

INDIAN HEAD RALLY

A very successful Grain Growers' Rally was held in the Town Hall, Indian Head, on Monday afternoon, March 25. The following locals participated in the Rally: Sunny South, Sunny Slope and Jubilee.

Mr. G. C. Harvey, the vice-president of the Jubilee local, acted as chairman of the meeting, while Mr. T. C. Gurrill, secretary of the Sunny South local, and a sub-organizer of the Association, was very largely responsible for the arrangements, and deserved a great deal of credit for the splendid work which he did to make the meeting possible. The meeting was quite largely attended by the farmers in the vicinity of Indian Head, and lasted from 2 p.m. to 5 o'clock.

Many references were made to the fact that the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association was organized at Indian Head on December 2, 1902, and also that the Grain Growers' Grain Company was formed about eight years ago in the same building in which this Rally was held.

After chairman Harvey had opened the meeting with a short address, in which he explained the origin of the idea of the Rally, and the purpose of it, he introduced Mr. J. W. Miller, who was the first secretary of the S.G.G.A. after it became a Provincial Organization. Mr. Miller first took up the need for greater production, stating that Canada is expected to produce 250,000,000 bushels more of wheat than was produced last year, and urged all to do their utmost. He said that some farmers had made the statement that since the Government had taken away help from the farmers they would produce only just what they could with the labor available; but he was sure that no large number of farmers were going to be satisfied to do less than their very best in this time of greatest national peril, and in the face of the national calamity which is impending. With so much of the world facing starvation it was no time for consulting their own interests, and the farmers might be depended upon to produce to the very limit of their possibilities. "If we cannot produce at a profit," said Mr. Miller, "we must produce anyway. Only by showing the proper spirit in this matter at this critical time, shall we be worthy of comparison with our brave soldiers who are sacrificing their all in the interests of Canada and civilization."

Early History

Mr. Miller took up the early history of the Association, and told of the conditions which existed at the time it was organized in 1902. He said that such a thing as trying to reach the ear of the Government and presenting grievances of the farmers had not been even thought of at that time. He gave a great deal of credit to Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Mr. Partridge, Peter Day, C. Harvey and others who were present at that first organization meeting, and helped to launch the organization which has done so much for the farmers in Saskatchewan. There were only about thirty-five farmers in attendance at that first meeting, and they did not at all realize the great influence that their efforts were to have, and the far reaching effect of the organization which they brought into being. However, "They builded better than they knew." From that small beginning the Association has grown very fast and has accomplished very important results, until today it numbers upwards of 40,000 members and has a well recognized place of usefulness in the province and in the nation.

Following Mr. Miller's address, the chairman introduced H. H. McKinney, Superintendent of Organization, who spoke on the importance of organization work. He expressed the regret of A. G. Hawkes, vice-president, who had expected to attend the Rally, but was unable to do so. Mr. McKinney stated that he did not deem it necessary to make any apology for presenting the claims of the Association in these times when the energies of all should be devoted to the prosecution of the war. It was his opinion that the work of the organized farmers was contributing in no small measure to the ends which the Allies have in view in the prosecution of the war.

YEAR BOOK

It yet? Copies for all have been mailed or ex- the Central office. If as not received them them at an adjacent should write us a at of issuing these has they contain the con- felt that the local as willingly pay the ex- I see that they are dis- members. Any mem- received his copy the secretary of his- we it up till it is placed and let us again empha- bility of keeping these for comparison with- ture issues.

ures of wealth are com- every member of the be accounted a share- share of the general pro- secured to him.—R. J.

Saskatchewan

The history of the grain is contained chiefly in the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, in J. S. Woodhead, Secretary, Regina, Sask. To obtain an understanding of this page should be sent.

tion of the war. "We are fighting to make the world safe for democracy. We are extending our organized farm-ers' movement in order to prepare our-selves and to shape conditions so that real democracy may be possible both now and when the war is over." Mr. McKinney believed that the only hope for Democracy was in organization of those who appreciated its value, and were willing to sacrifice for it. "Our Association is a Democratic Organiza-tion, formed to promote Democratic principles, and dominated by Democra-tic Ideals." He urged that the time had come when we could consistently allow others than actual farmers to come into our Organization as they caught the vision and desired to assist with the big things which are funda-mental to the platform of the Associa-tion and consistent with its objects.

"We are not seeking as an organi-zation to promote selfish class interests, but we are seeking to mould public opinion and shape legislation to the end that there will be an equitable dis-tribution of the burdens of the war, and that all of the rights and privileges of society may be safeguarded and balanced on the basis of equity and an all around square deal. We welcome to our ranks all those from all classes and from all occupations who share these principles with us, and are willing to help to promote them."

Mr. McKinney outlined the plans for furthering the organization work of the Association, stating that it was only by means of organization that they could expect to attain their objective. One of the greatest needs was for in-creased membership and so it was part of the programme to double the mem-bership during 1918. So far the results of the membership campaign, he said, have been very satisfactory. While full returns had not been received, it was believed that over 10,000 new mem-bers had come in since the first of the year. About sixty new locals had also been formed, and the work had been very encouraging from every stand-point. The Executive was now working out plans which would greatly enlarge the scope of their trading activities, and increase the efficiency of the ser-vice. They had just held one of the most satisfactory conventions in the history of the Organization, and there was a good feeling prevailing which augured much for splendid achievements during 1918. They were to be con-gratulated because of the good opinion which others had of the Association as was evidenced by the favorable pub-licity they were receiving from the public press and in other important ways.

