

Manitoba Grain Growers' Convention

Continued from Last Week

Increase of Directorate

The constitutional amendments committee, after presenting its report, was requested to consider the question of the formation of county associations, and at a later stage brought in a recommendation that the province be divided by federal electoral districts, each of the nine rural districts being represented by a director of the central association to be elected by the delegates from that district at the convention.

R. McKenzie pointed out that the appointment of nine directors instead of six would considerably increase the expenses of the association, and said it was for the delegates to consider whether the increased expenditure was likely to be justified by the results. He also expressed the opinion that a division by electoral districts was not suitable, as some electoral districts contained very few associations, while others contained a large number. In the constituency of Provencher there were not more than five or six associations, the great majority of the settlers not being English speaking people.

J. A. Maharg, president of the Saskatchewan association, was asked for the experience of his province, and said they had fifteen directors, one for each of the nine crop districts and six directors at large. Where there were only a few branches in a large territory he considered there was all the more need of an energetic director to do organization work, and he advocated an effort to get the foreign-born settlers into the association as was being done successfully in Saskatchewan.

After discussion, the recommendation of the committee was adopted, with the understanding that it would come into effect at the next convention.

Iron and Steel Bounties

Moved by W. A. Rowe, of Neepawa, seconded by Josiah Bennett:

"That whereas many millions of dollars have been paid by the government of Canada in bounties to the iron and steel industry, and whereas owing to the protest of the Canadian people against a continuance of those bounties, the late government decided to discontinue them, and whereas those industries are now pressing the present government for a renewal of said bounties,

"Therefore this convention of Manitoba Grain Growers strongly protest against any such renewal of these bounties."

Votes for Women

Moved by Lewis St. George Stubbs, Birtle, seconded by W. A. Green:

"Whereas, the object of this association is to establish equal rights for all and special privileges for none, and whereas women should enjoy equal rights with men.

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this association is in favor of votes for women on equal terms with men."

This resolution was received with great enthusiasm and supported by Frank Simpson, J. S. Wood, J. W. Scallion and other delegates. It was carried unanimously by a standing vote.

A Warning to Manufacturers

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Shirlcliffe and seconded by Peter Laidlaw:

"Whereas, the Canadian manufacturers are selling farm implements cheaper in other countries than in Canada and charging exorbitant prices to the Canadian farmer, and

"Whereas, by purchasing our implements in the United States we augment our Dominion revenue by the amount of duty on such implements.

"Therefore, be it resolved, that we

the Grain Growers of Manitoba pledge ourselves that whenever possible we will purchase implements of American manufacture until such time as the tariff is removed."

This resolution was received with laughter and cheers. In moving it Mr. Shirlcliffe said the Winnipeg city council had purchased \$5,000 barrels of cement from the United States, thereby saving the ratepayers \$3,500 and putting \$15,000 into the Dominion treasury, and it therefore seemed as if they were in favor of the policy advocated in the resolution.

T. W. Knowles said it was impossible to put the fear of God into the hearts of the manufacturers, because they did not know what it was (laughter), but if this resolution was passed it would make them fear for their dollars, which would have much more effect. Other delegates supported the resolution as a means of reprisal upon the manufacturers for their having defeated reciprocity.

Fred Barry opposed the motion, saying it would not be dignified for the convention to pronounce in favor of a boycott, and J. L. Brown, who thought the matter was being taken too seriously, suggested that it be withdrawn. He thought the discussion had done good, however.

R. M. Wilson, Marringhurst, moved that the resolution be laid on the table for a year, saying it would be a warning star in the West for the manufacturers in the East to keep their eyes fixed upon, and this proposal was unanimously agreed to.

It was also unanimously resolved, on the motion of J. E. Thacker, Ochre River, seconded by Peter Wright, Myrtle:

"That in the opinion of this convention the tariff on agricultural implements should be reduced at the present session of Parliament."

Life Membership

A resolution proposed by Thomas Drayson, Neepawa, in favor of the establishment of a life membership scheme, was considered at the last session of the convention held after the entertainment given on Friday evening by the students of the Baptist College. Mr. Drayson spoke of the advantages of a life membership scheme somewhat similar to that of the Saskatchewan association, and numerous questions with regard to this were answered by J. A. Maharg, president of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association. As the hour was late it was decided to leave the matter over to the next convention, and a committee, consisting of Mr. Drayson, Mr. Love, Ninga, and C. S. Watkins, Langvale, was appointed to prepare a detailed scheme and to draft the necessary amendment to the constitution.

Frank Simpson moved that Mrs. Josiah Bennett, who he said had attended the last four conventions, be elected the first life member of the association, and this having been seconded by D. D. McArthur, was carried with enthusiasm.

Mrs. Bennett gracefully acknowledged the compliment.

AN ENDOWMENT FUND

G. Strang, of Dauphin, said if anyone wished to make a contribution to the funds of the association, there was no need to wait for the establishment of life membership. He pointed out the need of a large fund with which to carry out organization work and to fight the farmers' battle, and suggested that a fund be opened at The Grain Growers' Guide office, to which every supporter of the farmers' movement might send a contribution according to his means. He believed that \$100,000 could be raised in three months. He suggested that the fund be called "The Manitoba Grain Growers' Endowment Fund."

The proposal was enthusiastically received, and on the motion of W. Moffat it was resolved to open a fund for the purpose and under the name suggested by Mr. Strang, the moneys received to be paid into the Home Bank to the credit of the association and to be drawn upon by the directors.

The convention was closed shortly before midnight on Friday, January 26, after votes of thanks had been passed to the president and officers, to the city of Brandon for the use of the hall, to the Baptist College for the concert with which its members entertained the delegates, and to the press.

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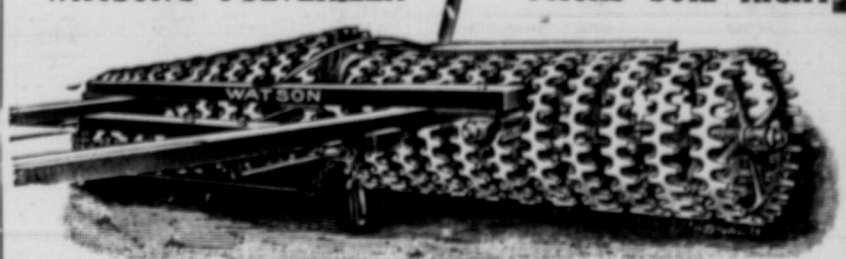
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