



ALBERTA SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by Edward J. Fream, Secretary, Calgary, Alta.

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

President:

James Bower - Red Deer

Vice-President:

W. J. Tregillus - Calgary

Secretary-Treasurer:

E. J. Fream - Calgary

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James Speakman, Penhold; D. W. Warner, Edmonton; J. Quirsey, Noble.

District Directors:

F. S. Austin, Banbury; George Long, Nanton; J. R. Pointer, Strathmore; E. Caswell, Penhold; M. E. My, Strathmore; S. W. Buchanan, Cowley; J. E. Ostrander, Gleichen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR U. F. A. NO. 96-1911

I was elected secretary at the meeting of the U. F. A. held January 7, 1911, and up to that time I had never read the official organ, The Grain Growers' Guide, nor had I taken much interest in the work of the U. F. A., because I did not know what they were doing.

Being elected as a delegate to attend the annual convention which was held in Calgary, January 17, 18 and 19, 1911, I attended this convention and became acquainted with all the officers of the central organization and listened to their reports for the year, and met the editor of The Guide and learned something of the work that organ was doing for the farmers, and how it was being kept up by the Grain Growers' Grain Company.

When I learned that our president, Mr. Bower, and our vice-president, Mr. Tregillus, and other members of the board of directors had devoted nearly all their time for the entire year working for the union and only receiving their actual expenses, and how Mr. Fream, our secretary-treasurer, had devoted most of his own time and the time of his stenographer working for us and only receiving \$500.00 in addition to his actual expenses, and how The Guide had been fighting our battles for us year after year and doing without the advertising support which other papers get, because it was exposing the "Big Interests" and its deficits were made up by the Grain Growers' Grain Company each year, I felt ashamed that I had not been working with them and doing what little I could to help support them all.

I felt that we should do something to repay the members of the board who had neglected their own business and had done so much for the union, and when a motion was made to take up a collection for that purpose I was heartily in favor of the motion, but when the secretary said, "If you want to give us more money send it in, in the shape of membership fees," I decided to go home and double our membership.

We have increased our membership from 27 in 1910 to 69 members for 1911, and still I feel that we have fallen a long way short of what we should have accomplished. We have held during the year 18 meetings, of which your secretary was present at 17, but as a rule the attendance was small, and on three regular meeting dates no quorum was present. A great deal of our time has been taken up with irrigation matters, and while no definite settlement has yet been reached, yet we hope that great benefit will finally come to all the farmers of the district who own irrigated lands. We have taken up the hail insurance matter and hope to get a measure through this session of the legislature which will be a great benefit to the entire province.

The central office had, besides working with us in these matters, been working on the terminal elevator question and changes in the Grain Act, besides changes in the laws governing shipments of stock, and requiring railroad companies to pay for stock killed or damaged, and these matters seem to be almost assured for the people. They are also working with the provincial government for the placing of the local elevators under government control and for changes in the Provincial Weed Act and hope for proper legislation at an early date. A number of other matters of less moment, but for the benefit of the farmers and stock men are being worked for by both our local and central organizations.

Our president, James Bower, spent much of his time during the past winter at Ottawa working for the changes which we are needing most and while in company with the representatives from Saskatchewan and Manitoba, did not succeed in everything he was working for, yet a great amount of good was accomplished on behalf of the Western producers.

In order to place more funds at the disposal of the Central office I have drafted an amendment to the constitution to make our local dues \$2.00 per year and hope to have the unanimous support of our local union and at least a majority

of the delegates at the convention at Edmonton. I have also sent in a resolution on the lumber question which I feel sure will meet with the approval of the convention and which I think will in a measure relieve the farmers of all the prairie provinces from the oppressions of the lumber trust.

I hope during the season of 1912 that every member will not only try to attend every meeting, but that he will take our official organ, The Grain Growers' Guide, and read it every week from cover to cover as I try to do, and if he has anything to sell, advertise it in that paper.

