

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR No. 1

Our tenth annual convention has been a matter of history for a month past. My apologies are due and are hereby offered for not having written you earlier, but in the U.F.A., as well as the world at large, events come on us thick and fast. Some of our locals have not needed a circular to urge them into greater efforts than ever this year of grace, 1918. Has yours been one of such locals? On you will fall the bulk of the burden this year. Are you going to be equal to it, or will you need artificial stimulants to create the necessary energy for success? If you do not do anything else, will you read at this or your next local meeting the annual message of your president, H. W. Wood. Perhaps you might also find a few grains of food for solid thought in the report of your secretary, the writer of this letter.

The Increased Membership Fee

We are receiving many letters in regard to the increase in the membership fee to \$2.00. It is now too late to criticize this. The fee is in force, and as a constitutional measure must be observed. Many locals, in spite of warnings, accepted fees for 1918 on the old basis and are now in a quandary. Some claim that the convention had no right to put it in force this year. That is not correct. The recommendation for the increase was made by your special finance committee of 1916, adopted by the convention in January, 1917, and formal notice of motion given at the same time. It was referred to frequently all through the year and dealt with by special circular last November.

The membership fee in the U.F.A. is now \$2.00 per year, of which amount \$1.00 per member has to be sent to the Central office.

The Central office does not believe in encouraging side-stepping of any kind. The Central office believes that if the U.F.A. is worth having at all it is worth having right, and that if a really serious effort is made to put the matter in the proper way to any man, the constitutional requirement of \$2.00 will be forthcoming, but in cases where locals have gone ahead on the old basis and are willing to admit that their members insist on their technical right to membership for 1918 at half price, the local must still send in the full \$1.00 to the Central office and devise ways and means such as a social, extra tax on co-operative purchases or similar method of securing the necessary revenue for the operating expenses of that local.

There seems to be a great difference in various locals on that item of operating expenses, some claiming that 50 cents per member has always been enough, others claiming to the contrary. The size of the local would, of course, make some difference. Its methods of getting meetings would also be a factor. Most of the locals have not been in the habit of giving their secretary any recognition for his services. Most secretaries seem to be thankful to get out with a whole skin. But the following idea, already adopted by a few locals, is suggested both as a means of recognizing your secretary and for increasing your membership. The idea is that the whole or a part of the increased amount coming to the local from the \$2.00 fee should be paid as a commission to the local secretary or canvasser who is officially appointed by the local to get after the fees. The idea is neither urged or recommended, but merely passed on for your information.

Membership Fee for the Women

This matter does not seem to have been definitely dealt with by the U.F.W.A., but as the U.F.W.A. is a regular division of the U.F.A. and its members have full rights with the men, it would seem that the same regulations in the matter of the membership fee would apply in their case. I believe the matter is being dealt with through the U.F.W.A. secretary.

Life Membership

The life membership fee in the U.F.A. was fixed at \$15 for 1918, to be automatically raised to \$25 in 1919, with no restrictions to prevent anyone from paying the larger sum, or even more if they so wish, right now.

The receipts from the life member-

ship fees are being placed in a special trust fund in charge of a special committee, who invest the money so accumulated in Dominion of Canada War Bonds. The interest only from these investments may be used by the Central office. The principal remains intact in the name of the association.

Every local should make a special effort to have at least six life members this year, or more if possible. Show your interest in making the Central office permanent by a life membership subscription. By doing so your obligations to the Central office are met for all time to come, though you will still be required to meet your obligations to your local.

Your association is to be incorporated by special Act of the legislature this year, without capital, but set as your objective a special reserve fund of \$50,000 from life membership fees, and show you are really interested.

The Annual Report

We are going to be late with our annual report this year. That is not altogether our fault. The Factory Act, limiting working hours, shortage of labor and overplus of work in the printing offices are the chief factors.

