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# 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.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:	
Victoria—P. S. Austin . . . . .	Ranfurth
Edmonton—George Long . . . . .	Namoo
Strathcona—H. G. Vickery . . . . .	Strome
Macleod—G. W. Buchanan . . . . .	Cowley
Calgary—J. A. Bishop . . . . .	Beddington
Red Deer—D. Buckingham . . . . .	Stettler
Medicine Hat—E. E. Sparks . . . . .	Jenner

### LESSONS FROM THE PROHIBITION VOTE

We have great reason, as U.F.A. men, to feel proud of the vote cast on July 21. Not only on account of the victory gained by the temperance cause, but also, and perhaps chiefly because the vote is the first, and a splendidly successful, experiment in Canada in applying the principle of Direct Legislation, a principle which was embodied in our provincial legislation directly thru the efforts of the U.F.A. We have never made a secret of our opinion that the Direct Legislation Act of 1913 is a very imperfect embodiment of the Direct Legislation principle; probably no other question than prohibition would be large enough, would evoke sufficient universal and intense interest to force its way thru the difficulties set up in the act. The act must be radically amended if it is to be workable for ordinary questions, and this contest has revealed some weaknesses that we did not detect before. For instance, it is provided that if the legislation petitioned for does not carry, similar legislation cannot be presented for the next three years. But it is not provided that if it does carry, it shall remain in force any length of time without being subject to repeal. That, of course, must be altered.

But however imperfect the form of the Direct Legislation Act, the first experiment with the Direct Legislation principle in Canadian or British history has turned out a splendid success. How far reaching the results of this may be no one can foretell. It may fairly be termed a political revolution. Here is a great legislative act, originated and drafted by the people, without the intervention of government or parliament, placed before the people, voted on by the people, entirely on its merits, without any entanglement of party politics, without affecting the position of any government, or party leader or politician. And the people have responded to the call. For once they have been able to vote as they thought without being perplexed by side issues, or party cries; and they have voted in larger numbers than at any party election. The vote was an outburst of popular liberty, free for once from party chains. July 21 is a red letter day, not merely in temperance reform but in popular government. It is the day of the greatest triumph the U.F.A. has yet won.

JAS. SPEAKMAN

### DEWBERRY "DOES ITS BIT"

Dewberry Local, No. 98, is pleased to report that in response to the appeals of our worthy president and women's auxiliaries, we have "done our bit" toward putting Alberta on the water wagon by co-operating with all the prohibition forces. At our regular meeting, on July 3, Rev. J. C. Anderson, Methodist minister, late of Vermilion, now of Coronation, addressed a good attendance on behalf of the proposed measure for about two hours, at the close of which considerable discussion took place, and while the feeling was not absolutely unanimous, two of our members, Thos. Saville and Fred Blair, acted as "dry" scrutineers at Dewberry poll, while numerous other members exerted themselves strenuously to get the vote out and make it as favorable as possible, with the result that most of it was polled, going aye 56, nay 14. Greenlawn poll, just north of us, which embraces Elkworth and part of Riverton unions, with which we are closely associated, went 52 to 16 for the act, while Islay, the nearest railroad point, at which is situated our co-operative elevator, and adjoins us immediately on the south, went dry to the tune of 100 to 15. The total vote is very favorable over a very large area taking our district as a centre. What's the matter with Dewberry?

### WHERE ARE OUR UNIONS?

I have recently been able to make a few trips into the country, and in doing so have learned many things which doubtless would not have come to my knowledge otherwise. For instance, I have heard a great deal in regard to the seed grain supplied by the Dominion Government, both in regard to quality and price, yet at the time this seed grain was being distributed and planted, not a single complaint was received at this office, tho asked for by official circular. It is now, of course, too late to do anything in this matter.

