

CONQUEST DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of District 16, took place at Conquest on December 5 and 6, and was on the whole, a considerable success. While the attendance of delegates was rather small there was a good number of visitors present. As a result of appeals on behalf of the life membership scheme ten fully paid life members were secured. R. T. Sibbald was appointed secretary of the convention and Messrs. Jones, Stewart and Mann were elected to constitute the resolution committee.

The convention then resolved itself into a kind of experience meeting, many of the delegates giving particulars of their membership and their efforts in regard to organization and trading. W. T. Hall, the district director, then addressed the delegates. He said there were 83 Locals in District 16, and that the co-operative work had increased from \$40,000 to \$80,000. The question of the warehousing of groceries by the central was held in abeyance at present, an arrangement having been entered into with a wholesale firm. He concluded with an appeal on behalf of the fighting fund. A general discussion followed on the question of dealing with the central.

Evening Session

Mr. Hall addressed the evening meeting on organization and co-operation, and made a strong plea for life membership with the result already stated. Mrs. Thompson, district director of the women's section, then addressed the delegates on the work of the Women Grain Growers, in which she made reference to the question of Municipal Hospitals, and also paid a tribute to the dent. A. G. Hawkes, vice-president of the Association gave an address in which he made reference to pre-Grain Growers' Association days. He also referred to the elevator monopoly, and stated that the Grain Growers were to appear before the railway commission on December 11, to protect themselves against increased demurrage on cars being loaded. If demurrage was increased they were going to demand that it be reciprocal, and that the railway companies should pay a similar demurrage to the farmers on cars loaded and not taken out. The Co-operative Elevator Company were refused a line of credit because they were opening a commission Department in Winnipeg. They were conflicting with other interests. Referring to the trading department of the Association he said they organized originally to get a fair price for what they had to sell, they were not trying to get a fair deal on what they had to buy. He then referred to the sacrifice made by Mr. Dunning in going into politics. Mr. Hawkes gave some instances of how protection worked out. For 600 boxes of apples from Vernon, B.C., which were sold for \$990, the producer received \$90; cherries sold in Winnipeg at 40 cents per box netted the producer only 7 cents per box. He concluded by advocating that mortgages might be paid off after two years by paying a bonus of three months' interest and previous to that by paying a bonus of six months' interest.

Second Day—Resolutions

The Convention again assembled at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning, December 6. The Resolution Committee having concluded its labors, the Convention immediately proceeded to discuss the resolutions following, all of which were carried:

1. Resolved that we the Grain Growers of District 16 in convention assembled place ourselves on record as being opposed to unnecessary Sunday labor such as seeding, cutting, threshing operations, etc., and that our Central use its efforts to have the Sabbath day laws strictly enforced.

2. Resolved: that non-ratepaying women living on homesteads, with their husbands and being co-partners by virtue of the dower law should have the right to vote in municipal and school elections.

3. Whereas a rate of 1 mill has been levied on all farm lands for patriotic purposes and whereas the Grand Secretary of the patriotic fund is sending out letters asking for funds on account of only a portion of this money being used for patriotic purposes; It is resolved that our Central investigate and

have the money placed where it was intended.

4. Resolved that we are in favor of paying out claims for Municipal Hall Insurance on a pro rata basis to capital on hand.

5. Resolved that we re-affirm our position as being opposed to any language other than the English language being taught in our lower grade public schools.

6. Resolved: That as Macrorie and vicinity has no medical aid within 20 miles the Outlook doctor and hospital cannot answer to our needs, as the way is long, making trips very expensive; also the river is often impassable causing much inconvenience and suffering to some. We know our need of the available service of a Cottage Hospital in Macrorie with an experienced doctor in charge of same, hence we solicit the co-operation of all Grain Growers in our vicinity in the establishing of this hospital at as early a date as possible.

7. Resolved: That whereas one can see at nearly every cross roads corner four large square holes or pits obscured by a rank growth of weeds and grass so that they are real traps to the traveller, and cause much inconvenience and many mishaps to same, we, as a section of the Grain Growers of Macrorie, earnestly urge upon all the body to take necessary measures to bring this matter before proper authorities with request

Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by J. B. Musselman, Secretary, Regina, Sask., to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

just a beginner, last year being my first crop, and it sometimes keeps one busy to make ends meet on the start."

So runs a message just received at the Central Office. There is no need for comment, for "Actions speak louder than words."

Here is another example which shows the same splendid spirit.

"I have signed one of those Patriotic Acre forms, but have not been able to meet this promise, as I am a new farmer in Canada. But I will not forget my promise. As soon as I am able I will fulfil it, and more too."

New farmers! What this means there is no need to tell to the members of this association, for one and all have passed thru this period of stress, and privation, and struggle. Yet these are prepared to make a willing sacrifice for the cause of justice and freedom. Several thousands of our members have the satisfaction of knowing they had a share in the great train-load of flour which left Moose Jaw in August last. More than two thousand forms are still unredeemed, and the call for help grows more and more insistent with every passing day. If you have not redeemed your promise, will you do so now?—S.W.Y.

EVERY MEMBER A LIFE MEMBER

Are you a Life Member? If not, why not? One thing we are sure of; as a member of our association you want to see the association prosper, and it can

The Central Office wishes you one and all a Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year. We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Annual Convention at Moose Jaw in February next.

or demand that these pit-falls be safeguarded for the public at an early date or before the coming of another season.

