

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.

SEED GRAIN CERTIFICATES Official Circular No. 2

Enclosed herewith you will find application forms and certificates for use in connection with the special seed grain certificates. Owing to an oversight by the railway authorities I was not informed until a few days ago that the same arrangements that existed last year would apply this year. The only change in the enclosed forms from those sent out to you last year is that an application form has been attached to the certificate. The farmer should fill in the application form. The certificate should be filled in by the farmer or by the local secretary, whichever is the most convenient. Both application and certificate must be forwarded to the Central Office, when I will countersign the certificate and return it to the farmer.

I do not think I need to repeat all the instructions, as practically the only point to remember, so far as you are concerned, is that the arrangement is intended to secure the reduced rate to the farmer who is purchasing and receiving the grain; it does not apply to the shipper. The railway agent at the shipping end books the grain thru at the ordinary rate, but the railway agent at the receiving end is authorized to cancel the ordinary rates on which the grain was shipped and substitute therefor the special rates, provided that the farmer to whom the grain is shipped is able to produce one of these certificates, properly signed and countersigned.

Home Guard Movement

Our third Vice-President, Rice Sheppard, and some of the unions near Edmonton are and have been for some time deeply interested in the Home Guard movement, and at a recent meeting of our executive, a committee consisting of Rice Sheppard and the secretary was appointed to act in conjunction with the Legion of Frontiersmen, with a view to assisting or initiating work along these lines in districts which might signify their desire to take the matter up. The idea would be of course to organize local units, mounted or otherwise, for the purpose of home defence which would be a unit of the U.F.A. Command of the Legion of Frontiersmen and wherever a union or district were willing to organize in this way and take the necessary drill, we would endeavor to supply them with an officer or instructor with the necessary ability to act in that capacity for preliminary work in this direction.

We would ask you at the next meeting of your union to inquire if there is anyone in the neighborhood with previous military experience who is able and willing to act as instructor, since it is quite obvious that if any number of districts respond to this call, the Legion of Frontiersmen could not possibly supply all the officers required. The movement has been greeted with great enthusiasm around Edmonton, and in order to get it properly organized as soon as possible, we would ask you to forward us the information asked for at the earliest possible moment.

Yours fraternally,

P. P. WOODBRIDGE,
Provincial Secretary.

AN ORGAN IN THE SCHOOL HOUSE

Geo. J. Johnson, secretary of Badger Lake Local Union No. 563, reports that the union has now thirty members, five of whom are ladies. During the past few months they held four meetings at which the attendance was very good. At the last meeting there was a debate on Farm Problems which was appreciated by all present. The bachelors furnished lunch free, and a very good one it was. Several ladies were present, and all acknowledged that the bachelors were some cooks. The union held a box social on February 11, which was a great success, the net profit being \$32.90. This amount was applied on some badly needed improvements on the school, which is used as the meeting place. The members in-

tend to keep up debates on all subjects of importance relating to farm life and the welfare of the association, and judging by the first experiment along these lines, G. J. Johnson believes that this is going to keep the union in an active state. There is an organ in the schoolhouse, which is in the custody of the union, and this proves a great drawing card in bringing out the ladies and the young folks. The President, Wm. Roenicke, is an ardent worker in the U.F.A. cause. He has attended the annual convention two years in succession as delegate for the union.

MAPLE LEAF PROSPERING

The regular meeting of the Maple Leaf Union No. 504 was held on December 18, 1915. A vote of thanks was passed to the committee for the way in which they handled the box social. After paying the balance due on the hall, and all other expenses, a sum of \$8.70 was left over which sum was put into the general fund. The officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows: E. Huseby, president; A. Huseby, vice-president, with a board of six directors. J. C. Larson was elected secretary-treasurer, but declined to accept, and at a subsequent meeting F. LaBere was elected to this office.

THANKS TO CENTRAL

The following letter has been received from H. High, secretary of Morrin Union No. 459:—At our meeting held on Saturday, February 19, I was asked to write thanking you for the successful effort put forth by the Central Office on our behalf re the station agent at Morrin, further emphasizing the necessity for referring all our troubles to the Central Office.

I may also add that we had an interesting address from W. Spurrell, one of our delegates to the Convention, on Agricultural Banks.