Another and more serious thing is, I am told from several places that the banks have refused in cases of absolute need to supply farmers with the necessary few dollars of credit that would enable them to purchase binder twine, yet not a single letter to this effect has reached this office, and I am quite unable to tell whether the complaint is general or to quote any number of specific instances which would be necessary if we are to secure relief, which I am quite positive we could secure if our unions were sending us the information. The same applies also to harvest help. We hear indirectly from several places that the labor shortage is already severe, and will become even more acute within the next few weeks, yet there is not a word to this effect from our local unions to this office whereby we can take any steps to alleviate or remove entirely such shortage.

One could continue to quote a hundred and one cases of this kind where if the Central Office had the information the work could be done, and a great deal of relief, in some cases complete relief, afforded to the members of our local unions. We are here to give you service, but we do not know that these things are happening and cannot find out unless our local unions will report them. There are some phases of our work where the local can act alone and get results; there are many others where the Central Office, with the whole weight of our great association at the back of it, is the only medium that is big enough to attract attention and get results in high quarters. This phase of the work of our association is being neglected because our local unions are not sending to the Central Office the information and reports in regard to matters wherein we have power as they should be doing. Give the Central Office a chance to show what it can do by reporting as briefly as you wish conditions which are not what they should be in your district, where there is the slightest possibility that the influence of our organization brought to bear in the right place and with the proper authorities would result in immediate relief.

Give us a chance to mend these things. If anyone can do it, your association can, and the medium for the association to work thru is the Central Office. Give us the opportunity to give you better value for your money.

—P.P.W.

### DIRECTOR VICKERY REPORTS

H. G. Vickery, director for the Strathcona constituency, reports that on July 1 last a district association picnic was held at Edgerton, at which he and Rice Sheppard, of Edmonton, were present as speakers. A large crowd was present, and a band met the speakers at the depot. A first-class program of sports was run off. The speaking was listened to with great interest, Rice Sheppard's address being really good, and Mr. Vickery feels that a tremendous amount of good was done in every way. Special mention is made of the untiring efforts of President Ford and Secretary Guthrie. President Ford, in particular, was busy until the early hours of the morning after. Mr. Guy was in charge of the refreshment stand and Henry Spencer sold tags.

Mr. Vickery concludes that altogether a very profitable and enjoyable time was spent in Edgerton.

Mr. Vickery also reports in regard to organization work at Amisk, where two new unions have been added recently. He states that there are a number of good men in this community and that U.F.A. work is likely to prosper there in the near future. Felix Ohberg, who has taken the position of secretary of one of the unions, is specially mentioned both for ability and enthusiasm, and the credit for forming these two new unions is very largely given to him. Undoubtedly others will develop as the work continues to progress.

### MRS. McCLUNG WAS THERE

A splendid report is in from the district picnic of the Leith Union, No. 591. We regret very much that from various causes it was not possible for the Central Office to be represented at the picnic. Mrs. Nellie McClung was on hand, however, to speak on the temperance question. We understand that she has promised to come back next year, and from the report, the whole countryside is likely to be there to hear her. As it was, over 400 people were on hand, and as on account of the weather the meeting had to be held under cover, standing room was at a premium, in fact, many could not get in.

The district organization has recently been completed with five locals and about 300 members. The association has purchased two cars of twine already unloaded, saving its members approximately \$700, and I am told that even the local bank manager has gone on record to the effect that the district association is the best move that the U.F.A. has ever made. The par value of the shares in the district association is \$10 each. A reasonable percentage is added to the cost of the goods in order to pay the salary of the manager and 6 per cent. interest on capital invested. The balance of the profits is divided pro rata in proportion to the business done.

### MEDICINE HAT DISTRICT

At the invitation of Dunmore Union, U.F.A. No. 724, the following locals of the U.F.A. around Medicine Hat sent delegates to discuss the advisability of forming themselves into a district association. Fourteen locals responded, being: Schuler, No. 649; Pashley, 732; Brecon Hill, 648; Wilkinson, 636; Minda, 490; Dunmore, 724; Seven Persons, 349; Gros Ventre, 721; Rosebeg, 719; Maple Leaf, 504; Valley View, 360; Catchum, 492; Bowell, 218, and Whitla, 338. As the delegates were appointed by the respective unions on a basis of one delegate to each ten members or fraction thereof, and there being over fifty delegates present, it meant a representation of about five hundred farmers around Medicine Hat.