If you have a neighbor who does not belong to our union do not let him rest until he joins us and subscribes for The Guide. I have agreed to accept the subscriptions and send them in to The Guide, and I was very much surprised when they sent me the list of subscribers at Gleichen to find that only 16 of our members are on the list.

If we can once get all our farmers and stock men to attending our meetings and reading The Guide, so that they all understand the live questions of the day, we will have little difficulty in getting all our present wrongs righted, for we will all then be pulling in one direction.

Yours respectfully,

W. D. TREGO,
Sec'y., U. F. A. No. 96.

The Canadian Highways Association have requested the U. F. A. to consider the following resolution at the annual convention: Whereas roads and highways are great factors in the development and protection of our forests and mines, and means of improving transportation all through the country. Therefore be it resolved that the United Farmers of Alberta think it highly desirable that a Canadian national highway should be built from the Atlantic to the Pacific, also recommend to the provincial government that they should co-operate with the Dominion government, increasing their subsidies for the colonization roads and connecting up the already existing highways, and express the opinion that the counties and municipalities of the Dominion should encourage more efficiency in the construction of roads within their limits.

The annual meeting of Edwell Union was held in the school house on December 13, and was fairly well attended. After the usual business had been disposed of, the members proceeded to elect the officers for the ensuing year with the following results: President, Thos. J. Walton; vice-president, F. O. Graham. Directors: R. Gummow, G. A. Ferguson, F. Cragg, D. Morrison, W. E. Pixley, A. Smith; secretary-treasurer, Fred Jas. Powell. The secretary reported that the union had 60 paid up members and that six delegates were required to attend the annual convention, and the following were appointed: F. Cragg, T. J. Walton, J. Comer, D. Morrison, E. H. Pixley, W. Pixley. After a vote of thanks had been accorded to the retiring officers the meeting adjourned till Wednesday evening, January 24, 1912, when it is hoped that all members will make a point of attending, as important and interesting matters will be up for consideration.

F. J. POWELL, Sec'y.

Edwell, Alta.

The annual meeting of the Good Hope Union was to have been held on December 13, but owing to a large private dance being an attraction, it was decided to postpone same till the next meeting. Throughout the winter the meetings will be continued every two weeks and several members have already promised to give papers on agricultural subjects, so as to have interesting meetings. It was also agreed to interview a stallion owner to try and get the members of the union catered for at a reduced rate. It was decided to submit the following resolution to the annual convention: Resolved, that the convention impress upon the government the advisability of the government borrowing certain sums of money at a cheap rate and relending the same

to farmers at such a rate of interest that will just cover the cost of such transactions.

P. T. HORNER, Sec'y.

Nakamun, Alta.

West Salisbury Union is going right ahead and at the first meeting after the organization was completed there was a good turn out of members, all taking great interest in the discussions. One member wished to know whether a report of the organization meeting appeared in The Guide. It was decided to hold the matter of municipal legislation over till the next meeting, and in the meantime the secretary was requested to secure several of the municipal circulars. We are unanimously in favor of the Direct Legislation petition. The farm products suggestion was tabled indefinitely. In the matter of hail insurance a good discussion resulted in the passing of a resolution that all taxable lands should be taxed one half cent per acre for hail insurance, and further, that those hailed would be paid not to exceed two-thirds of the crop value. The suggestion that a definite time be fixed when hay cutting should commence was endorsed, while the educational tax and coal questions were tabled. The following resolution was adopted for presentation to the annual meeting, on motion of Mr. W. R. Ball: Resolved, that this union is of the opinion that both passenger and freight rates on railroads are from 100 to 200% too high, and that we believe the only way for the people to secure equitable treatment from the railroads is for the people to build, own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people, and that we have no faith in the desire or ability of the railway commission to lower rates, because a railroad is still allowed to make 10% on the capitalization of the road and this includes watered stock, while the government can secure funds to build railroads at three per cent. The meeting then adjourned till January 6 next.

R. B. HULBERT, Sec'y.

West Salisbury, Alta.