WANTS DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

S. L. Hooper, secretary of Mere Local Union No. 513 reports:—At our meeting on Saturday, February 19, I was instructed to write you for any information you might be able to give me on forming a District Association. There are a number of locals bordering on Sibbald and we think such a thing could be done. I might say that our local has lost members again by the forming of Vernon Local, but I think that if we work towards Sibbald, we will be able to get as many or more members than before, and as long as our fellow farmers are in the ranks somewhere it will be alright. We had a good meeting at Sibbald on the above date, and already we have thirty-two paid up members. We decided to make honorary members of any of our old members who enlist. We are also getting a good sum for the Patriotic and other funds, and I trust at the end of the quarter to be able to send something worth while.

PENHOLD UNION PROGRESSING

J. Bourne, secretary of Penhold Union No. 13 reports that they held their second meeting for 1916 on February 10, at which, in spite of the fact that it was the worst day of the severe cold spell, there were twenty in attendance. President A. Speakman called the meeting to order, and after the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted, the delegates to the annual convention were called on to give their reports, and on conclusion of same the meeting returned them a vote of thanks with congratulations for the splendid reports given. F. J. Powell, secretary of Edwell Union No. 53, who was present, was then given an opportunity to explain how he came to unload a car of coal belonging to Penhold Union, which he did to the satisfaction of all present, apologizing to the secretary and other parties concerned. In remarks on the suggestion in the report of the secretary that the Union uphold the suggestions of the Central Office re the convention report,

or the issuing of a monthly report as a provincial organ, in addition to, and not in place of, The Grain Growers' Guide, the Vice-President, W. Rogers, said in his opinion it would be a capital idea as the U.F.A. and the Local Unions in particular were working too much in the dark, and they needed something in a more concise form to lay before the people as to what the U.F.A. had already done and was striving to do. On further suggestions in the secretary's report, supported by T. Parcels and others, that advertisers in our convention program be given recognition, it was moved, seconded and carried unanimously, "That the members of Penhold Union record their appreciation of the fact that certain mercantile and other parties have seen fit to avail themselves of the opportunity of advertising in the program of our last convention, and so far as consistent we realize our obligation to give these firms preference over all others." It was decided that the ladies be given a special invitation to the next meeting, and that they be called on to address the meeting. The union now has forty-nine members, and hopes to be stronger this year than ever before. It is the first year that they have had any lady members, with the exception of Mrs. Jas. Speakman, and they now have five, with a prospect of several more at the next meeting. They have handled five cars of coal since December 1.

ENTHUSIASM AT RIDDELLVALE

The following report has come to hand from J. Cuthbert, secretary of Riddellvale Union No. 617, together with \$142 contribution to the U.F.A. Patriotic Fund:—

"Fired with the spirit of enthusiasm that prevailed at the recent Calgary Convention, the women delegates of this local, Miss McArthur (president) and Mrs. Putnam (secretary) heartily supported by our President, R. Riddell, lost no time in infusing new life and vigor among their fellow members. One of several pleasant results of this effort was a box social, held February 18 in the schoolroom, which was crowded to excess. Surely a "merrie companie." Speeches were at a discount, the time proving too brief for a well arranged variety program which was carried thru with credit to all concerned. Wit, fun and humor reached its height on the sale of the boxes under the able auctioneering of Thos. Gray. The top notch of prices \$16.50 was arrived at by John Jack, Union Bank, Cereal, who was skilfully piloted to this handy amount by the sporting instinct of Geo. Hall. President Riddell in a brief but apt speech, said there was a clear balance of \$302.00 on the evening's sport. One hundred and forty-two dollars of this was to go on behalf of the U.F.A. to the Patriotic Fund, and \$160.00 on behalf of the U.F.W.A. to the Red Cross Fund. These amounts would go forward with heart-felt good wishes of every member of the local. He thought sufficient emphasis could not be laid on, nor publicity given to, the pleasant result, as proving by hard practical fact what can be done by the men and women working together not only in social work, but in all work that pertains to the good of the farm and the betterment of the local surroundings generally. The oft quoted, but oft unheeded words in "Hiawatha" should be printed large in every farm home—

"As unto the bow the cord is,
So unto the man is woman.
Thou she bends him, she obeys him,
Thou she draws him yet she follows."
Dancing concluded the evening's amusement in which it was noted that the male partners, having been duly relieved of their superfluous cash, treaded the fantastic toe more lightly than usual.

