

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The secretary of one of our locals sent a communication to the Central secretary a few days ago, with respect to the order of election of directors at the recent convention, and the following is Mr. Musselman's reply thereto:

"By way of explanation as to why the district directors were elected first instead of the directors at large, I wish to explain that there was no official action taken by the executive in arranging the order of election in this way, but the convention itself is adopting the program as outlined in the printed hand book gave official sanction to this order of election. I am free to state, however, that I am largely responsible for the adoption of this order. It has always been my opinion that the order should be as it was this year, but some of the other officers were rather of opinion that the order should be as it was last year. This year, however, the matter was not brought up for discussion, and it went through as you know. I will therefore explain to you why I hold the opinion above expressed, and at the outset I want to make it perfectly clear that there is absolutely no difference whatever, or perhaps I should say absolutely no priority, as between the five directors and the sixteen district directors, or any two of them.

"As you are aware, the district directors are nominated at the district convention some months before the general convention. It is quite understood that unless there is some very real reason for the general convention to reject the nominees the recommendations of the districts will be adopted. There is also the possibility of course that the general convention might want some one who has been nominated for district director to occupy the position of either president or vice-president, but it is not conceivable that the general convention would want to take a man out of district directorship and still elect him a director. There would be no sense in such action. If then the president and vice-president have been elected without drawing on those names which are recommended for directorship by the districts respectively, the proper order in my judgment is to lay before the convention the reports of the sixteen district conventions. If these reports are adopted by the convention, it means that those nominated by the districts are elected directors. It was necessary, however, that the convention should make provision under which it would be possible to elect to the board of directors men who cannot act as district directors, and also that some men might be elected to the board without any consideration as to the geographical position of their residence. For instance, unless we had directors in whose selection we are not bound by geographical limitation, it would not have been possible to elect to the board such men as myself, and formerly, Hon. George Langley, Hon. Chas. Dunning, or the late F. W. Green. We therefore proceed after the election of president, vice-president, and sixteen district directors, to select those few others whom the association want on the board, and these cannot be selected until it is known who will be the district directors.

"If the order were reversed as a year ago, and a nominee for district director is elected director-at-large, principally because some one had a foolish notion that the office of director-at-large is a more honorable position than that of district director, then we may face the necessity of holding a meeting of the delegates of the district for the purpose of nominating another. The attitude taken by the president that Mr. Craigen could not accept the nomination for director-at-large since he had already accepted election to the board of directors was perfectly correct, and could not have been otherwise. Had Mr. Craigen desired to run for director-at-large I assume that he would have refused to permit himself to be elected as district director. Certainly the reversal of the order from that of last year was not intended to stand in the way of any one's ambition for office, and in this case Mr. Craigen is just as much a director as if he had been elected on the other ticket. Perhaps the whole matter is made a little confusing by our terminology, and if we were to speak of all the directors simply as di-

rectors, sixteen of whom are to be elected from sixteen districts, and five without reference to their place of residence, our people might more easily grasp what conditions in this relation are.

"J. B. MUSSELMAN."

SPECIAL STUDY PROGRAM
Week Beginning March 25th, 1918.

Results gathered up:—

A retrospect of the winter's work. Plans for summer meetings. Grain Growers' Rally. How shall we observe Grain Growers' Sunday? Co-operation with all organizations for social betterment, the church, the school, agricultural society, department of agriculture, agricultural college, local government officials.

