

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR No. 21

In reference to our annual convention, the number of locals reporting their intention to send delegates is not great so far. Of course, we realize that on account of the open weather many of the locals have not been able to hold representative meetings during November, and that consequently we could not expect to hear from a great many. I take this opportunity, however, of again reminding all secretaries to notify us as to their intentions in the matter of sending delegates so that we can send them the necessary delegates' certificates, without which their representatives will be facing some inconvenience on their arrival here, not to mention the trouble that they will be creating for us.

No doubt for the same reason that we have failed to hear from any of the locals in regard to delegates, we find that the number of resolutions for the convention received to date are very few. While the constitution provides that resolutions for the convention must be in by December 1, it also provides that resolutions received after that date may be considered if the delegates so wish. Under the circumstances therefore, we shall expect to receive some further resolutions, and, indeed, it would be advisable to have such resolutions as there are a number of important subjects which are being dealt with through correspondence, etc., with the Central office, and which as yet are not touched upon by any of the locals who have sent in resolutions. It would be advisable to have all the resolutions in by December 15, if possible, or at least not later than Christmas, as if they are received after that date the Central office cannot undertake to have them printed and distributed to the locals in time to receive consideration before the convention meets. Please bear this in mind and at the very earliest opportunity put on your program the item of considering the sending of delegates to our convention and the passing of such resolutions as you wish considered during the sessions.

It also does not seem to be clearly understood yet that by resolution of the delegates at the last convention, a fee of 50 cents must accompany each resolution sent in. Attention to this detail will save both locals and Central considerable work.

Suggested Resolutions

If we might be permitted to suggest a few of the subjects which as yet are not covered by any resolutions, and in regard to which it might be well to have an expression of opinion from some of our locals in the form of a resolution as a basis for the discussion which should take place at our convention, we would suggest the following:

Hall Insurance

As yet there is no resolution to hand in regard to our own activities in the private hall insurance field or in regard to the municipal scheme. Some of our locals who had experience with the Central office arrangement this year might well pass a resolution as to their ideas of its future conduct. While the municipal scheme is really a matter for the municipalities to deal with, the future of this co-operative idea is one that should be of interest to every farmer in the province. The U.F.A. does not as a rule care to deal with municipal matters which come within the powers of the convention of rural municipalities, but it might under the present exceptional circumstances be in order to have a brief discussion on the future of this scheme also.

Women's Section

Quite a few remarks have been made to me verbally in regard to this important branch of our work during the year, which would furnish good material for a discussion at the convention, but no resolution is to hand so far. The situation is, of course, that while women are equally eligible to membership in the U.F.A. with the men, and are equally responsible as citizens, with the vote, for the future of the association and the province at large, we have at present less than 1,000 women members against 16,000 men, though probably not less than 75 per cent. of the latter have wives, and some of them daughters who are elig-

ble. As pointed out before, a really good U.F.A. man would see that a dollar is paid into the local, or a local of the U.F.W.A. for his wife as well as himself. And here the question of the women's section is inclined to overlap or join forces with the question of the increase in the membership fee. If every member would undertake to see that his wife also became a member of the U.F.A. there would not be the same urgent need for additional financial support that is apparent at the present time, and incidentally the influence of our association would be considerably increased.

There are quite a number of subjects both of an economic nature and otherwise which if one may judge from the correspondence coming to hand from the locals, are exercising the minds of a considerable number of our members, and which are as yet not covered by resolution for the convention. Do not forget that your annual convention is the governing body of the association and corresponds to your own session of parliament in which you yourselves act as citizens of the farmers' community just the same as you do when you elect a member to the provincial or Dominion house of parliament, the only difference being that in the case of your annual convention you indicate by resolution to your representatives the matters which they shall discuss, and give instructions to your Central office to work on for the next year, while your legislative representatives give their attention to such matters as they please during the five years that elapse before they have to come to you for re-election.

P. P. WOODBRIDGE.

DIRECTOR SPENCER AT MOYERTON

A special meeting of the Moyerton local was called to give Director Spencer an opportunity to discuss the United Farmers' Organization and objects. Mr. Spencer on taking the platform expressed his appreciation of the opportunity afforded him of addressing the residents of Moyerton district. He then proceeded to give an outline of the initial organization of the U.F.A. He mentioned that the first convention, composed of 200 delegates from the Alberta Farmers' Association and the Society of Equity, convened in Edmonton in 1909 and organized under the name of the United Farmers of Alberta. From this small beginning the organization has grown to such an extent that at the convention in January, 1917, 1,200 delegates representing 15,000 farmers were present. He went on to explain the influence exerted by such a powerful organization. At the first convention one of the government men present remarked to a friend afterwards, that he had been addressing a "bunch of hayseeds." At the last convention the government representative brought the draft of the "Long Term Farm Loan Bill" to the attention of the delegates, and asked for an expression of opinion before this bill was brought up in the legislature. He went on to show how the organization could be made still more powerful and beneficial by all farmers becoming members, and thus giving the organization still greater moral as well as financial support. He urged each member of the local to make the local his personal business and do his utmost to strengthen the organization. He showed the power that is being exerted by the monied interests by their system of working together and backing each other financially; how all legislation is carefully watched and influence exerted on members of parliament who, not being properly instructed by the men who actually appoint them as their representatives, are easily swayed by the lobbyists working in favor of the interests. He made the suggestion that locals should demand from their representatives in both the provincial and

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.

Dominion parliaments a definite statement, at frequent intervals, of the manner in which they were carrying out the trust reposed in them.