West Lethbridge Union starts the year 1912 with a membership of 32. The annual meeting was held on December 18 when Fred Senior was elected president and John B. Allan secretary for the ensuing year. Our finances are in splendid shape to commence the new year and we hope to increase our membership. During the past year we have been able to buy our machinery somewhat cheaper and at present we are able to buy our flour and feed on a wholesale basis by sticking together.

JOHN B. ALLAN, Sec'y.

Lethbridge, Alta.

The following letter explains itself: "I have to thank you for your letters of the 5th and 13th insts., as also the copies of the last annual report, The Grain Growers' Guide, but more especially the constitution of the U. F. A., of which I may remark that the last half reminds me of a page from the Epistles, and to my mind embodies a great deal of the same spirit which these same Epistles were intended to convey in the practice of practical christianity. The stretching out the helping hand to assist the Canadian farmer to realize the opportunities for development which are within himself and to set him upon his feet, a real man taking his rightful place with dignity in the economic world and doing his daily round of duties in the knowledge that his labor is not without its due reward. This, I say, is worthy of our support as farmers and settlers in this Canadian West, and to this end I thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me of trying to establish a branch of your society in this district. Will you please forward me say two dozen constitutions and reports as I should like to present each member with a copy on organization."

The election of officers was the main business of the meeting of Gleichen Union held on December 23, and presided over by Vice-President Ostrander, and the

result was the election by acclamation of the following: President, J. E. Ostrander; vice-president, Frank Dow; secretary, W. D. Trego; treasurer, H. W. Lee. The bills of the Gleichen Call for advertising and of the secretary for postage were ordered paid. After some discussion the following delegates to the convention were elected: L. A. Moore, J. E. Ostrander, H. W. Lee, N. M. Hayes, H. Scott, W. D. Trego. The correspondence relative to irrigation and the construction of a loading siding at Phidias Siding was presented and the action of the secretary approved.

W. D. TREGO, Sec'y.

Gleichen, Alta.

The fifth annual meeting of Penhold Union was held in the school house on Saturday, December 16, with a fairly good attendance. The president, Mr. S. Pye, opened the meeting with a short resume of the work done by the union during the past year, warmly thanking the members for their loyal support and co-operation. The proposed new constitution was discussed and was unanimously endorsed by the meeting on motion of Messrs. Oldford and Parcels. The secretary-treasurer's report showed the union to be in a healthy condition, the paid up membership for 1911 being 52, while the balance in the treasury is \$30.44. The following officers were elected for 1912: President, T. P. Parcels; vice-president, A. Shields; secretary-treasurer, A. Speakman. Directors: E. Caswell, S. Pye, W. Whiteside, R. Bourne, J. Woods, J. Oldford. Delegates to convention: J. Speakman, E. Caswell, T. P. Parcels, A. Shields, J. Oldford. The next meeting will be held on January 20.

A. SPEAKMAN, Sec'y.

Penhold, Alta.

"RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT"

I feel like taking a stocking filled with mud and going up to Chauvin, Alberta, to attack those members of the Chauvin Union of the U.F.A. who voted down the Initiative and Referendum resolution on the ground that it would "do away with responsible government."

Stand up and let us have a look at you. Do you mean to say that you are not "responsible"? Do you fellows mean to say that you have not enough intelligence and responsibility to vote upon laws under which you must live and rear your families? Do you mean to say that you have not as much intelligence, manhood and horse sense as the lawyers, railroad orators, real estate sharks and other "professional" men whom you elect to make your laws? Do you mean to say that the farmers of Alberta are an irresponsible and ignorant horde? Do you admit that you have not enough experience, foresight, wisdom and plain mother wit to know what is good for you? Do you want some "professional" man who is not in sympathy with your vocation, who knows nothing of your needs or your environments, to legislate for you?

For shame! Take the law-making power in your own hands. You are the great proverbial "people." You pay the bills, submit to the laws and fight out your long, hard fight under untold difficulties in these raw, Western prairies. Then do you heap insults upon injury by saying that you are not mentally capable of knowing what you need for the improvement of your welfare? Take another vote on this question. You got the wrong "hunch" the other time.

BERT HUFFMAN.

Langdon, Alta., Jan. 10, '12.