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STUDYING BIG QUESTIONS

The following report has been received from Thos. Lee, secretary of the River-ton Local Union No. 339:—"I have been instructed to notify you that we endorse the resolution of Berrywater Union re cash grant to the C.N.R. I might also say that we have drawn up a program for our meetings for the ensuing year. For each monthly meeting we have selected a live question of general interest to all, and have chosen a member to take each side, for and against, to draw up a paper to read or make a speech, as he sees fit. As far as possible, we have chosen men who take a particular interest in the subject for that meeting. These men being well informed on their own particular subject, and their opponents being equally well informed and possibly just as interested on the other side of the question, we expect some really first-class discussions. We think this will arouse a great deal of interest, and no doubt have quite an educational value besides. Among the subjects are: Woman Suffrage, The Boy Scouts, Government Ownership of Railroads, Free Trade, Single Tax, The Navy Bill, Direct Legislation, and Co-operation. If we thoroughly discuss all these subjects, we think we will be much better informed and much better able to vote intelligently on them when the time comes."

H. Woodruff, Secretary of the Pelican Lake Union, No. 361, sends in the following report: "At our last meeting, on February 16, we had J. C. McLeod as speaker. He gave a report of the Lethbridge Convention, not the usual cut and dried affair, but a bright and sympathetic review of the men and things that are making the U.F.A. a power in the land. It was so interesting that the flight of time was not noticed until we got home, and then we were sure the hands of the clock had been pushed forward. The other business attended to was the election of delegates to the District Association. This resulted in W. F. Heard and N. Eddleston being elected for the year. We also made arrangements for the purchasing of formaldehyde and gopher poison."

A LIVE MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

A new branch of our Association, known as Gretna Local Union, No. 599, has recently been organized, and the following report has been forwarded to us by their secretary, A. M. Chalmers, of Loughheed: "On Monday, February 23, at the Gretna schoolhouse, a branch of the U.F.A. was formed, consisting of nineteen members. Considerable interest was aroused in the organization by a few visiting members of a nearby local. After electing E. A. Bower, president; L. Leslie, vice-president, and A. M. Chalmers, secretary-treasurer, the meeting took on a discussion of the members' needs and a means of securing new members. Finally, a plan was decided upon to hold a contest by dividing the membership equally into two sides, and have a contest lasting until March 9, the side securing the smaller number of members to entertain the remainder of the Union and their families. Ben Rombough was elected to captain one side, while Eli O'Reilly headed the opposition."

BENTON VALLEY IN LINE

Another new Union recently organized is Benton Valley, No. 600, of which their secretary, Sylvester Miller, reports as follows: "A meeting of the farmers of Benton Valley was held at the Benton Valley schoolhouse on February 27, and it was decided to organize a Union of the United Farmers of Alberta. The same was organized according to last year's rules. Benton Valley was decided on as the name of the branch. The officers elected are as follows: President, J. H. Johnstone; vice-president, S. H. Hoag; secretary-treasurer, S. Miller; directors, R. H. Meade, J. C. Thomas, J.

A. Sullivan, W. H. Baker, H. Gillies and C. E. Pool. There were thirty farmers present, of which nineteen paid the membership fee of \$1 each.

NEW UNION IN EARNEST

Still another new Union is that of Poplar Dale No. 595, and to their secretary, Hugh Williams, we are indebted for the following report:—"A new local branch of the U.F.A., called the Poplar Dale Union, has been formed in the Merna district, near Sedgewick. Up to Saturday last, twenty-four members were enrolled. Carl Colvin, of Willow Dell farm, was elected president, after the usual ballot had been taken. Jas. A. Colvin, of the same address, vice-president, elected by acclamation, and H. Williams was elected secretary-treasurer. In order to increase the membership two captains were chosen, each choosing half of the members present. These are all told off to get as many new members as possible by March 14, the losing side to provide a supper and program for a social evening on March 20."

