

OFFICERS:		
Hon. President—D. W. Warner	Edmonton	
President—James Speakman	Penhold	
Vice-Presidents—		
H. W. Woods	Carstairs	
S. S. Dunham	Lethbridge	
Rice Sheppard	Edmonton	
W. D. Trego	Gleichen	
Sec.-Treasurer—P. P. Woodbridge	Calgary	

THE PROHIBITION VOTE

Our directors have asked me to make as clear as possible how the ballots have to be marked on July 21. The name "Liquor Act" may lead to mistakes. The "Liquor Act" is the name of the Prohibition Bill. To vote for the "Liquor Act" is to vote for Prohibition; to vote against the "Liquor Act" is to vote against Prohibition. On this page is a facsimile of the actual ballot paper, showing you exactly how to mark your vote, making an X in the square opposite YES. Remember, to vote "yes" is to vote "dry."

JAMES SPEAKMAN.

CROP REPORTING BY UNIONS

At our recent board meeting the question of crop reports was discussed and our directors asked me to place before our members some explanations of this matter. For years we have been discussing this thing, trying to find out the best way of doing it, and both Provincial and Dominion Governments have instituted systems of crop reports, which in practice have been pretty largely systems of guessing. Men have been called upon, without pay, to fill in detailed reports, which they could not fill in accurately, without travelling for a number of days every month over the crop district allotted to them. In consequence they have mostly contented themselves with as near a guess as their general knowledge would enable them to make. But such guesses are never very accurate, and very often they are too favorable. We are naturally optimistic in the West and men don't like to give an unfavorable report of their own locality. But it is of great importance that our reports should be as exact as possible. The crop reports affect the market prices. Reports of damage to crops drive up the prices; favorable reports press down the prices. Grain speculators have their own arrangements for getting information. They can play the market up and down by false reports. It is greatly to our interest to furnish accurate reports, even if it causes considerable work. Our unions appear to be the best organization in existence for furnishing such reports, and we hope the unions will give a fair trial to the new plan thru The Guide. The objection is being raised that it is too much work for a union. Now many unions don't meet often, because they say there is no interesting work for them to do when they do meet. Well, here is a piece of really serious and important work to do. Could not the secretary, with the help of the directors and the members present at the monthly meeting, fill in the crop report better than anyone else in the land? Objections have been raised that a number of the questions are unpractical and useless. A report form like this to be used thru three provinces must of course have some questions interesting in some localities and useless in others. Just answer such questions as you can rightly answer and leave the others blank. No answer is better than a wrong answer. I hope all our unions will do their best to make these crop reports a success.

JAMES SPEAKMAN.

U.F.A. AND ELEVATOR COMPANY

One of the most interesting and pleasant happenings at our directors' meeting on June 18 was a joint meeting of the Elevator and U.F.A. boards, to discuss matters interesting to both organizations and to promote the success of the arrangement made some time ago whereby the Elevator Company was made buying and selling agent for our local unions. The meeting was a very friendly one, many questions were asked and discussed and the prospects for friendly and successful co-operation seem very good. The only complaint suggested was that so far only a small business had been done, but when we consider that the agreement is only about two months old and that these two months fell mostly within seed time, I can see no reason for discouragement. I want to urge our unions to take more advantage of the arrangement with the Elevator Company. Many of the unions who are already doing co-operative business have their direct sources of supply

and think that they can do just as well direct as thru the Elevator Company. But it is clear that if by our steady support and by combining our purchases thru the Elevator Company, we enable the company to do a large buying business and to exert a large and reliable buying power, they will gradually become able to do considerably better for us than any union or little group of unions could do direct. Let us then give the Elevator Company a fair chance for all our business, asking for their quotations for every article that we want to buy, patiently investigating any differences and difficulties that may arise, always with the steady aim to build up ultimately a large business of our own, by thus uniting the business of all our unions in one buying centre. Many of our unions are not doing any co-operative business. A careful study of the work of our unions shows that co-operative trading has been the chief means of making unions successful. Now what nearly 200 unions are already doing successfully most of the other unions could do just as well, if they would seriously try, and our arrangement with the Elevator Company provides a wholesale buying agency for every union that wants to get supplies. Please get together and get busy. We will help from the Central office in every way that we can.

JAMES SPEAKMAN.

MEDICINE HAT DISTRICT

The local unions in the vicinity of Medicine Hat are getting down to business in good style. Most of these unions have been organized within the last six months.

The Province of Alberta

THE DIRECT LEGISLATION ACT

Submission of a proposed Act entitled "The Liquor Act" to Electors.

DIRECTION OF VOTERS: The Voter shall indicate his vote as follows:

If he approves of the proposed Act he shall make a cross in the square opposite the word "Yes."

If he does not approve of the proposed Act he shall make a cross in the square opposite the word "No."

BALLOT:

QUESTION: Do you approve of the proposed Act, "THE LIQUOR ACT?"



YES
NO

A meeting consisting of representatives from five of them met recently and made all preparations for a meeting in Medicine Hat on August 5 to complete the organization of a District Association. Medicine Hat was a long time starting, but seems determined to make up for lost time now.

