

United Farmers of Alberta

Conducted Officially for the United Farmers of Alberta
by the Secretary
H. Higginbotham, Calgary, Alberta

SOME misunderstanding seems to have arisen among some of our members, concerning the resolution passed by the U.F.A. Executive on May 13, in regard to the order-in-council calling out young men, of the ages 20 to 22. This misunderstanding is not to be wondered at, in view of the various headlines which have appeared in the press in connection with this resolution. Some of our members seem to have taken their interpretation of the Executive resolution from the construction which was put upon it by some newspapers. While this is only natural we think our members would have been well advised to carefully study the resolution itself, apart from any headline or introduction, before making up their minds.

As the writer pointed out in a recent circular the members of the U.F.A. Executive are farmers, like the rest of our members, and are themselves affected by the draft. Not only this, but they have been deliberately chosen by the Annual Convention of the U.F.A. as being among the most respected, and most able, and the most trustworthy representatives of the whole membership. Also some of them have given life-long service to the United Farmers of Alberta, even in lean and trying years.

As was stated in a previous circular, the United Farmers of Alberta is still acting in this matter in the interests of the farmers of this province. First of all two weeks leave for all the drafted men was secured and now relief has been obtained in cases of special hardship, and still the U.F.A. is actively engaged in presenting the farmers case at Ottawa. There are those who think the U.F.A. should have made a vigorous protest to Ottawa. Most of our members will, we believe, realize that this would not have been a wise course to take. We are confident that more tangible results are to be obtained in the desired direction from the action so far taken than would have resulted from any such protest.

The Board of Directors met in session in Calgary on May 30 and 31, and the subject was given further consideration by the full board. While the result of this meeting has not yet been made public, our members can rest assured that their interests are being carefully watched.

The Summer Picnic

Picnics are a splendid means of creating sociability in your community; but if you wish a speaker for your picnic, be careful that you leave time on your program for his address. Also be sure that you so advertise it that the people will feel the speaking is the most important part of the program. Do not arrange for too many games or sports. At a picnic it is better to have the speaking before the ball game but certainly not during the ball game or other sports. If you arrange a picnic for your summer meeting, at least one hour should be allowed for the speaking. We would suggest that two or more locals arrange to meet together where this is feasible. You must not let it become merely "a picnic" or "a frolic," if you wish to discuss association matters profitably.

From "Over There"

It is always interesting to hear from the boys who are "over there." The U.F.A. has many members on the firing line in France, but it is something to receive a Life Membership subscription from one who has been under fire at the front for a year and a half. Pessimists might say that such a member was poking fun at providence. Fine, courageous optimism, say we. We need more of this type of men who can face death daily and yet make careful plans for the future. How inspiring to find a man who has scorned death and destruction at the hands of the Huns for a year-and-a-half, studying how he can benefit his fellow men at home. How fine to think that the U.F.A. and its motto "Equity" is such a man's

inspiration. How many of us at home are deserving to stand in company with such men? Acting Corporal Duffy, recently sent in a life membership fee and also subscribed for stock in the U.F.A. after one-and-a-half year's in the trenches. Acting Corporal Duffy worked hard for the U.F.A. in the early days of settlement in the country east of Snake Valley, in Southern Alberta; taking an active part in the organization of Brunetta, Rolling Prairie, Sweet Valley and later the Lomond locals. Also he was, in company with six other directors, responsible for the organization of the new prosperous and progressive Associated Farmers' Limited, of Lomond, close to which village he homesteaded in the days when the nearest railroad town was either Claresholm, High River or Lethbridge. He enlisted in September, 1917, and has been in the trenches since. He writes a very interesting letter to the Central office, in which among other things, he states that they were reading President's Wood's speech to the last annual convention, in the trenches. He says he hopes to work for the good old U.F.A. after the war. Mrs. Duffy is still living at Lomond. We give Acting Corporal Duffy's address in case any of our members would like to drop him a line: Address Pte. (Act. Corporal) H. J. Duffy, 737235, Canadian Infantry Battalion, "Canadian Scottish," R.E.F., France. Acting Corporal Duffy is a U.F.A. member to be proud of. "Lang may his lum reek."

Tolland Keeps Tab

The secretary of Tolland local writes: Since organizing in March, this local has been holding its meetings regularly. While our membership is small owing to our community being sparsely settled, our members are receiving great help through buying supplies co-operatively. We have sent for nearly everything we needed in carrying on our spring work, and at our last meeting one car load of lumber was ordered with the promise of another car a little later. Just as a matter of comparison, the secretary is keeping a record of the amount saved on each order over local prices, and he hopes to have a fine record to present to the members at the annual meeting.

I cannot speak too highly of the advantages of dealing through The Farmers' Co-operative Elevators; they provide a place where the farmers can go and purchase supplies at the lowest possible cost, and in most cases in less than carload lots, the latter being a great help where small amounts are required.

Through the united efforts of the various locals of this vicinity, a Livestock Association has been formed at Vermillion, and while it has only started it is expected later to handle the most of the livestock which is to be sold at that point.

New Local at Normandale

The farmers of the Normandale district, realizing the necessity and importance of the United Farmers of Alberta organization, met in the Normandale school-house on Saturday, April 6, for the purpose of organizing a local in that district. A number of the members of the Lone Butte local, who had been asked to come over and assist them in getting organized were there and took a very active part in the meeting.

W. W. Sim, president of the Lone Butte local was appointed chairman of the meeting, while J. Higginbotham, vice-president of Lone Butte acted as secretary. The farmers of the district seemed to be very enthusiastic over the new work which they were about to undertake, and the organization of a

new local with a good number paid-up members was the result of the meeting.

