

A CONVENTION OF SECRETARIES

Arising from the interest shown in the informal meeting with our secretaries at the convention for the last two or three years, the idea has suggested itself that we might with very great benefit to all, arrange for a two or three day business convention of local secretaries some time during the summer, preferably about the latter part of June, for the discussion of the problems of the local union and such other details as might suggest themselves. A program of addresses and discussions might be drawn up on such questions as co-operative trading, out of which would arise the matter of incorporation, and a central purchasing agency. We would be able to get a few practical ideas as to how we could develop the handling of our own insurance, hail, fire and otherwise. We could secure a little first-hand information as to how to undertake the shipping of livestock and other farm products, and we would also be able to benefit each other by a question drawer, or in some other informal way of creating discussion on some of the one hundred and one problems which from time to time confront the local secretary in his work. I do not think I need to enlarge further on the possibilities of such a convention.

The idea would be of course that there should be one delegate only from each union, and he the secretary, if possible. Failing him, the president might substitute, but as the work would be entirely of a practical nature it would be better if the man in charge of the detail work of the local union were the man in attendance. The railway fares would be pooled the same as at the annual convention, and the convention would be held in Calgary, unless circumstances made it advisable to hold it elsewhere. This would bring the pool rate to about \$5.00 per head, presuming we could get at least 100 delegates to attend. Enclosed you will find form in regard to this matter that I would ask you to fill in and return as soon as possible, so that the necessary arrangements may be made. The filling in of the form does not commit you to anything, should circumstances prevent you from attending. The separate form is merely for the office and the information is necessary so that we can make adequate arrangements as to hall accommodation, etc.

Membership Dues

Our Pine Lake Local Union, after discussing the recommendation of the finance committee as to the increase in the membership fee of our association to \$2.00 in the near future, has given a very practical demonstration of how its members feel about this question by passing a resolution making their fees for this year \$1.50, of which the regular fifty cents stays with the local union, the balance of \$1.00 going to the Central office. They, however, intimated that they did not wish to remain alone in this position as they are naturally, like all good farmers, of a modest and even retiring nature, and nothing but their earnest desire to give the organization an opportunity to become what it really ought to be, would induce them to come forward in this manner. Even as it was they were not sure that they would carry out their resolution, unless other unions could be found to follow their example. I am glad to say that we did not have much difficulty over this. Gleichen has already promised, thru our vice-president, Mr. Trego, and the balance of our executive have also undertaken to use their best endeavors to have their locals do the same. There is, however, plenty of room for additional recruits.

We want you to keep this matter of the increase in the membership fees before you this year, as it will certainly be a live issue at our convention in 1918. We are going to try and give you some indication before the year is out as to how we can improve our service to you, and we are also going to give you at the earliest opportunity a statement of the service that we are giving you today and its cost to the Central office as compared with the service that we were giving you four years ago for the same mem-

bership fee. You cannot afford to look at this matter with indifference. Service costs money and most of the service which you demand, and for the most part get, as a matter of course today, was neither asked for nor expected four or five years ago; yet your membership fee is exactly the same. Think it over and give our next circular on this subject your careful and sympathetic attention.

Organization Work

I wish to remind you again that under our present system each director as elected for the ten federal constituencies provided under our constitution, is responsible for and has control of the organization work in his constituency. You would be considerably facilitating matters and at the same time assuring yourselves of better service if you take up all questions of organization work direct with the director elected for the constituency in which you live. The work of the association makes it more and more difficult for any member of the executive to undertake work in the country, and in any case your director is consulted before the work is undertaken, so that it would still save considerable trouble if you take the matter up with him direct.

OFFICIAL CIRCULAR No. 6

To the Officers and Members of..... Local No.....

Ladies and Gentlemen:—At our recent convention Mr. Haddock gave an address on the Y.M.C.A. camp work, which was partly reproduced in the Alberta section of The Guide under date of February 28. The resolution which was later passed by the convention by unanimous vote endorsed the work which was being done by the Y.M.C.A., and instructed your executive to bring the matter before our local unions with a view to securing a fair share of the financial assistance which is due from our members for this very important and Christian work. Your executive has great pleasure in carrying out those instructions thru this circular.

We feel that it is not necessary for us to reiterate at any great length just what the Military Service Department of the Y.M.C.A. means or what it is doing. Those of you who have near friends or relatives across the water or at the front have had a practical demonstration. Mr. Haddock told us of the work of the seventy-two secretaries which the Y.M.C.A. has serving with the 350,000 troops which have enlisted for overseas from Canada. He told us of the facilities which the Y.M.C.A. has provided for these men in the way of writing material, reading material, lectures, moving pictures, religious meetings, educational classes and recreation, from the time they first joined to the time they are actually in the firing line, where the department has established its dugouts as close to the front as they can possibly get, serving hot drinks, etc., to the men as they come out of the trenches. The Y.M.C.A. sends 140,000 magazines alone every ten days to France for the use of the men there. He pointed out that the English soldier is close at home, while the Canadian is far away, and the Y.M.C.A. is often his only link. These are only a few of the things which might be referred to. It is unnecessary to state that an organization such as this finds it necessary to rely to a certain extent on the public for the means to carry on the work, as while much of the reading matter and some of the equipment is given them gratuitously, there is still a great deal of the administration and organization work which has to be paid for.