IRON SPRING RE-ORGANIZED

The farmers of Iron Spring have re-organized lately, with S. Brady, president; T. B. Kane, vice-president; and G. T. Hobbs, secretary-treasurer. We hope to hear from this union again in the future.

LOADING PLATFORM

We have just secured from the board of grain commissioners a further supply of petition forms re the erection and extension of grain loading platforms. Any district wishing to take up matters of this kind can secure the necessary information and forms thru this office.

GRAIN HEADING OUT

John Ollham, secretary of Pancras Local Union, No. 761, reports that crops in this district are doing well. Some of

the earlier grain is beginning to head out. They have had plenty of rain to last for a time. If the grain turns out as the crops promise at present, the members of this union will be doing much co-operative buying this fall.

A PAYING PROPOSITION

J. H. Dixon, secretary-treasurer of Dalemead Local Union, No. 461, reports a membership of fifty-one on their books, of whom forty-three are paid up to date. He estimates that the union has saved approximately \$600 on co-operative purchasing in the last six months. This is fairly good interest on \$1.00 membership fee. It works out at about 2500 per cent. Yet some people are still wondering whether co-operation will do all that is claimed for it.

REDUCING COST

H. T. Wilson, secretary Dunmore Union, No. 724, sends in further membership dues, bringing the total for this union up to sixty paid up members. The union has only been organized a matter of two months and started with ten members. The secretary reports that the cost of flour and feed has been reduced by one-seventh and a carload of binder twine has been secured at \$8.91 per hundred. He refers to a trouble found in very many unions, namely, lack of attendance on the part of the members, and another difficulty also not uncommon is to get the members to think of the interests of the union as a body instead of only thinking of their own personal interest. The advance of education along the lines of co-operation will overcome this. This

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

Victoria—P. S. Austin	Sanbury
Edmonton—George Long	Namsa
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

the last meeting and there was a good attendance of men as well. Great preparations are being made in this district for the united picnic of Mere, Carlyle, Alaskan, Acadia and University Locals, to be held at Sibbald on July 1.

WANT RURAL MAIL DELIVERY

Another very interesting report has come to hand from Alaskan Local, No. 696, the last meeting being held at the residence of W. B. Green on June 15, when a considerable amount of business was transacted. This district is endeavoring to secure a free rural mail delivery and has a strong committee at work on the petition. Tenders were considered for the supply of binder twine and arrangements have been made thru the banks for financing the business. Discussion took place on the matter of good roads, taxes and pound law. A picnic is to be held at Mr. Young's place on July 15. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the local at Mr. Anderson's on July 6. Three new members were added during the course of the meeting.

THE DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

From the letters and reports coming to the office there appears to be a good deal of misapprehension in regard to circular No. 7 re calling of district conventions in the new federal constituencies. One of our unions writes, for instance, that they will have nothing to do with the convention because the individual members reserve the right to vote as they please. Another writes that they will not send delegates because they believe that the time has not yet come for the executive of the U.F.A. to go into politics. Still another writes that some of his members voted against sending delegates because they did not believe that the funds of the Association should be used for political purposes. Other letters of a similar character could be quoted and all of them are based apparently on a misunderstanding of what the directors have in view.

The resolution of the executive sets forth very clearly first of all why it was necessary to take any action along these lines at all. It then states very definitely that the executive has no authority to decide on a question of this kind, neither has the board of directors. The resolution proper then calls on the different unions to appoint delegates in their respective constituencies to meet together at such time and place as may be decided by the Central office for the purpose of discussing this question and deciding what they want to do for themselves.

The Association is not pledged in any way by this resolution, except to call district conventions when sufficient of the unions have notified us of their desire to hold such a convention, each constituency, supposing such a convention were called, would be free to decide what they wanted to do, and having decided would commit, not the whole Association, but merely the district which they represented. The Association cannot be committed to radical change of policy except thru an annual or special convention of the entire province.

Consideration of the above remarks and the further study of circular No. 7, particularly the resolution itself, will, I think, throw new light on this matter in many of our unions. The question is a very big one and as has been stated in more than one letter, the ultimate decision will probably mean continued existence or death to the whole Association, so that it is well to understand just exactly what it is proposed to do before making any hasty decision or harsh criticism. In discussing this circular it is not a question of whether or not you are in favor of an independent candidate or one of the old line parties. The matter under discussion is the calling of a district convention to discuss this question, and all unions whether in favor of the Association taking part in any political movement or not should hold themselves in readiness to send delegates, should such convention be called. It is quite as important, perhaps more so, for those who are against such action to be on hand as for those who are in favor. P. P. W.

NO POLITICS OR RELIGION

Another union in the Medicine Hat vicinity is Gros Ventre, No. 721, and the secretary reports that at their last meeting all officers were present and only one member absent. In discussing the Gleichen resolution the union passed a motion to the effect "That this local union, No. 721, keep discussions on politics and religion out." Mr. Bohmet was appointed a delegate to meet the secretary of the Dunmore local and talk over the market question. It was also decided to purchase a supply of U.F.A. buttons.

A UNION PICNIC

Mere Local Union reports fifty-six fully paid up members to date, also that conditions are looking very promising in the district. Meetings of this union are now held on Saturday afternoon and the ladies are invited; a large number turned up at