

SECRETARY JACKMAN BUSY

The following letter is being sent out by W. J. Jackman of Bremner, upon assuming his duties as newly-appointed director for the Stratheona constituency:

"You are doubtless aware that in July Mr. P. Baker was appointed by the executive to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Vice-President J. W. Wood, and I was named to succeed Mr. Baker as director for the Stratheona constituency.

"Now that the fall work on the farm is about over, the time seems opportune for us to consider what we can do to strengthen and extend the work of the association in our territory, and it is with a view to securing your co-operation in this work that I am addressing this letter to you.

"Probably there has never been a time when it was more important that the farmers of this country should be well and strongly organized. The great war is causing constant changes in economic and social conditions, and authorities are practically all agreed that following the close of the struggle, great and radical readjustments will have to be brought about. No lesson of the war has been more forcibly emphasized than the value of organized preparedness.

"Hence the necessity that we should begin now to fit ourselves to play our part in the strenuous days to come, not only in the protection of the interests of the farming community, but in ensuring that the principles for which we stand are embedded in the foundations upon which the new era will be built.

"In view of the wide boundaries of the Stratheona constituency, it is obviously impossible for me to get into personal touch with all the locals during this winter; and I am therefore going to ask for the kind assistance of yourself and the members of your local union in obtaining necessary information. Will you be good enough to tell me:

- "1—Whether you know of any old local union which needs strengthening?
- "2—Whether you know of any dead or inactive locals which might be revived?
- "3—Whether there is any unorganized territory in your neighborhood in which new locals might be formed?
- "4—Who are the best people to communicate with in those districts, with a view to action being taken?

"Thanking you in anticipation of your kind co-operation in this important work.

"W. J. JACKMAN."

In an interesting letter from New Norway Local No. 293, Secretary Frank Olson reports that they have appointed two delegates, including himself, to the convention, and hope at their next meeting to prepare a resolution to be submitted on that occasion.

"He goes on to say: 'I am pleased to let you know that our local has at last found out the value of buying on a co-operative basis. We have been ordering coal for our members at a saving of from \$1.00 to \$2.25 per ton, and our third car will be here on Saturday next.

"We are also expecting a car of apples soon, ordered through the local agent of the United Grain Growers. I may say that though having spent considerable time in connection with this work, I have felt it my duty and proved that whatever helps to keep our local organization together in these times, makes for better days for the united farmers in the near future."

W. J. Jackman of Bremner reports the formation of a new union at Ardrossan, of which he acted as organizer. He writes that besides the 11 members who signed the roll, a number of farmers who were unable to attend the meeting telephoned that they were in sympathy with the object of the gathering and intended to join the local union if organized. A committee was appointed to arrange for a suitable meeting place, and everything points to a good strong local being developed.

Much interest was shown in his explanation of the Elevator Act, and steps will most likely be taken to form an elevator local in the near future. C. W. Parker was elected president and the Rev. G. W. Langille, Presbyterian

minister, kindly consented to act as secretary.

News has reached us through the Lethbridge Herald that Lieut. Chas. M. Scadden, a young officer of the Lethbridge Highlanders, has died of wounds in France. No previous word as to his being wounded had been received. Lieut. Scadden was a young farmer of the Purple Springs district, and was a veteran of the South African war. He joined the Kilties in Lethbridge when they organized in the fall of 1915. He made a host of friends while the regiment was stationed there. While on his farm he was active in U.F.A. work.

The Secretary of Carlton Local Union No. 253, H. E. T. Parke of Youngstown, reports that interest is reviving in their union, and at the last meeting it was decided to erect a new hall, 20 x 40. Of the funds for building, \$350 has already been procured, so that work will proceed immediately. He also states that their union endorsed the competition of unions and will make an effort to be ahead of the "also ran." They expect to send three delegates to the convention.

The following resolutions were passed at a largely attended meeting of Gleichen Local Union No. 96, held on the 17th instant:

"Resolved that we, the Gleichen branch of the U.F.A., do strongly protest against the indiscriminate way our skilled farm help are being drafted for military service, leaving us entirely unable to conduct our farming operations, and, if the men are taken from us as now drafted, we shall be entirely unable to produce the necessary for our men at the front."

"Resolved that it is the sense of this meeting, U.F.A. Local No. 96, Gleichen, that we will do our utmost to subscribe for all the Victory Bonds possible."

U.F.O. MEET CITY EDITORS

The directors of the United Farmers of Ontario, on November 8, invited the publishers and managing editors of the Toronto daily papers to attend a luncheon in the Ontario Club, in order that speakers on behalf of the farmers might lay before the representatives of the daily press facts concerning the farming situation, with which they thought it was desirable that they should be acquainted. R. W. E. Burnaby, of York County, Ont., acted as chairman. The chief speakers for the farmers were: H. B. Cowan, editor-in-chief of Farm and Dairy; W. C. Good, of Paris; and E. C. Drury, of Barrie. Short speeches on behalf of the farmers were made also by President E. H. Stonehouse, of the Toronto Milk Producers' Association; J. J. Morrison, secretary of the U.F.O.; and Wade Tool, editor of the Farmers' Advocate. The speakers on behalf of the Toronto papers included Stewart Lyon, managing editor of The Globe; John R. Robinson, of the Telegram; Mr. Jennings, of the Mail and Empire, and A. E. S. Smythe, of the World.