SPRINGBURN LOCAL FORMED

W. H. McGaffin, of Excel, secretary of the new Union known as the Springburn Local Union No. 596, reports as follows: "A meeting of the farmers was called at Springburn schoolhouse on Monday afternoon, February 23. The meeting was called to order by L. E. Barnes, Mr. Rorabeck was elected chairman pro tem, and W. H. McGaffin, secretary. Mr. Rorabeck gave a report of the U.F.A. convention. He spoke briefly and to the point, and answered all questions in an able manner. Mr. Garrison, of the Spring Valley branch, also gave an interesting talk on the work of the organization. Discussion as to whether we should organize a branch of the U.F.A. at Springburn was opened by Mr. Brown, who spoke favorably on organization. We were also well pleased with the remarks of Messrs. McNeen and Taylor, on co-operative buying and selling. A motion was then carried to form a branch of the U.F.A. L. E. Barnes was unanimously elected as president, as was also F. S. McNeen as vice-president. W. H. McGaffin was chosen as secretary-treasurer. It was decided that we have four directors instead of six, Messrs. John M. Taylor, H. North, D. McInnis and S. K. Stillings being duly elected. It was decided that this branch be known as Springburn, and our meetings will be held in the Springburn schoolhouse every Monday afternoon, at 2.30 p.m., for the present. It was moved and seconded that this Union as a whole act as a committee to secure new members. Carried. A resolution endorsing the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative store at Calgary was approved by the members. A vote of thanks was then rendered to Mr. Rorabeck and Mr. Garrison, of Spring Valley branch, for their services in organization."

HORSEHAVEN CO-OPERATING

David C. Webster, secretary of Horsehaven Union, No. 640, reports as follows: Our last meeting was held on March 7, with an attendance of over thirty members. Orders were taken for over 24,000 lbs. of wire, so we expect to get a car from Sarnia soon. The circular from the Central Office was read, and on a motion made by J. H. Hobbs, seconded by J. E. Disney, the meeting showed itself in favor of endorsing the resolution made by the Berrywater Union re granting \$25,000, 000 to the C.N.R. Wishing the U.F.A. as good success in the current year as in the past.

C.N.R. DEAL AGAIN DENOUNCED

The following report was received from Samuel Gray, secretary of Carbon Local Union, No. 378: We had quite a lively meeting, despite small attendance. There was considerable talk about building a U.F.A. hall in

Carbon and a committee was appointed to look into the matter and report at the next regular meeting. There was some discussion about building a flour mill, but the matter was left open for the next meeting. The resolution of Berrywater Union No. 198 re loan to Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann was unanimously adopted by this Local.

PRIZES FOR GOPHER KILLING

Ralph Henshaw, secretary of Endiang Local Union, No. 264, writes as follows: Last year this Union gave prizes to the children in this neighborhood for the destruction of the gopher, and we are going to do the same this year, but on a larger scale. We are also asking the municipality for financial aid to destroy this pest. As a result of the offering of prizes last year, the children in this district killed about two thousand gophers. That was not too bad for the first year, but we hope to do better this summer. Now if every Local Union thruout the province would offer prizes to exterminate this pest, the country would soon be rid of "Mr. Gopher" and the farmers in general would be more prosperous. Now don't you think it would be a good thing to try to get all the Unions to do something along this line and also to try and get financial aid from the municipalities? The Endiang Union gave an entertainment, debate, and Hard Time dance in the Endiang schoolhouse on Friday night, February 20, which was quite a success. Miss E. Evans gave a selection on the organ, next came recitations by the school children. J. McDonald, of Heart Lake, sang a couple of solos, and Jack McDonald, of Halkirk, gave several selections on the bagpipes. Miss S. Loomer also sang a solo, accompanied on the organ by Miss E. Evans. Next came the debate entitled, "Which is the most

beneficial, iron or wood?" Milo Loomer and Jack Adams were on the affirmative side and Harry Wehner and George Loomer on the negative. Judges were Ed. Keene, A. Campbell, A. James and Watt Tucker. After careful deliberation the judges gave their decision in favor of iron, which won by four points. Next came the selling of the ties, which was conducted by our president, Dave Kiddie as auctioneer. After everyone had done justice to the inner man the floor was cleared for dancing, which was indulged in till the "wee sma' hours of the morning."

NEW BLISS UNION ORGANIZED

A new Union has recently been organized in the Youngstown district, and the following report has been received from their secretary, R. N. Mangles:

I beg to advise you that a Local Union of the U.F.A., to be known as the New Bliss Local Union, No. 602, was formed on Friday, February 27. Meetings will be held in the New Bliss schoolhouse, on Sec. 7, Tp. 31, Range 7 west of 4th meridian. The officers appointed were: President, R. Clarke Fraser; vice-president, G. S. Coad; secretary-treasurer, R. N. Mangles. Twenty-two became members, one of them, a Mr. Johnston, transferring from Chinook Union. We hope to considerably increase our membership in the near future.

INGA GETS STARTED

W. Moody Washburn, of Inga, secretary of Inga Local Union No. 603, sends in the following report of their organization: A local camp of the U.F.A. was organized at Inga on Feb. 21, by Geo. Bevington, with a membership of thirteen members. It was a very cold blustery night, and I think that we can soon have a much larger membership.

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