BUSINESS AT ALSASK

A meeting of the Alsask Union No. 696 was held on February 9. Letters were read from Messrs. Moore and Elder, of Fiske, re establishment of a creamery. J. Young then discussed the proposition, pointing out the advantages and suggesting that it would be well to send a delegate to the directors' meeting to be held at Fiske on the 29th. A. Anderson was appointed delegate. Owing to the secretary's absence, the

next meeting was postponed till the first Tuesday in March. Dues for 1916 were then received. Then followed a report of the convention, after which it was moved, seconded and carried that a vote of thanks be passed to the secretary. It was decided that the union have Want, Sale and Exchange boards at Alsask and Sibbald. A committee consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Halvorsen, A. Anderson and W. Green were appointed to arrange programs for social evenings.

SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATIVE TRADING

About a year ago the Willow Hollow Union No. 332 was incorporated as a co-operative society and the following is their financial statement for the year ending December 31:

Receipts	
Share capital.....	\$ 220.00
Cedar posts.....	489.86
Strychnine and gophercide.....	108.50
Machine oil.....	39.55
Formalin.....	57.05
Wire.....	1,370.29
Fruit.....	77.80
Twine.....	3,629.75
Apples.....	789.75
Coal.....	118.85
	\$6,901.40
Expenditure	
Registration fees.....	\$ 33.55
Cedar posts.....	457.87
Strychnine and gophercide.....	105.40
Machine oil.....	29.90
Formalin.....	54.20
Wire.....	1,331.53
Fruit.....	74.55
Twine.....	3,572.45
Apples.....	761.02
Coal.....	116.74
Stationery and postage.....	27.70
Salary.....	50.00
Balance.....	286.49
	\$6,901.40
Assets	
Cash in hand.....	\$286.49
Liabilities	
Share stock.....	\$220.00
Interest to shareholders at 6 p.c.....	12.65
10 p.c. Statutory reserve.....	5.50
20 p.c. Special.....	11.00
Balance profit divided to shareholders on purchases pro rata.....	37.34
	\$286.49

This shows a total balance on hand, after paying all expenses, of \$286.49. The secretary states that the business is being carried on on a margin of 3 per cent, the savings to the purchasers over store prices amounting to about 16 per cent. The membership of Willow Hollow Union is not large, being thirty-six last year, so it is obvious that a union does not necessarily have to have a large membership to handle its own business successfully.

REASON FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We recently received a letter from L. G. Chapman, a homesteader in the pre-emption district South of Alsask, on the Saskatchewan border line, asking for information in regard to the cost of life membership in the U.F.A. The information was forwarded him, and promptly by return the money came back for a life membership certificate. We asked Mr. Chapman what had induced him to become so desirous to take out the life membership, and his reply, in part, is as follows:

"You ask me what impressions I got at the convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association that led me to take out this membership, and in reply I would say that in studying the ins and outs of farmers' organizations I find that several locals are badly handicapped for funds, and I do not think that any large number of the members would be denying themselves very many things if they took out life membership, and if they did the locals and the Association as a whole, would be in a better shape in most every way. I think that to make our associations as strong as they must be to back the monied interests, that all the members have to put a little more in, and not expect when they pay in one dollar that they should get out again one hundred dollars' worth of benefit, because that is more than the monied men are making on their money. I trust that you will get more life members in the near future."

CANA

The Council offices Associa Monda present Trego, Repres larg, J. N. Sales Manits R. J. / Kenzie Since membe away, placed of Agr the lat United sympat man, been Speaks farmer of his gained We fe our co fluence affect) this co The ment a Cash o United Saskat United Manito United Saskat United Letterb R. C. tawa R. Mel gina Letterg Public Rev. J. book Rev. J. ogray Public Exchan Cash o The ed: P preside and United R. Mel The ing a the app submit adp Gr answers submit seedling The was tak tion wa warded risin no was ab to Sir I White; Laurier "Wh British duty or 40 cents as, this approxi of the Canada; pose of to force higher it reso Council clare th