

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF CONVENTION

Continued from page 31

Eighth.—The C.N.R. from Regina to Saskatoon. John Evans.

Ninth.—The G.T.P. from Saskatoon east to the Manitoba boundary. W. B. Fells.

Tenth.—The C.P.R. Yorkton line from Saskatoon to the Manitoba boundary. Chas. A. Dunning.

Eleventh.—The C.N.R. east from Lloydminster to the Manitoba boundary. Mr. Davis.

Twelfth.—From Warman north to Prince Albert and east to Valparaiso. Andrew Knox.

Thirteenth.—All the lines running west out of Saskatoon to the western boundary of the province. Dr. T. Hill.

F. W. Green presented a report on "Future Prospects of the Association" being something new.

J. A. Maharg, a trustee of the life membership fund read the life membership report and the financial statement. F. W. Green also presented a report as to the aims of the life membership scheme.

The financial report of the association as presented by F. W. Green was circulated among the delegates, and was not read.

W. Noble—G. Boerma—

"That all the reports presented by the officers and committees be adopted." Carried.

David Ross—C. O. Clements—

"That we wire to R. C. Sanderson and E. A. Partridge our sincere gratitude to them for all they have done for our welfare in the past, and our wish that in God's Providence they may speedily be restored to health." Carried.

A. G. Hawkes—G. Boerma—

"That those local associations formed since January 31 be given the privileges of this convention." Carried.

Jas. Smith—A. D. Thompson—

"That as there is an application before the Dominion Government for an extension of time for the placing of South African scrip and as the bulk, if not all, of the unplaced scrip is now held by speculators,

Therefore it is resolved that this convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association is strongly opposed to any such extension of time."

The following amendment to the above resolution was proposed by Ivan N. Tinkus, seconded by W. Stephens; "that the following words be added, 'except in case of original grantees.'" On the vote being taken the amendment was lost and the original motion was carried.

E. Clayton—Levi Thompson—

"That the previous resolution re South African scrip be at once wired to Ottawa by the secretary." Carried.

W. Noble—Frank Shepherd—

"That whereas the present loading platforms being attached to cattle yards, and on general sidings do cause considerable delay in the loading of grain,

Therefore be it resolved that the central association bring the matter before the Dominion Government, requesting an amendment of the Grain Act respecting loading platforms. That a separate siding shall be built at all railway stations large enough to hold ten cars, and that a loading platform shall be built at the centre of such siding large enough that at least five cars can be loaded at once."

On motion of Frank Durrick and W. H. Beasley, this resolution was referred back to the resolution committee.

Geo. Boerma—Wm. Noble—

"That a travelling agent be engaged to enquire into the cost of production, transportation, duties paid, wages of employees, and the general cost of laying down manufactured articles at the farmers' door, as soon as the funds of the association will allow." Carried.

Dr. T. Hill—G. Boerma—

"In view of all bank charters expiring in 1911, that steps be taken by the executive to have the banking laws of Canada so revised to enable the farmer to develop the country by securing more and cheaper money." Withdrawn.

G. Boerma—W. Noble—

"Whereas the Hail Insurance companies now operating in Saskatchewan are not doing a business acceptable to the farmers of the province,

Therefore be it resolved that a provincial hail insurance system be established, the revenue for the said system to be raised by a tax not exceeding two cents per acre, all land to be subject to said assessment, with the exception of the land used for ranching purposes, and by those who are complying with the requirements of the law re the number of head of stock per acre."

On motion of J. E. Paynter, seconded by E. H. Clayton, the following amendment was brought in, and after discussion was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion, so that the original motion stood as follows:—

"Whereas the Hail Insurance companies now operating in Saskatchewan are not doing a business acceptable to the farmers of the province,

Therefore be it resolved that a Provincial Hail Insurance system be established the revenue for the said system to be raised by a tax not exceeding two cents per acre, all land to be subject to said assessment, providing that any resident rate-payer be allowed to register out one section or less from the assessment and participation in the benefits."

The following amendment was brought in by R. L. Hayes and W. E. Porter:— "That the Grain Growers' Association regret the attitude taken by the Saskatchewan Government in their endeavor to find a practical solution to the Hail Insurance problem. This association regrets the following proposal:—

"Whereas urging the provincial government to place a universal Hail Insurance tax on all lands in Saskatchewan at two cents per acre, wild and unimproved; the same to be assessed and collected through the municipalities, the remuneration to be distributed by the provincial government according to losses, no loss to exceed \$7.00 per acre, and an independent municipal commission to be appointed to adjust losses."

On the vote being taken there were three votes for the amendment, and the original motion as amended was carried almost unanimously.

Walter Simpson—Geo. Boerma—

"As many of the resolutions forwarded for presentation to the convention appear to be already met by existing legislation,

It is suggested that a circular concerning these should be published by the central executive after each convention, dealing with these resolutions individually and pointing out where dealt with, and the protection given." Carried.

Thos. Conlan—F. B. Johnston—

"Resolved that the executive ask the government to give threshers' wages the preference over all liens, executions and mortgages." Carried.

W. Noble—Thos. Conlan—

"That this convention recommend that each sub-association take up the question with their members, asking them to sign all notes payable March 1 of the following year, instead of the first of November of the same year." Carried.

The convention adjourned at 5.30 p.m., to meet again at 7.00 p.m.