J. Higginbotham first addressed the meeting for some fifty minutes, pointing out very clearly the many good things which had already been accomplished for the farmers through the efforts of the U.F.A. and other farmers' organizations, and also the many things which might still be accomplished by the extending and strengthening of the organization which has already done so much for the farmers of this province.

After Mr. Higginbotham's address the meeting proceeded to elect officers for the new local. Several nominations were made for president, vice-president and secretary, but after a vote of the meeting had been taken it was found that H. C. Sim was elected president; D. C. Smith, vice-president and W. R. Fitzsimmons, secretary. Four directors, Messrs. C. C. Wheeler, W. Shaw, A. G. Brose and J. T. Ryan, were also appointed, after which the meeting was placed under the management of the newly elected officers who at once took their places and commenced to do business.

Several questions were brought up by the new members and discussed for some time after which the meeting adjourned.

Mr. Higginbotham and H. C. Sim then left to attend another meeting that same evening at Wheatland where they found a new local already organized.

Both the new locals will no doubt prove to be a good success and will certainly do credit to the district in which they have been formed as well as being a help to the whole organization.

Galarneauville No. 824

A meeting was held in the Galarneauville district, Bow River Constituency, on Saturday, May 18, at which a new local was formed. Fourteen farmers were present. G. A. Forster, director for the Bow River Constituency, gave an inspiring and interesting address on co-operation and the possibilities that could be attained in this district. He also spoke on the achievements of the Central organization, and what they had accomplished in the interests of the farmers of Alberta. Mr. Bradshaw, of Pandora, explained what they were doing at Pandora and how the farmers had benefited by co-operation.

Norman W. Dorman was elected secretary. Meetings will be held on the first and third Saturdays of each month.

Veteran Going Strong

John Ralston, Secretary of the Veteran local writes:

On this page of The Guide some time ago you gave a letter as from Jas. Lee, of Veteran. To correct some impressions that may have been taken from that letter, we beg to say that Mr. Lee is secretary of a new local (Northland local) some of whose members did belong to the Veteran local but have now formed a local nearer home. The Veteran local has 125 members, meetings are held alternate Saturday afternoons through the winter and have a very good attendance. At our last meeting before spring work started, the members had a joint meeting with the Veteran U.F.W.A. (who have about 45 members) and with about 80 present. A very interesting meeting was held, with papers and speeches on subjects of interest to both organizations, also a discussion as to ways of increasing membership.

The U.F.A. at the Big Fairs

The U.F.A. Central office has arranged to have tents placed at the Calgary and Edmonton Exhibitions. The U.F.W.A. will co-operate in the same manner.

It is hoped that these tents on the exhibition grounds will be appreciated by the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. members. Farmers and farm women in Alberta, attending the Edmonton and Calgary exhibitions are invited to make the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. tent their headquarters at the exhibition. If the weather is hot, attendance at the exhibition is particularly trying, and there is need for some place to go for a brief rest.

Both the Edmonton and Calgary fairs have set apart one day to be observed as United Farmers day. In Calgary, this will be Tuesday, July 2, and in Edmonton, Wednesday, July 10. We are sure members of the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. will appreciate the honor which is done to them by the Fair Associations, in thus setting apart one day in honor of our association. It is hoped that our members will reciprocate by showing their interest in these exhibitions, and especially by supporting United Farmers day at these exhibitions.

The day which has been set apart for United Farmers day at both exhibitions is one of the best days of the fairs. Also it is worth while to keep in mind that our Annual Secretaries' Conventions will be held in Calgary and Edmonton during the fairs, and our secretaries will be on hand on the U.F.A. days and some of the other days of the exhibitions. This will be a good opportunity to get acquainted, and farmers can introduce their friends to the local secretary at the exhibition, and assist their friends and their organization in this way.

It would be a good piece of advertising for the U.F.A. if local U.F.A.'s could arrange to place a rest tent at each local fair. The U.F.W.A.'s might co-operate. There is no doubt that this service would be greatly appreciated, and would increase the respect of the farmers in the locality of our organization.

U.F.A. Briefs

Who says the U.F.A. is not broad in its scope? At a meeting of the Lone Butte local recently, a quantity of gopher poison was sold, and a discussion took place on divorce as well as a number of other topics.

The monthly meeting of the Rusylvia local of the U.F.A., was held on May 31. The attendance was not as large as usual owing to bad roads and weather. Summer-fallow-breaking and grubbing was discussed at the meeting.

McCafferty local have increased their membership from 46 to 76. Mr. Smith, the energetic secretary, has passed his seventieth year. He can give pointers to some of the younger men on "how to hustle."

H. L. Dundas, secretary of Bear Lake local union, reports that at their last meeting, the purchasing of a supply of binder twine was discussed. A discussion also took place on the shipping of livestock, and it was decided to ship hogs, co-operatively, to the Livestock Department of the United Grain Growers Limited, next fall. A picnic was held on May 24, at which there was a fair attendance, and all present had a good time. The Red Cross booth in charge of the Local Auxiliary did a gratifying business.

The members of Carlton local No. 253, observed U.F.A. Sunday on May 19, by officially opening their new hall. There was a large attendance. Mr. Good, of Youngstown, being the speaker. A collection was taken for the Y.M.C.A. Military Fund, amounting to \$14.25.

Convention Date Changed

The dates of the Secretaries' Convention have been changed from July 9 and 10 to July 10 and 11. This change has been made necessary owing to the train service from northern points.