8. That whereas at present fully qualified medical men and veterinarians coming from other countries are compelled to pass or conform to certain regulations of the Province, be it therefore resolved that this convention go on record as being opposed to such regulations and affirm their demand that any such fully qualified man coming into this western country be permitted to practice.

The resolutions having been disposed of it was decided to hold next year's Convention at Rosetown, about December 5 or 7, after which W. T. Hall was re-elected as District Director, with Edwin Jones of Cleland Association as an alternative. On the suggestion of Mr. Hawkes, a resolution was adopted calling upon the Provincial Legislature to pass legislation next session to provide for Rural Credit. The following were then appointed district organizers:—Messrs. Buckingham, Stewart, McGuire, Whatley and Moston. The Convention gave a standing and unanimous vote in favor of Free Trade with the Mother Country on terms previously proposed. Resolutions were also passed in favor of Reciprocity with the United States, and Direct Legislation, and the meeting further refused to support any candidate who would not embody these in his platform. Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Hawkes for attending the Convention, to the chairman, and to the people of Conquest for entertaining the visitors. The Convention was then brought to a close with the National Anthem.

PATRIOTIC ACRE FUND

"I am enclosing the sum of ten dollars for my Patriotic Acre contribution. I am sorry I am so late in sending it in and also that it is not larger; but I am

prosper only if our members provide the ammunition, in the form of capital, with which to carry on the great drive. We want to see "Every Member a Life Member," and it is in your power to add one to the number. To the extent that you provide the association with capital, to that extent will prosperity attend our efforts to carry the farmers' own cause to success. Twelve dollars (\$12.00) will make you a member for life, and help at the same time to destroy the earthworks of those who oppose our progress. The "Great Drive" is now on; Get in and "Do your Bit." S.W.Y.

RE HAIL LOSSES

Central Secretary: As you are on the committee for trying to settle the hail damage I thought I would like to write you a few thoughts on the subject. In the first place I was totally haled out and also lost heavily on field roots and potatoes. The following points I don't think have been given enough consideration in any reports I have read of the hail meetings.

1. A good many of the men who are kicking about the failure of the scheme would not have had any insurance at all except for the municipal scheme.

2. Any scheme for borrowing money to pay losses in full ought also to take into account the men who lost their crops by rust. Lots of fields where I helped to thresh, after the threshing bill was paid did not have enough to pay for the seed let alone cost of twine and harvesting operations and again lots of fields were not cut. Now I for one would not want to tax those men to help to pay my loss by hail and not help them to pay theirs. Their loss was just as unpreventable as mine and in many cases the better tilled fields suffered most.

3. The scheme has not failed because

it was well known the commission could only pay out funds collected and if before this year the commission had tried to raise the rate what a storm of criticism would have arisen!

4. In former years when any private company failed to pay in full there was no outcry to tax people who had paid premiums in that company, so that all claims could be paid. Everyone who has suffered loss will get more out of the commission than they paid in.

5. There is no certainty that next year will not be as bad in hail losses as this year, and if you borrow for one year you must be prepared to borrow for all bad years.

6. I think that if instead of trying to borrow money to pay the hail losses all the thought and work was given to the getting of long term low interest rate of money for farmers it would be better spent and that would help all sufferers either from hail, rust, drought or frost.

I think the commission should pay out what they can and then close the account for this year. The only thing I blame them for is for not letting the farmers know the fine state of affairs as soon as they knew they could not pay in full. Then get the act amended on lines you have suggested, a flat rate of 4 cents per acre as at present and then so much per acre on crop land, any farmer having the right to keep his land out of the scheme but forfeiting all claims on the commission, and after a good surplus is collected the rate could be lessened, but commission only to pay out pro rata as at present if losses are larger than funds on hand. Also before claims are paid the farmers should, where their loss has been estimated at 25 per cent damage or over, be compelled to state amount of grain threshed and where an average crop as threshed in the district is threshed no claim should be paid, for this year I know of two cases where total loss was given and a fair crop threshed whilst two years ago a farmer got 90 per cent damage and threshed 15 bushels to the acre of wheat and a good average crop for that year.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR O. STRATTON.
Clearfield Station, 8-12-16.

GRAIN GROWERS' SUNDAY

Central Secretary:—When Mr. Sales was here he said the question of a Grain Growers' Sunday had been discussed by the executive. Might I suggest that the Sunday fixed by the Dominion as Labor Sunday be adopted by our Association as Grain Growers' Sunday too; the interests are identical. Wishing the movement every success,

SAMUEL SMITH.
Secy. Star City Local.

APPRECIATES SERVICE

Central Secretary:—Kindly accept my most sincere thanks for the kind and courteous treatment accorded to myself and this local by all employees of the Central Association during the past year.

CHARLES W. APPELOREN.
Secy. Theas. Pambrun Local.

HAIL INSURANCE ASSESSMENT

Central Secretary:—I have noted the difference in the assessment for Municipal Hall Insurance and now beg to offer a suggestion. How would it be to assess all losses after the hail season is over, and then levy a tax to cover said losses to come into force the following year, and so run all Hall taxes and remunerations for same one year under the other?

Should a farmer require money to carry him over, the Municipality could give a note on which I think any local would advance a loan at a moderate rate of interest. Certainly the farmer would have to pay the interest, but in my opinion it would be better than putting a high assessment on each and every one. A tax of 4 cents per acre could also be levied as well to help pay for any exceptional losses in any year which should not be touched until a good reserve fund has accumulated. Should a man sell his farm during the year the note for hail losses, if any, could go on the purchase price.

S. R. ACKLAND.
Venn, Sask.