ROSTERN'S FINE GROWTH

We are in receipt of the following communication from the energetic secretary of the new Rostern local, of which Seager Wheeler is a director. This local has made a phenomenal growth, having been in existence only six weeks, and yet has a membership of 173, a result of which the secretary, Mr. Hodson, and the directors are to be complimented. The communication reads as under:—

"The big rally on Friday, February 22, was a great success, in point of attendance and the speeches, and the weather too was on its best behavior. The address of Mr. Maharg was the best ever delivered in Rostern, and any one who was not present certainly missed much. It is very regrettable that no one was present to report this address. His clear and forceful speaking was a treat to listen to. He had facts to place before us which he did in a convincing manner. He traced the growth of the G.G.A. from its inception till the present, pointing out the many difficulties and discouragements that were ever in their path from the combinations who were hostile to our objects. In the same manner he dealt with the history of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company which has risen in spite of everything to be the greatest grain concern in the world. Many of his remarks were an inspiration to all. 'Have confidence in yourself,' he said; 'do not be afraid to get up and give your ideas on any subject no matter who is present.' His reference to Seager Wheeler, and the part he has taken in raising the reputation of Western Canada was heartily applauded. He reminded his audience that heretofore the balance of power was held by the provinces of Quebec or Ontario. Now it has shifted over to the West, and it behoved every one of us to see that it remained here.

"Mr. Knox and Col. Lang both spoke briefly, realizing no doubt, that Mr. Maharg was the great attraction. All the speakers were astounded at the rapid growth of the local and the splendid audience. There were many ladies present.

"In the evening the I.O.D.E. entertained the Grain Growers and the distinguished visitors with an hour's vocal and instrumental program, and when this was over a sociable time set in, refreshments being served, and finishing up with some dancing till 1 a.m. It is needless to say that the I.O.D.E. upheld their reputation for doing things well, and the great success of the evening is due entirely to this splendid organization. Mr. Maharg, in a short speech to them towards the close of the evening, voiced the sentiments of the Grain Growers. Many thanks are also due to the singers, Mrs. Sterling, Miss Murray, Messrs. Bashford, Francis, Sexsmith Dirks, and the orchestra; also to Mr. Jennings and Mrs. Ballantine for a very laughable comedy sketch entitled 'The Bowery Girl.'

"A regular meeting was held Tuesday afternoon, there being about 20 present. The secretary was instructed to order two more ear loads of seed oats. The membership total is now 173

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.

—soon to be at the 'Halfway House.'"

ACME STARTS COMPETITION

The following interesting letter has come to hand from the secretary of the Acme local. The idea of a prize competition is a good one, and may be recommended for imitation by other locals. The Grain Growers' Guide as a prize is especially good, as it has a value far beyond its cost. The letter is as follows:—

"We are starting a competition among our members with the object of swelling our ranks. We are offering a few prizes to make it more interesting. A Grain Growers' Button goes with every four members, and the one that gets the most members gets the Grain Growers' Guide for a year. I am sending you a few to let you know we are still alive. They are as follows: L. Webb, E. Bates, J. McLeod, H. Shiell, H. Lloyd, O. Traveyn and C. Davis all of Pretty Valley.

"Hoping to be able to send you a larger list of new members in the near future.

"CHAS. HOLLAND,

"Sec'y. Acme G.G.A."

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

Our locals deserve every credit for the support they are giving to the many patriotic funds at present open in the province. There really seems to be no limit to their generosity, and we have much pleasure in giving publicity to the following fine contributions which have just come to hand. We give the secretaries' letters herewith:—

"On Friday, February 22, a concert, pie social, and dance was held under the auspices of the local G.G.A. It was a mild evening and the hall was filled. Every one declared themselves as having had a good time, and as the purpose of the entertainment was to raise funds for the Canadian Red Cross society, every one gave liberally, with the result that after all expenses are paid I am able to forward you a cheque for \$269.65, which please forward to the proper authorities and oblige.

"J. F. PURSE,

"Sec'y. Flaxland G.G.A."

"Enclosed please find cheque for \$150.25, being amount of subscription collected from the members of Fortune local. Please hand same over to the proper authorities of the Allies' Agricultural Relief Fund. Trusting same will help some.

"W. B. BROOKBANK,

"Sec'y. Fortune G.G.A."

We have much pleasure in acknowledging further the receipt of the following contributions to the Agricultural Relief of the Allies Fund. viz:—

William Elliott, Belbeck, \$10; D. Watson, Belbeck, \$5.00; W. H. Beasley, Belbeck, \$10; Eagle Creek G.G.A., \$13; and Cardell G.G.A., \$75.

