

Then on the insurance question, we have several local secretaries with considerable experience in all branches of insurance. They are being asked to take the lead in the discussion of this branch of the work and outline its possible application to every local union in the province. It will be a little late to go into the hail insurance question with a view to securing business this year, but meanwhile that is going ahead in any case and there are a number of important points in connection with it that we want to discuss with you on general policy as well as detail, so that we can go ahead with our plans for next year and have a complete plan ready to lay before our next convention, and one that we know will be acceptable to the majority of the locals.

Discussion on General Problems

Then a fourth section will be given up to the general problems of the association. Under this heading will of course be the problems of the local itself, and the representative of any local present will be free to introduce his own particular difficulty and I have no doubt that from the experience of the others present we will be able to offer him a solution. The problems of the central office will also be presented to the meeting so that the locals may have a more sympathetic understanding of our difficulties and realize that we need their co-operation if anything, more than they need ours. Within the last few weeks it has only been too apparent that the greatest difficulty in the way of making our organization as effective as it ought to be is the apathy of the average local to the appeals of the central office, and their consequent failure to understand what our object in making the appeal is. This indifference I am sure is not due to any lack of sympathy as wherever the situation

has been explained I have received the kindest co-operation from the local secretary with whom I have gone into the question personally so that all that we really have to do is to establish a closed connection between the local and the central office which will enable each to respond more quickly and more fully to the requirements of the other. In fact in summing up, the one object which it is hoped to achieve from this convention is a more thorough understanding and appreciation between all branches of our great farmers' organization, so that the problem of each may be the problem of all and that the services offered by each of our many departments, both in the educational and business branches of our work may be such that it will not only be the most efficient but of such a character that it will lend itself easily to the requirements of the various local organizations which you yourselves have built up. We will have with us representatives of The Grain Growers' Grain Company, of The Grain Growers' Guide, of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company and among others, of the provincial and Dominion Departments of agriculture, who are showing a tendency to assist materially, particularly in the development of the selling of livestock and farm produce. These people are coming at their own request, and in the capacity of visitors, not for the purpose of telling you what to do but for the purpose of learning what your requirements are, and to what extent they can make their work applicable to your requirements.

As stated before, the convention will be in your hands and a committee of local secretaries will be in charge of the order of business, in fact every facility will be afforded you to make it of the utmost value to yourselves.

Railway Arrangements

The dates of the convention have been purposely chosen for the two days previous to the opening of the Calgary Exhibition. The securing of convention rates, pooling and other details attached thereto, involve heavy work for the central office. We have chosen these dates to avoid that trouble. The exhibition rates will apply from Wednesday, June 27. Delegates will take the special exhibition round trip ticket at single fare rates, securing at the same time a receipt from the ticket agent for the amount of the fare paid. On registering you will present your receipt for the fare paid with your delegates card, at our office, and a refund of the difference between the fare paid and \$5.00 will be paid on all fares over the latter sum, provided however that no refund will be more than \$5.00; in other words, on fares less than \$5.00 there will be no refund. On fares between \$5.00 and \$10.00 the refund guaranteed by the central office will be the difference between the actual one-way rate and \$5.00, and on all fares over \$10.00 the refund will be \$5.00.

Credentials

Enclosed herewith you will find delegates' credential card, with stub attached and perforated. We have not kept an exact record of locals who have notified us that they will have a secretary on hand, except in a general way, but in any case so that we may have a fairly accurate idea of how many and whom we may expect, I would ask you to kindly fill in this stub slip it in an envelope and return it to this office at your earliest convenience. In sending in the stub you will not need to send in any further explanation unless you wish. If you do not know exactly who you will send, but are in a position to definitely state that, barring accidents, your union will be represented, please fill in to that effect and return the stub in the same way. From the response to our form circular, we look for an attendance of about two hundred, but I hope that with this further explanation, and having in mind the fact that this convention will not only be a big factor in the development of the future work and policy of our Association, but also in the future policy of the business organizations with which we are so closely connected, that the attendance will be at least double. Will you try and make our first business convention for the discussion of the practical side of our work a roaring success.

P. F. WOODBRIDGE,
General Secretary.



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