

Saskatchewan Grain Growers

Senlac's Resolution

Another resolution on the Saskatchewan feed and seed problem is to hand from the Senlac Grain Growers' Association. Several similar communications have been received from other locals, copies of which have been forwarded to Hon. W. R. Motherwell, of the provincial department of agriculture. Mr. Motherwell's reply to a recent communication on this matter will be found following the Senlac resolution, a copy of which has been forwarded to the department of agriculture.

"Resolved, that a serious condition has been brought about by the almost total failure of all crops in this district, which failure follows a partial failure in 1917;

"And, it is expedient that we, the members of the Senlac Grain Growers' Association, should point out to you that the 1918 crop was put in at a very great expense, every acre being seeded as requested by the government. In so doing, many of our members have borrowed money from the banks and elsewhere to comply with the request for greater production. Owing to the above mentioned conditions, we are absolutely unable to finance feed and seed for the coming year;

"And, it is further resolved, that, in our opinion, the government should at once take steps to assist the farmers in procuring the necessary seed and feed for the coming spring. We would recommend that this assistance should take the form of financial support of the municipal council and that they (the council) should be given full charge of the purchase and distribution of said seed and feed.

In our opinion it is expedient that an embargo should be placed upon all grain at points of first shipment and that it should be held at said point of first shipment until the local demand for seed and feed is satisfied, said embargo to be lifted only on consent of the said council of the municipality where the grain is held. We would strongly recommend that if sufficient seed and feed cannot be obtained within the limits of the municipality that the said council be empowered to purchase the additional grain necessary, thus to ensure seed of good quality and seed and feed free from noxious weeds, and thus to curtail the spread of said noxious weeds, as has been experienced in past years from government seed.

"It is yet further resolved that action should be taken immediately as threshing is likely to start in 10 days and in order to get the best results the said council should be in a position to purchase the first loads offered for sale, and the embargo should be placed at once to prevent the shipment of grain to Fort William which would necessitate the paying of double freight and commission to get the said grain back to its first shipping point, which would work a great hardship on the farmers who have stood loyally by the government in their efforts to produce more food.

"Finally, it is resolved, that this matter is of the greatest urgency and we wish to place this matter before you in the most forceful way possible; again emphasizing the fact that if reasonable good results are to be obtained action must be taken at once."

Hon. W. R. Motherwell's Statement

The following statement under date of August 28 has been received from Hon. W. R. Motherwell, in reply to the same request, which has been presented by a previous resolution, from another local:

"Replying further to your favor of August 23, already acknowledged by my secretary, I may say that we have nothing further definite to state with respect to the handling of the seed grain problem in this province. I might add, however, that the board of grain supervisors, in addition to putting an embargo on Alberta, are now considering on what points a similar embargo should be applied in Saskatchewan. Doubtless the board will take action in

Conducted Officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by the Secretary J. B. Musselman, Regina, Sask.

connection with such points at a very early date.

"In the meantime Mr. Crean's seed branch has representatives in the province looking up supplies of seed grain, especially oats. Representatives of this government expect to have a conference with the federal authorities in the course of ten days or so to arrange details in connection with this seed grain problem. The improved crop conditions, however, are helping to solve this question from day to day and if we get our crop off without any serious damage by frost the question will be much easier solved than appearance indicated a month ago. From present indications there will be no such indiscriminate and wasteful distribution of seed as was participated in in 1914, and everyone in authority seems disposed to hold the question well in hand so that the maximum good may be done by this distribution and the minimum evil. Just as soon as anything definite is decided upon, I shall be pleased to acquaint you of it."

Distrain on Horses

A matter of very vital importance to Saskatchewan grain growers is discussed in a communication recently received from James Henry Fuller of Waldeck, which is another of the numerous problems arising from the crop conditions of Saskatchewan.

The letter, which was addressed to the Central secretary, is in part as follows:—

"In one of the provincial dailies I saw part of one of your speeches re the conditions existing in some of the rural districts on account of the drought this year, and feel that I must write and let you know my appreciation, as being one of those farmers who have been burnt out for the past two years. I have been going out around our district as Coule, and the conditions are going to be fearfully hard for most of us; but if we were allowed to keep our horses working on the land instead of being taken from us or forced to go away from home working out, it would be much better for the country at large, and the farmer as well. Everybody around here seemed to go the limit in the matter of putting in as big an acreage as possible, not so much for personal gain as to do their bit to help to win the war. I think it would be pretty hard if the government let the farmers be distressed for the current year, or let their horses be seized or sold by forced sale, as one of my near neighbors put it. If we could get nearly their values it would not be so bad, as most of us could replace them, but you are quite well aware that in a forced sale in a year like the present one, everything would go for pretty nearly nothing.

"So I would like to enlist your help and sympathy in this matter, as I think it is a vital one to the welfare of the province and the country, as well as the Empire. Mr. Scott, our former premier, in 1914 stopped all seizures in the drought zones and we were enabled to go ahead and gather in that wonderful crop in 1915, that changed the conditions of everything so much for the better."