Do not forget that our report this year will be more complete than ever. Some of the discussions have had to be cut, but as far as possible they are given intact. The principal speeches are reported fully, including Professor Swanson's. Who's Who in the U.F.A. is again revived. An extra feature is also being added, giving handy every-day information, where to write for information, how to measure haystacks, dentition tables and as much of a similar nature as space will permit. The book will run about 400 pages and weigh one pound. It will cost 50 cents to print. You could not buy it at a book store for \$1.00. You can get it from the Central office at 10 cents per copy by sending in your order now. Please note that as we may be into seeding before it will be off the press, we will send one copy to each of your members direct if desired at 15 cents each, post free. Be sure we have the correct names and addresses if you prefer this method. The book should be out not later than April 1, 1918.

The Big Photo

Have you your copy of the giant photograph of the convention a huge five feet long photo of some 1,500 delegates and visitors to our convention? The Central office has these on sale at \$1.25 each, post free. The best we ever had. You should have this as a souvenir or to send to your friends. Advertise the U.F.A. abroad. Your secretary will take your orders.

Trusting that the Central office will have your hearty co-operation and that all may move forward to further success this year.

P. P. WOODBRIDGE.

NEW HALL AT MALMO

The following report of monthly meeting reaches us from Malmo Local, which appears to us to reflect much credit upon a union which shows such capacity for business and such evidence of real activity:—

1. Roll call.
2. Reading of correspondence.
3. Correspondence on table until next meeting.
4. Moved by Wm. Whitfield, seconded by Alf. Nelson, that this local place their order for a carload of lumber. Carried.
5. Moved by G. Ferguson, seconded by Alf. Nelson, that the secretary be paid a commission of two per cent. of all the ordinary shipments handled by this local at Hobbsma, and that the secretary's commission on special orders be adjusted according to value of shipment and amount of work in connection with shipment. Carried.
6. Moved that the proceeds of the concert, February 1, be placed in a

fund known as the entertainment fund, to be disposed of and used as the members see fit.

7. Moved that the secretary procure a gas lamp out of the entertainment fund for use of lighting the local meeting place. Carried.

8. Discussion and addresses re the building of a U.F.A. hall in Malmo.

9. Moved by Ed. Peterson, seconded by G. Ferguson, that we build a hall, to be known as the Malmo U.F.A. Hall. Carried.

10. Reading of a list of donations from business men in Wetaskiwin to the proposed U.F.A. Hall, amounting to over \$500.

11. Subscriptions by members amounting to \$500, listed.

12. Appointment of three canvassers for the Hall fund.

13. Moved and seconded that we hold a special meeting February 21. Carried.

14. Vote of thanks extended to citizens of Wetaskiwin, the vote and list of donations to be published in local papers.

15. Vote of thanks extended to president W. Bussard and to Tony Greiner for the splendid manner by which they raised the above donations, and in getting the scheme going.

16. Motion for adjournment.

ED. PETERSON,
Sec.-Treas.

OBJECTIVE—100 MEMBERS

F. Olson, secretary of New Norway Local Union No. 293, writes: "I am much pleased at being able again, as secretary of the New Norway Local, to send you a few lines to let you know that our local is making good progress so far."

"As you know, last year we had 38 members, and up to the present date this year our membership roll shows a number of 57 in good standing. There are also members which I am sure will be added to the roll at our next regular meeting. We have decided to hold regular meetings last Friday of each month. We have held two special meetings for the purpose of considering some applications for exemption for some farmers' sons who have been called to report for military service. You knew of this before, the last case being wired to you February 18, and our local organization highly appreciate the Central office for the help they have given the members of the U.F.A. in this line of work. I can assure you that anything I sign my name to re local affairs, I will see that it is backed up, and I know that our members will co-operate with me."

