount of economy. The question really in its broadest sense resolves itself into one of representative government, or democracy as against autocracy; it resolves itself almost to a question as to whether you want majority rule or minority rule. The question really is: "Are you prepared to admit your failure to live up to the highest ideals of representative government for which we stand, merely for the sake of that \$20 or \$25 per year. Think it over and see if you cannot do better next year. The time is fast ap-

proaching, if it is not already here, when we as farmers will have to do something more than simply pass resolutions condemning the other fellow for not living up to the highest ideals for which we stand on paper. We will have to get busy and practice what we preach and exercise and carry out in the management of our own association those things which we so strongly recommend to our legislative bodies, so that we shall be not only an example in precept but in practice also. Think it over, and see if you cannot arrange to have every union represented by at least one delegate at Lethbridge next year.

Status of Women

Unions would do well to remember that section of the constitution admitting women on the family ticket was abolished at our last convention, and that the constitution as it stands at present makes no provision for the admission of women as members other than on the same basis as men. Women have been fighting for equal suffrage for a long time, and the men of our organization have been helping them. The work is now practically completed, not only provincially but in our organization as well, since we no longer suggest that women are not able to pay the same fee as men; but on the contrary provide that they shall have equal privileges not only in voting but in what they pay for membership also.

The constitution now provides that a woman may become a member of any local union of the U.F.A. by payment of a fee of not less than \$1.00, in fact, the terms of admission to membership of our association are contained in the same section 13 of the constitution, since the legal definition of "any person" covers both men and women. In addition, the women's section provides that in any local union where five or more women have joined, they can if they wish organize as a local unit of the U.F.W.A., in which capacity they have a separate identity of their own with special privileges which are fully set forth under that section.

Do not forget that women over twenty-one years of age must now pay the regular membership fee for our association, and that the fifty cent rate, or family ticket, applies only to boys and girls under twenty-one years of age. In justice to the U.F.W.A., we must draw the line tight and live up to our constitution.

WAR RELIEF FUNDS

Belgian Relief Fund

Previously acknowledged, \$2,979.15; Mere Local Union, No. 513, \$48; Silver Lake Local Union, No. 196, \$12; Carbon Union, No. 378, \$150; total, \$3,049.65.

Red Cross Fund

Previously acknowledged, \$1,791.80; Kinross Local Union, No. 216, \$26; Wavy Lake Local, No. 30, \$21.38; Willow Hollow, No. 332, \$25; Lake Denney District, \$26; Brightwood Local, No. 417, \$21.75; Mere Local, No. 513, \$22; Comrey Local Union, No. 538, \$28.50; Dewberry Local Union, No. 98, \$140; Pandora Local, No. 472, \$13; Crook Belle District, \$62.35; Edling Local Union, No. 264, \$16.80; King Edward Local Union, No. 424, \$10; total, \$2,234.58.

U.F.A. Patriotic Fund

Previously acknowledged, \$1,506.50; Mere Local Union, No. 513, \$71; Edling Local Union, No. 264, \$34.70; King Edward, No. 424, \$90; total, \$1,702.20.

Canadian Patriotic Fund

Previously acknowledged, \$1,081.70; Thordensfold Union, No. 22, \$12; Pandora Union, No. 472, \$10; Lorraine U.F.W.A., \$111.80; total, \$1,215.50.

Polish Relief Fund

Previously acknowledged, \$35; Mere Local Union, No. 513, \$32; total, \$67.

King Edward Union Gifts

The donations from King Edward Union, No. 424, amounting to \$100, were given by the following members of the union: Red Cross fund—D. McPhee, \$5; W. J. Graham, \$5. Patriotic Fund—R. G. Somerset, \$15; Robt. Somerset, \$15; Arthur Lord, \$25; G. Schofield, \$15; W. J. Graham, \$10; D. McPhee, \$10.