Mr. Motherwell's Reply

A copy of the above communication was sent to Hon. W. R. Motherwell, minister of agriculture, who, under date of August 28, has replied as follows:—

"Your favor of August 21 addressed to Hon. Chas. A. Dunning has been transferred to this department during Mr. Dunning's absence. My secretary has already acknowledged your letter during my own absence and I desire to assure you that this department will be prepared to intercede on behalf of debtors that are being unduly pressed by their creditors. In fact we are al-

ready engaged in that class of work. The precedent referred to by Mr. Fuller, while under Mr. Scott's regime in 1914, is correct so far as results are concerned, but such results were obtained entirely by negotiation and intercession and not by any legal process or command. You can quite understand that it would be a dangerous thing to arbitrarily deny creditors the right to collect from their debtors. But acting as an intermediary, however, between debtors and creditors we can frequently allay any harsh measures that might otherwise be taken. When any individual case is brought before us, of this nature, we take the matter up with the creditor and usually with satisfactory results."

Amelia G.G.A. Sends \$46.50

Another local "doing its bit" in support of the Red Cross Fund is the Amelia Grain Growers' Association, which, under date of August 27, forwarded to Central a cheque for \$46.50. Chas. A. Morley, secretary-treasurer, of Amelia local, in forwarding the cheque, writes: "Please find cheque for \$46.50, which send to the Red Cross Society, the profit of a picnic held by the Amelia Grain Growers. As the forenoon was rather cloudy and chilly not many were present. But as the afternoon turned nice and warm the crowd began to assemble and the sports were well patronized. -George Spence motored up from Notukeu and gave the crowd a very interesting speech on the plans of the railway extensions in the south country. After the speaking the crowd moved to Mr. Emerson's big barn for the dance."

Exemption from Fencing

With a condition existing whereby Canadian farmers have to make the Hobson's choice between the demand of the government for increased production and the impossibility of responding to this demand as a result of their sons and farm help being conscripted other conditions have arisen which call for adjustment.

F. A. Gorse, secretary-treasurer of the Codette and Elkhorn G.G.A., forwards, under date of August 31, the following resolution, adopted at their meeting on August 17, in which attention is drawn to the fact that owing to the enlistment of 10 per cent. of the population in their municipality, farms remain uncultivated. As these farms are generally unfenced an appeal is being made to the provincial government to exempt the boundaries of the municipality of Nipawin No. 487 from the operations of the amendment of the Stray Animals' Act, during the duration of the war.

The following is a copy of the resolution adopted by the Codette and Elkhorn Grain Growers' Association, a copy of which has also been forwarded to the Hon. George Langley, minister of municipalities:—

"Whereas, the legislative assembly, by an amendment to The Stray Animals' Act has taken from certain selected rural municipalities the right to enact a bylaw preventing the running at large of horses and cattle after the first day of June, 1919, and as this is an unwarrantable encroachment on the rights of the people in the matter of local self government;

"And whereas, we have no assurance that there will be a supply of wire at a reasonable price, which should have been provided for, by the legislative assembly, since by this amendment it forces upon the people, against their expressed wish, the necessity of fencing their crops;

"And whereas, the enforced expenditure of time and money in fencing will lessen the production of cereals without materially increasing the production

of beef cattle, because the people are not in a financial position to purchase breeding stock;

"And whereas, 10 per cent. of the total population of this municipality are on active service in the armies and navies of the Allies and these men have left their farms unfenced and as no renter will take an unfenced farm with free range in force the consequence will be that the soldiers' farms will go back to weeds and sod;

"Therefore be it resolved that this meeting of the Codette and Elkhorn Grain Growers' Association request the government of Saskatchewan to exempt the area within the boundaries of the municipality of Nipawin No. 487 from the operation of this amendment.

"(Sgd.) A. E. Gorse, president,
"F. A. Gorse, secretary."

Hon. Geo. Langley's Reply

On August 17 last, a resolution was adopted by the Lost River Grain Growers' Association which was received by Central a few days ago, and recently was published on this page. It will be remembered that the resolution was addressed to Hon. George Langley, minister of municipal affairs, drawing attention to the large acreage of uncultivated land in the northern portion of this province; as a result of home-steaders having been conscripted for overseas service. The resolution, which bore the signature of A. E. Gorse, president of the Lost River local, appealed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to temporarily suspend the operations of the Provincial Herd Law for that municipality, during the period of the war.

Under date of September 6, Central is in receipt of a reply from the Hon. George Langley, in response to a copy of the resolution which was forwarded to his office, which consists of a copy of the communication sent by his department in reply to a copy of the resolution from the above local:—

"The Central office of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association has sent to me your resolution of August 17, dealing with the question of herd law and free range. Before the next session of the legislature is held I will take care that this subject is again brought up for consideration by the government. The reasons you urge in your resolution I recognize as important; although when you say, in the first paragraph of your preamble, that the government's action is unwarrantable, encroachment on the rights of the people, you should, I think, remember that the government has to consider the interest of the province as a whole and their so doing may at times appear that they are neglecting the interests of some smaller locality. This action, you will recognize, is unavoidable.

"George Langley,
"Minister of municipal affairs."

Prize Grain at Kansas City

Amongst the 30 entries which were made in the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association Seed Grain competition, during the recent exhibition in Regina, the Grain Growers' Association of Rockhaven secured fourth place in the grand challenge, which was open to the whole of the province. In acknowledging the receipt of a cheque for \$40 as their prize, T. E. Raymond, secretary-treasurer of the Rockhaven Grain Growers' Association announces that D. E. McWhirter of that district and also a member of the local, who again captured the first prize for the best individual exhibit of wheat in the same competition, is arranging to place the same exhibit at the International exposition to be held in Kansas City, during the month of October.

Arrangements are being made with the department of agriculture of Saskatchewan for the entering of this exhibit, along with others from this province, the cost of the same being defrayed by the provincial government.

Tears wept by the corporations over the necessity of raising prices every now and again are profit-tears.

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