"We know the great demand for increased production of grain, and meat in particular, and I know that under normal conditions we have a country surrounding New Norway that cannot be excelled for mixed farming. We have lots of land under cultivation; we have horses, cattle and machinery; but one thing more we have and that is: we have experience from last year of the shortage of farm hands. And what we are up against in this as farmers is not hard to tell. In my report from the U.F.A. convention in Calgary I mentioned the resolution brought up in regard to importation of Oriental labor. Our local does not approve of anything of that kind, regarding same as a move from bad to worse. We therefore respect the privileges we have in complying with the circular letter dated December 3, 1917, signed by President Wood and J. M. Carson, registrar under the Military Service Act, re claims by farmers for exemption from military service. In closing I may mention that our local is in for the one hundred mark of members this year, and I know it is possible."

F. Hardwick, secretary of the Dewberry local, reports a very successful function held recently by their union in the form of an entertainment, box social and dance, at which everyone appears to have had a good time, and

by way of remembering those who are upholding our cause so valiantly at the front, they raised \$110.25 for the Y.M.C.A. Military Department, which was enclosed with the report.

WAR RELIEF FUNDS

Red Cross Fund
Previously acknowledged\$6,979.55
Horsehaven, No. 460 230.00
Vandyne 25.00
Sibbald, No. 505 48.95
Collected at U.F.A. Convention
Social 92.85
Seven Persons U.F.W.A. 19.50
Del Norte, No. 478 17.50

Military Branch, Y.M.C.A.
Previously acknowledged\$2,837.82
Dewberry, No. 98 110.25

Belgian Relief Fund
Previously acknowledged\$4,384.49
Hanna, No. 536 7.00
Willow Hollow U.F.W.A. 11.20

Serbian Relief Fund
Previously acknowledged\$26.50

U.F.A. Patriotic Fund
Previously acknowledged\$2,253.55

Canadian Patriotic Fund
Previously acknowledged\$1,684.75

Polish Relief Fund
Previously acknowledged\$144.50

Armenian Relief Fund
Previously acknowledged\$5.00

Navy
Previously acknowledged\$44.14

Halifax Relief Fund
Grande Prairie District Association\$85.00

Agricultural Relief of Allies Fund
T. M. Kiddle, Stirling\$5.00

DISCUSSED HAIL INSURANCE

F. H. Clements, secretary of Alliance Local, reports as follows: "Alliance Local held their regular meeting on February 9, with a large gathering of members and visitors present to hear the report of the recent U.F.A. convention. The meeting opened with a selection on the piano by H. Schoffeld, followed by a few announcements by the president."

"R. J. Davidson gave an interesting and convincing talk on more co-operation in the marketing of livestock, and his talk had the desired effect, as there is already a carload of hogs to be consigned to the United Grain Growers' buyer at Camrose."

"Chas. L. Adley then gave a general report of the convention, dealing at some length on the new hail insurance scheme, which led to a general discussion by those present. A resolution was then passed, asking the government to set a maximum premium rate, also to raise the insurance from \$6.00 per acre to \$10 in case of total loss. Mr. Adley closed his report by making a strong appeal for greater hog production. He said that the U.F.A. was doing everything they could to better conditions for the farmers, and that it was their duty as farmers to raise more pork for the Allies, regardless of price."

"A call for membership was then made on the strength of the past record of the U.F.A., and 40 membership fees were received, which shows that the farmers appreciate the good the U.F.A. is doing. It was also pointed out to those present the necessity of subscribing for The Guide, in order to further the co-operative spirit in the district, and eight new subscriptions were received."

P. H. Donkin, secretary of Ardenode local, reports as follows: "This newly organized local continues to grow slowly, now having 20 paid-up members and several more who are going to join, so that at this rate we soon will have practically every farmer in the district on the rolls. We are doing a little business along co-operative lines, and in this way hope to get more members, as it seems a whole lot easier to enroll them through their pockets than any other way. We have ordered a car of posts, also some formalin, and also intend to get a car of lumber. The meeting to hear the delegates' report was well attended and the resolutions passed at the convention seem entirely satisfactory to all concerned."

THE 1918

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