At the conclusion of Mr. Spencer's lecture he was asked to explain more fully certain items he had touched on. Among others were the Central office's need of funds and the Farm Loan Bill. He also gave an interesting talk on farm telephones as used in his neighborhood. The meeting then adjourned.

A public meeting was then called, and a discussion on the Christmas entertainment ensued. It was finally decided that the ladies undertake the Christmas entertainment and that the secretary hand over the Christmas tree trust funds to the committee appointed by the ladies.

The annual meeting of the local will be held on December 8.

PENHOLD CO-OPERATING

Jesse Bourne, secretary-treasurer of Penhold District U.F.A. Co-operative Association Limited, has sent us the following very interesting report, from which we are pleased to note that the enthusiasm of the members has once more been aroused:

"You have no doubt long since concluded that something must have befallen the enthusiastic new U.F.A. secretary of early 1916. But such is not the case, as I am pleased to report I am still in the ring in making this oft-promised report. The fact is, owing to circumstances beyond our control, of which I mean to speak later, we, in our co-operative efforts at Penhold, have up to the present made but little actual progress. The difficulties to which I refer have, largely through the convention of local secretaries held last June, been completely overcome, and I am pleased to report the holding on Monday last of the most successful meeting we have yet held, which was by the way the first since March 8.

"As a result of the meeting on Friday and Saturday of last week, a bunch of enthusiastic shareholders turned out and in spite of zero conditions, with grub-hoe, teams and scraper, excavated a cellar on the property I believe I mentioned in my last report, besides partly fencing in the lots. Owing to the inclemency of the weather, I was unable to take a snap of the busy group or I would have included one with this report.

"It is our intention to erect a co-operative building over this cellar during the winter and put in the foundation in the spring, drawing the gravel on the sleighs in the meantime. The building is for office purposes and to hold meetings, besides the storage of such commodities as the association sees fit to handle. Besides laying down a course of action as to building and extending our lines of trade, they decided upon and subsequently engaged a manager, and arrangements have been made to instal a telephone at the first opportunity in our temporary place of business. With several carlot orders already placed with the United Grain Growers for future delivery in due season, we are looking forward to considerable business even before being established in our own premises, and it is encouraging to see the ready response to calls made on the stock, beside the sale of more shares and the universal promises of patronage and support. To sum up the situation, I feel that we have broken the crust, we have topped the ridge, and are now on the downhill push."

LOYALTY OF MEMBERS

Onaway local, which has been in existence since the early days of the organization, has recently been passing through a crisis which they hope to successfully negotiate. The secretary reports in part as follows:

"Our prestige and bargaining power has been considerably damaged by disloyalty amongst some of our mem-

bers, who have acted contrary to the bargains made by the various committees, and whose actions they voted in favor of at the regular meetings. In consequence we have suspended a considerable number and reprimanded others, and some are very sore about this. Personally I think it is to the benefit of this union that this has been done, though some will drop out."

Apparently some members of this local have been failing their fellow members in a way which is unfortunately not uncommon. The majority of men seem to recognize their obligations when they have attached their name to a written agreement, but quite a number seem to consider that the mere fact that they have voted in their local, instructing the secretary or local board to do certain things, and promising their support in the event of those things being done, carries no obligation with it whatsoever, and that they are perfectly free to do as they wish and carry no liability, even if the result of their action should mean financial loss or the disintegration of the local. The responsibility of the man who votes "yea" or "nay" in any properly called meeting of a local of the U.F.A. or any recognized organization, is every bit as binding as if he had signed his name to a written agreement. It is true that an unincorporated local of the U.F.A. has no legal standing, and from a legal point of view it might be difficult to fasten the responsibility on to the individual members who authorized or instructed the action, but in an incorporated body, the vote of "yea" or "nay" recorded in the minutes is equivalent to the written signature of the parties voting, and the moral obligation in the unincorporated local is every bit as strong as the legal obligation in the incorporated local, or should be with any man who professes to be a U.F.A. man, or even a reasonably honest and responsible citizen.

P. P. W.

MEETING AT GRANUM

The following communication has been received from P. A. Stewart, secretary of Granum local:

"I beg to report a very successful meeting held in the Opera House here on the evening of November 27. The ladies of the U.F.W.A. served supper from six to eight, after which a splendid program of music and speeches took place. Mr. Wood, president of the U.F.A., spoke in his usual forceful manner to a well-filled house, taking as his subject 'The Evolution of Trade and Commerce.' Mr. Wood's remarks were very well received and created a very good impression among the people of Granum. Mrs. McKinnay, M.L.A., in her usual good form, held the audience with her eloquent remarks on 'The Modern Woman.' It is the intention of the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. to join hands and make this an annual gathering, which cannot fail to have splendid results in building up the community spirit in the Granum district."

SEXTON CREEK ANNUAL MEETING

John A. Graham, secretary of Sexton Creek Local, reports on their annual meeting, and states that after the members had partaken of a big oyster stew, accompanied by a bountiful supply of crackers and pickles, rounding off with a big cake, coffee and cigars, they felt equal to business, and the meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. Amongst other business transacted they agreed unanimously to the proposed increase of the membership fee to \$2.00 next year, and instructed their delegates to work and vote for same at the forthcoming convention. Two delegates were appointed to attend the convention at the expense of the local, and four others were accredited who proposed to attend at their own expense.

It was also moved and seconded that the secretary-treasurer be given an honorarium of \$25 out of the funds for his services during the past year, and a hearty vote of thanks extended to him. The financial statement showed receipts for all purposes of \$628.70, and an expenditure of \$538.90, leaving a balance on hand of \$89.80. This, with the election of officers for the coming year, brought a very successful meeting to a close.