The evening session opened at 7.40, and F. M. Gates, vice-president occupied the chair upon request of the president,

Frank Sheppard—J. A. Murray—

"Resolved that in consequence of the many severe losses in recent years to farmers and others through glandered horses, and owing to information from certain districts that the disease unaccountably exists, this convention requests the government to take immediate action in further checking and stamping out this dread disease by requiring owners of horses to have their animals inspected at the point of shipment before offering such animals for sale, and that each shipper produce an official certificate of the

health of all animals at the time of their sale; and further, that the government pay full value for all horses killed on account of glanders, and that this value be arrived at through arbitration in case the owner disputes the appraisal of the veterinary surgeon. Such arbitration to be final." Carried.

Frederick Kirkham—W. F. Goulden—

"Whereas numerous complaints have been made by the farmers that they have not been able to get a just return from the flour mills from wheat delivered to them for gristing purposes,

Therefore be it resolved that this convention take steps in view of having the government introduce legislation to control the power of millers on levying toll, dockage and gristing charges." Carried.

W. H. Beasley—J. C. Hunter—

"That this association work in conjunction with the Manitoba and Alberta organized farmers for the betterment of the facilities in the marketing of beef, cattle, and that all meat coming into the province shall be subject to a rigid inspection and public abattoirs be established at central points."

On the above resolution, Jas. Bower, president of the United Farmers of Alberta, gave the convention the benefit of the information he secured during an investigation of conditions in British Columbia last fall, and offered the following amendment:—

"That this association work in conjunction with the Manitoba and Alberta organized farmers for the betterment of the facilities for the marketing of beef cattle, and to do this we would recommend the establishment of municipal abattoirs under government control."

The mover and seconder of the original motion withdrew in favor of the amendment, which then became the original motion and was carried.

E. J. Fream—Jas. Bower—

"Whereas it is of very great importance to the whole west that prompt government action be taken towards establishing the chilled meat industry on a sound and permanent basis, and with the interests of the producers adequately protected; we, the members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association in convention assembled, do hereby urge that the federal government take this matter up with the object of placing the business on a practical footing without unreasonable delay.

Further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each Saskatchewan member of the House of Commons, together with a covering letter, asking each member to be good enough to personally bring it to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, and do his utmost to expedite matters." Carried.

E. J. Fream—Jas. Bower—

"That we, the members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association in convention assembled do hereby urge the provincial government to do all in its power to impress upon the federal government the necessity which exists for prompt government action regarding the taking up of the proposal and rendering the necessary assistance towards the establishment of a dead meat export trade from the west.

Further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. W. Scott, premier of the province, and to Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture." Carried.

W. Noble—Dr. T. Hill—

"That whereas there is existing on the statute books provisions whereby mortgage companies can charge a three months bonus, besides the interest on due mortgages, when not paid at due dates,

Therefore be it resolved that the executive of the Central Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan bring the matter before the proper government requesting the removal of such a statute, thereby making it illegal for any mortgage company to charge any bonus on any due mortgage, and all unfair charges, other than the specified interest on such mortgages."

The following amendment to the above resolution was moved by Levi Thomson:—

"That whereas it is customary for mortgage companies to charge mortgages a bonus besides the interest due on such mortgages, when such mortgages are not paid before maturity or when not paid on due date,

Therefore be it resolved that our executive endeavor to have legislation passed providing that overdue mortgages may be paid off at any time not less than two years after date of making by a payment of a bonus equal to three months interest; or at any time after maturity without bonus notwithstanding any provisions contained in mortgage contracts."

This amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion, and as the original motion was passed unanimously.

Wm. Noble—J. A. Murray—

"That in the opinion of this association the provincial government be asked to purchase coal, or operate mines at a reasonable profit in the interests of the people of Saskatchewan, and to build sheds at central points for the distribution of same, and that we protest against the mines companies giving one man in a town the monopoly of the trade therein, as it lowers the amount in store and tends to a coal famine,

Be it further resolved that we petition the federal government to enact legislation to preserve and hold for all time all natural resources such as timber, coal, oil, and other mines, and either operate or lease them that the profits and benefits be shared by all alike." Carried.

W. D. Moore—N. P. Scott—

"Whereas the progress of our province is made difficult by so much of the land being held for speculation and left unoccupied,

And whereas the increase in the value of of such land is due to the labor of the actual settlers,

Therefore be it resolved that this unearned increment should be taxed in the interests of the municipalities."

The following amendment to the above resolution was moved by C. W. Hankins, seconded by H. Gibson:

"That our local government be asked to give municipalities power to tax vacant lands as high as double the tax on occupied lands."

On the vote being taken, the amendment was carried.

A. M. Handorf—Frank Shepherd—

"That the Grain Growers' Association recommend the government to inaugurate a system of bookkeeping in the schools suitable for farming." Carried.

W. Noble—Geo. Boerma—

"That whereas the rate of interest charged by loan companies and bankers is unusually high,

Therefore be it resolved that this convention request the provincial government to secure money at as low a rate of interest as possible, and loan out to farmers at a rate of interest sufficient to cover the cost of handling the same."

On motion of I. W. Tinkus and John Evans, this resolution was referred back to the resolution committee.

The convention adjourned at 10.00 p.m. on Wednesday.

The convention opened on Thursday morning at 10.00 a.m.

The president welcomed Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, and E. C. Drury, Master of the Dominion Grange of Ontario, and extended to them the privileges of the convention. Mr. Drury brought greetings from the organized farmers of Ontario.

W. Noble—B. J. Anderson—

"That this convention place itself on record as being in favor of consolidated schools wherever same can be established.

On the motion of W. D. Moore and Wm. Moffat, the above resolution was referred back to the resolution committee."

J. A. Maharg—Andrew Knox—

"Whereas recent newspaper reports say that the Dominion Government intend to commence immediate construction of the Hudson Bay railway,

Therefore be it resolved that we heartily concur with the intentions of the government and we further urge them to own and operate the said railway with all terminal and other necessary facilities." Carried.