The collection which was taken at the convention did not amount to very much, which was only to be expected in view of the fact that the understanding was that the delegates would

have their unions appoint a committee of three or follow it up in such other way as they thought best. I hope that you will be able to render some assistance in this work and that our organization will bear its share in a way that we do not need to be ashamed of. Several of the unions have already sent in some very useful subscriptions, and we hope that you will follow their example. Send in what you can, either to this office or direct to the Military Service Department, Y.M.C.A., Calgary, in the latter case advising us of the amount that you have forwarded.

P. P. WOODBRIDGE.

TO MEET ALTERNATE SATURDAYS

E. H. Banner, secretary, reports: A meeting of the Moyerton Local, No. 184, adjourned from January 27 on account of the cold weather, was held in Moyerton school on February 10. A large crowd turned out despite the weather, which was rather cold and stormy. Among those present were about a dozen ladies, who seemed to take a good deal of interest in the proceedings. We would not be surprised if a women's local was organized shortly to show the men how a local should be run and give points on rules of order and other parliamentary proceedings. A short debate on woman suffrage occupied part of the evening; those taking the side against the women having the franchise being rather sore at being expected to champion such an unreasonable argument. After the debate the regular order of business was carried out. Six new members were signed up and eleven members paid their dues for the year. This is very encouraging and shows the interest being taken in the movement.

A short address was given by Mr. McDonald on municipal affairs, with the request that as many as could do so conveniently, should attend the next council meeting, to be held on February 17. Matters of great interest to the ratepayers would be discussed by the council. It was decided to hold the regular meeting of the union every second Saturday, the next meeting to be held on February 24, at 7.30 p.m. A debate, "Resolved, that Canada adopt conscription," will be held at this meeting, six members taking part. It was decided to give a euchre party and dance on the 22nd instant. A committee was appointed to make all arrangements, prizes to be given to the winning parties.

TO HELP BUILD ELEVATOR

F. J. Powell, secretary of Edwell Local Union, No. 53, reports that quite a number of the members turned out to a meeting held on February 21, notwithstanding the extreme cold, under the chairmanship of the president. After the formal business had been attended to, the chairman introduced two delegates from the Penhold Local Union, Ronald Pye and W. Rogers, who attended to bring to the notice of this union the particulars of the proposed Co-operative Elevator to be erected in Penhold, and asking that this local co-operate in the matter of subscribing to the share list. It was pointed out that with the number of shares already applied for, the necessary acreage was reached, showing that it could not be otherwise than successful, providing the U.F.A. men stayed with it and did not listen to the wiles of the other grain men. The proposal met with the complete approval of this local, and several shares were subscribed for, and Mr. Pye left the list with the secretary, so that if any other members desire to subscribe he will be glad to have them call on him. The members from Penhold were given a hearty welcome and thanked for coming out to explain the matter.

Reports on Annual Convention

The president then gave his impressions of the convention at Edmonton, where he attended as a delegate on behalf of this local, giving a brief but lucid account of it, emphasizing in particular the necessity of supporting the executive in every possible way, especially in a financial way, therefore it was necessary for the members to get busy and get all their friends into this local. H. Smith, another delegate, then addressed a few words, and said he considered it quite an education to attend the convention, and would like to see more of the younger members go in future, as one can realize more what is being done and return home feeling proud to belong to the U.F.A.

It was moved and seconded, that this local congratulate the trustees of the Edwell school on the great improvement they had made in building the new porch, the more especially as this was the headquarters of the Edwell Local. The next meeting was fixed, weather permitting, for Wednesday, March 7, in the Edwell school, at 8 p.m., when several matters of importance will come up, as a paper will be contributed by the secretary on "Military Training in Canada and Elsewhere."

TAKING AGENCY FOR GUIDE

G. C. Dunsmore, secretary, reports that on February 21 a special meeting of the Claysmore Local, No. 660, was held, at which ten members were present. Four new members were enrolled. The date of the regular meeting was changed from the last Friday to the last Wednesday in each month. The report of the delegates to the convention was read by the secretary, but discussion of same was left over. It was decided that this union give a dance on March 2, the proceeds to go to the Patriotic Fund. The secretary was instructed to take the agency for The Guide, as per the request from the Central office.

MISTAKE IN PATRIOTIC DONATION

We beg to call attention to the fact that when last acknowledging subscriptions to the various relief funds received at the Central office in The Guide, thru an error the sum of \$30 was credited to the Rangview Local Union, No. 273. This sum, together with \$10 for the Serbian Relief Fund, was handed us by A. T. Dickinson, secretary of Rangview Local, and represents a donation from the members of his own family.

MEETING AT ELEVATOR

Fred B. Whaley, secretary, reports that the Hanna Local Union, No. 536, met on Saturday, February 24. When they arrived at the hall where the meeting was to have been held, it was closed and the door barred, so after a few minutes' chat on the street, they decided to go to the Farmers' Elevator, and there they found the door open and the manager, Mr. Blair, made room for the crowd as best he could. There were about twenty present. Three new members were enrolled, and it is thought that all future meetings will be held in the elevator, as the members seemed to feel at home there. As a result, three cars of posts were ordered from the company, also a considerable quantity of wire. The members also got prices on gopher poison. The merchants in Hanna seem opposed to the farmers organizing, and always try to stop the movement if they can.

NEW LOCAL "WEST ATHABASCA"

Max Zeigler, secretary of Grousemont Local, No. 113, writes as follows: I have pleasure in informing you that in taking the opportunity of canvassing for an elevator in our district, I succeeded in organizing a local, "West Athabasca," under date February 21. There were ten persons present, and at their request the local was formed.