We are also in receipt of a cheque from the Newlands local, for \$306 to be applied to the Red Cross fund. In remitting this amount the secretary wrote as follows:—

"I beg to enclose you a draft for \$306 for the Red Cross fund. This is the result of a box social held on February 22. We made \$200 our 'objective' and thought we were aiming pretty high, considering the comparatively small attendance, but the men present evidently made up their minds to uphold the reputation of 'Newlands' and did so most worthily, assisted, of course, by the ladies.

"GEORGE H. HANNANT,

"Sec. Treas."

SUB-ORGANIZERS AS SPECIALISTS

Here is a suggestion as to how our sub-organizers can help out our special study work, and at the same time benefit themselves. It is that each sub-organizer should make it a point to work up one special subject, either from the Farmers' Platform, or some other important question before the movement. He would thus become something

of a specialist on the subject selected. Then in visiting locals he might organize the members for special study work giving the one subject he has selected special attention.

This scheme might then be amplified by an occasional interchange of sub-organizers, which would result in bringing at least half-a-dozen different subjects before each local by men who had made a careful study of the same.

If the Grain Growers movement is to become the power for good which it might be the interest of our members in the great problems of the times must be aroused, and this is one way in which it might be done effectively.

Another way of attaining the same result would be for each sub-organizer to take with him to each meeting some other speaker who is an enthusiast for education, and who would arouse the local to action; though this should not absolve the sub-organizer himself from giving his attention to some special subject as suggested above. There is a sub-organizer, and we shall be glad to great field of usefulness open to our know how many are prepared to take up this work. If you are one, write the Secretary, Special Study Committee, Central Office.

VANGUARD'S INFLUENCE

Vanguard G.G.A. is getting out of the old ruts and on to a brand new trail. They are out to conquer the whole territory, and they mean to do it, and for that purpose they are organizing a competition of so thorough a nature that it seems to spell success. The secretary writes as follows:—

"Just a few lines to let you know that we are still plodding away at Vanguard. We had our last meeting on the 22nd instant, and in electing our officers we got a lot of new blood into our ranks again. Before last year we were rather dilatory in many respects, and seemingly content to leave the old horses in harness a little too long, without offering much encouragement. As a result of this state of affairs, we were inclined to drift along too much in old ruts, but the last two years we have been breaking in some of the colts, and find them very satisfactory.

"We are glad to see almost every person in this vicinity interested in the movement, and we endeavor to use our influence for the improvement of our town and community, as well as fighting against our greater injustices. At our last meeting we made arrangements to provide a public rest room for the ladies while in town. This rest room is provided with fresh drinking water, writing material, magazines, chairs, couches, etc. It also has a modern toilet in connection with it.

"We also discussed the suggestion of increasing our membership fees, but this did not meet with unanimous approval, and we concluded that it would be easier and better to double our members than double our fees. We are intending to have a recruiting campaign shortly, something like a 'Win One' campaign, and give a prize to the person or team securing the most new members.

Last year we had what we called an 'oyster supper contest.' We picked 24 men and divided them into two teams of 12 each, with the understanding that the members of the Association were to dine at the expense of the team securing the least new members. As a result of this contest we increased our membership from 30 to 183, in 10 days.

"I find that the best way to increase the membership is by some sort of a contest; get every one talking of it and interested in one side or other. We intend to bring our membership up around the 300 mark this year. I have often wondered why we have not more contests of some nature among our locals. Why do locals not compete more with each other? Could not the Central award a banner, medal, or some trophy each year to the local securing the largest number of paid-up members? We should be five times as strong as we are. It might be a good idea to put some suggestions along this line before our delegates at our annual convention. Wishing you every success, and thanking you for the helpful literature you have been supplying, I remain,

"CHAS. WILLIAMSON,

"Sec'y. Treas. Vanguard G.G.A."