The meeting was called to order by P. P. Woodbridge, the secretary of the Central Office at Calgary. Jas. A. Armstrong, president of Dunmore Local, was appointed chairman, and E. E. Earl, of the same local, temporary secretary. Upon taking the chair, Mr. Armstrong in a few words stated the purpose for which the meeting was called, and then asked Mr. Woodbridge to address the meeting as to the objects and benefits of an incorporated co-operative society. At the close of his address, Mr. Woodbridge invited the delegates present to enter into a discussion of the subject and ask him any questions they wished. The discussion was carried on energetically for a matter of two hours, a good many questions being asked Mr. Woodbridge during the time. The discussion was brought to a close on a motion by H. T. Wilson, seconded by P. S. Wilson, of Schuler, that the meeting proceed to form an incorporated district association, which was carried. The asso-

ciation was named the Medicine Hat District Association, and by-laws were adopted. The following were elected provisional trustees: Jas. A. Johnstone, Dunmore Local; Frank Head, of Minda Pioneers; H. C. Relsh, of Rosebeg Local; F. S. Wilson, of Schuler; B. E. Polinkas, of Whitla; Forest Kneisly, of Maple Leaf; W. A. Wilkinson, of Wilkinson; Fred Bohmet, of Gros Ventre, and T. A. Thompson, of Valley View Local. A vote of thanks to Mr. Woodbridge was applauded in good hearty fashion, and another vote of thanks to the mayor and city of Medicine Hat was likewise carried. The meeting then adjourned to meet again at the call of the trustees.

EDGAR G. EARLE,

Secretary pro tem.

### VETERAN LOSES A FRIEND

G. R. Orchard, co-operative secretary of Veteran Union No. 363, reports that the arrangements made by that union last spring for getting plow lays, coal oil, etc., have proved satisfactory and that, with the help of Broadview and Laurence Unions, they have placed orders for a large car of twine. They intend taking up the matter of granary lumber at their next meeting and it is probable that orders for two or three cars will also be placed. Since spring work started, meetings have been held once a month. The Gleichen resolution re political action by the U.F.A. was discussed at one meeting and some of the members thought it was "penny wise and pound foolish" to spend so much time in trying to improve conditions by co-operative purchasing and selling, and not spend more time in trying to get better governments. However, the majority present thought that money was too scarce in this constituency to call a convention until after harvest. Altho business meetings have been kept up, the members have been too busy to have any social entertainments lately, but on hearing that C. Rice Jones was leaving the district to take up the duties of president of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co., despite the fact that it was seeding time, and also that the trails were bad, about sixty friends gave Mr. and Mrs. Jones a surprise party on May 4. During the evening the host and hostess were presented with a cul glass water set, cream jug and sugar bowl and lady's silver dressing set, with the following address:

"To Mr. C. Rice Jones:

"We take great pleasure, on behalf of your friends of the Veteran District, in offering you this token as a slight mark of the esteem in which we hold you. We assure you that we have all appreciated the able manner in which you have furthered the cause of the farmers of the district and we deeply regret that by your absence the district will lose one of its ablest citizens and Veteran U.F.A. one of the most earnest and conscientious advocates of its rights. We sincerely wish you every success in your future connections with the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co."

Mr. Jones, who feelingly replied for Mrs. Jones and himself, said that he was in a measure sorry to leave the farm and district, but that he felt he was going to a position of greater usefulness for the Alberta farmers. Also that he hoped he would always be worthy of the esteem they held him in. Mrs. Rice Jones, who until then had been prevented from doing any organizing work for the Ladies' Auxiliaries, of which she is vice-president, on account of the illness of her son, took the opportunity of starting a Ladies' Auxiliary to the Veteran Union, twelve or thirteen members joining and several more have joined since.

### FOR RECIPROCITY?

To a degree Liverpool fixes the price of wheat. But we all know that the best market is the adjacent market.—Toronto News.