The purpose of the meeting was to show that many articles are appearing in the daily press expressing the views of the consumers, which are unjust to the farmers. In the same way many suggestions for improving conditions are being made and urged by residents of the cities, which, if put into effect, would prove disastrous to agriculture and consequently to city residents as well. It was intended also to reply to the charge frequently made that farmers are great profiteers as a result of the war, and that they are not doing their part to increase production.

Control Other Prices Too

In opening the discussion for the farmers Mr. Cowan showed that there would have been a shortage of food, even had there been no war, owing to the rapid depopulation of the rural dis-

tricts that had been going on for years before the war started. In the 40 years between 1871 and 1911 there had been a material decline in the rural population of Eastern Canada, and an increase in the urban population of over 1,100,000. This naturally was making a food shortage and causing a corresponding increase in the cost of living. These conditions had been greatly intensified by the war, and could not be quickly remedied by any of the inadequate remedies being suggested today. Figures were quoted to show that farmers as a class are not nearly as prosperous as most city people seem to think, and to prove that rural depopulation was largely caused by the fact that farmers were not receiving the returns that they should for their labor and investment. To pass regulations controlling the prices of the products the farmers have to sell, without also limiting the prices of the things farmers buy, would prove disastrous, by discouraging farmers and leading to decreased production and thus in injury to the cities.

Mr. Good gave some striking examples of the inconsistent attitude of city people. A woman who had criticised the farmers for not selling potatoes at what she considered reasonable prices, had told him when he offered to supply her with some that she wanted them to be all of the same size. Some wealthy city people in Brantford, who were urging farmers to increase production, spent a considerable portion of their time playing golf and paid a man to cut their lawns and attend to their furnaces, although a farmer near Brantford was very anxious to obtain this man's services. Mr. Good quoted figures to show that the manufacturing interests are receiving much larger returns on their investment than farmers are obtaining.

Farmers Working Hard

Mr. Drury gave some striking examples of the labor shortage in his home district. He mentioned farm after farm where the labor supply was utterly inadequate, and where those managing them were working to the limit of their strength and ability to maintain production. He demonstrated that farmers as a class were doing all that they could to maintain production. Similar evidence was given by Mr. Morrison, who told of farmers in Ontario county plowing 16 hours a day in two shifts, and of one prominent farmer, who plowed by tractor till one o'clock in the morning.

Some of the city editors strongly protested against the suggestion that editorially the city papers were not sympathetic to the farmers. They pretty well proved, although not entirely, that the references to which farmers have taken exception had not appeared on their editorial pages. A discussion of this point revealed the fact that the articles to which exception was most taken were reports of meetings where prominent city people made foolish statements concerning agriculture and which were published with striking headlines in the daily papers. It was pointed out that Mayor Church, for one, had made such statements, and that he was taken by many farmers to represent the consumers. The editors took the ground that they could not be held responsible for reporting the views of others. This was news which they were expected to publish. They contended that their attitude on their editorial pages towards the farmers was sympathetic, and that their desire was to see the middlemen, who were taking advantage of both the farmers and the consumers, properly exposed and dealt with. For a while it looked as if the meeting, instead of drawing the city and country closer together, might have the opposite effect; but before the gathering was over most of the differences had been pretty well straightened out.

Food Controller Hon. W. J. Hanna had been invited to be present in or-

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.

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der that he might be able to hear the views of the farmers. He made a very strong speech, in which he showed that the world food situation is so critical that it is impossible to deal with broad measures of reform in the short time that is available in which action must be taken. Only recently word came from Europe that the food shortage was so great that it was absolutely necessary that immense quantities of food should be rushed across the ocean immediately. This necessitated ships being called off other lines of work and used for this purpose. As it was not found practicable to handle bacon on these ships, grain and other products were being sent across; there was an immediate accumulation of bacon and pork on this side which resulted in the price of hogs dropping recently. This, unfortunately, he understood had led many farmers to decide not to breed their sows this year, although it was absolutely necessary that this should be done to meet future needs.

The Milk Situation

Some interesting information bearing on the milk situation was given. Hon. Mr. Hanna showed that the demands of the European government for condensed milk have been so great they are willing to pay practically any price for it, with the result that the milk condenseries had been able to go out and buy milk at prices which were higher than cheese factories or city consumers could well afford to pay. The situation finally became critical and threatened to prove disastrous, consequently the governments of the United States and Canada had found it necessary to take steps to regulate the prices which the milk condenseries could pay.

The sugar shortage was due in part to the loss of many tons of sugar in transport from Java in Dutch ships. An international sugar commission, composed of Canadians, British and American representatives, had been appointed to control the business in raw sugar, and had passed regulations preventing the refiners from handling sugar except under license and at prices set by the commission. Efforts will also be taken to prevent retailers from unduly advancing the price. The food controller spoke very effectively.

Stewart Lyon, of The Globe, who has just returned from the front, where he was acting as Canadian war correspondent, said that he had been shocked since he returned to Canada to notice the disposition of people to squabble over what seemed unessential to one who had seen how the boys were fighting and dying at the front. He said he had seen more electricity wasted in brilliant lights on Yonge street, Toronto, between Queen and Shuter streets than he had seen in the whole of Europe, and called for greater simplicity in living, in the face of world conditions.—Farm and Dairy.