Resolutions

The following resolution was unan-imously adopted:— Whereas the farmers are now being called upon for the maximum produc-tion, we hereby request the Dominion Government to remove at once the duty from all agricultural implements, and from all fuel oils and lubricating oils. It was moved and carried that a sim-ilar Rally should be held each year by the locals surrounding Indian Head. Everyone seemed to feel that the Rally was a great success, and it is thought that the work had received a consid-er-able impetus. Plans are under way for the building of a warehouse and for carrying on a greatly increased busi-ness in various co-operative lines. It is also expected that a very large in-crease in the membership of the locals about Indian Head will be made during this year. Those present at the Rally seemed to feel it was up to the community which started the Grain Growers' Association to lead in sup-porting it now. We look to see the Indian Head District make a good showing in the membership competition before the end of the year.

Our locals continue to be very gen-erous in their support of the various Patriotic Funds, and we have pleasure

is giving publicity to the following, as among the latest to pass through our hands: Agricultural Relief of the Allies Fund, Log Valley local, #29; Tate local, #25; Red Cross, Poplar View local, #25; Armenian and Syrian Relief, Poplar View local, #25; Y.M.C.A. Fund, Tate local, #25.

MCDONALD CREEK GROWING

When seedling entities, McDonald Creek G.O.A., though quiet, will still be there, and always trying to do a little better. This is the message the secretary sends us. It is a message of hopefulness and strength. In spite of any discouragement which may come, always trying to do a little better. If we can only get that spirit into every local of our association, nothing in the world can stop our progress. However slow or however quick our progress, let that be our slogan for 1918. Always trying to do a little better. The secretary writes as under:—

Enclosed please find money order for \$23.50, \$5.00 of this amount is for our Central Fighting Fund. The balance \$18.50 to be applied on our 1918 mem-bership account as per attached list. Our 1917 membership list showed 19 paid-up members. We have now 39 members, exclusive of our Women's Section, which is in a very flourishing condition. Ours is a small local, but not weak, and we are growing. Al-though 25 miles from the railroad, we are doing quite a lot of co-operative buying, and we have had some good meetings this winter.

We secured about half a dozen new members this winter without having to ask them to join. Before long we hope to be able to report a further increase to our membership list. After seedling commentaries you probably will not hear from us very often, but we will be here, and always trying to do a little better.—R. R. Morrison, secretary. McDonald Creek G.O.A.

RANGEVIEW DOES GOOD WORK

The following interesting letter has been received from the secretary of the Rangeview local, to which we are glad to give publication:—

A very interesting meeting of the Rangeview local was held in the Alfalfa Valley school house on Satur-day afternoon, March 16. The most im-portant feature of this meeting was a debate, "Resolved that it would pay farmers to use tractors and automobiles and entirely do away with horses." The negative won by six points. A reading was given by Mrs. House and a song by our popular president, John Pierce, both of which were loudly applauded. After a short musical program, which was given by our orchestra, a dainty lunch of sandwiches, cake and coffee was served by the ladies. After this a vote of thanks was tendered the ladies, and they were invited to join with us and help to make our organization a permanent success. This they decided to do, and five have already joined, and there are more to follow. You may ex-pect something bigger and better from Rangeview local, now that the ladies have joined us. We have more than doubled our membership over last year in two months and will triple it by another one.—E. E. Breakbridge, sec-etary, Rangeview G.O.A.

MAVERICK LOCAL HAS RESUR-RECTION

The following report has just been received from the secretary of the Ma-verick local:— It is an eloquent and in-teresting story, and needs no comment. We present it just as received:—

Just a brief outline of the progress we are making. A year ago last Decem-ber we were absolutely dead, and a few were gathered together to settle everything up, and it was resolved that we disband. Most of those present said we could never keep a local together at this point. Well, we quit for a while, but we were lost without the local. A few of us hated to stand up

and let other districts do all and we do nothing for the G.O. movement. So we called a meeting and determined to try again. We got six members at this meeting, the real present thought it was no use joining, for we were sure to die again, and some made jokes on us and worked hard against us, but the more people talked about us, the more we six resolved to stick and push ahead. Soon we began to show the old members we were going to make it go, and we gradually got them back, and we got new members too. It was easier to get new members than the old ones. The members wives came to the meetings and brought lunches, and that helped our meetings along a lot, and we held some fine, interesting and pleasant meetings during the winter. Last fall we finished up with a membership of 29 men. That is a lot more than we had any previous year. We did a business of \$5,500 and at our annual gathering we ever had at a meeting, that those 29 men saved between them about \$700 on their purchasing, and the trading was not the main feature. We took a very big interest in all ques-tions and problems affecting the farm-ers. This winter our efforts have been devoted mostly to increasing our mem-bership and seeing that all our members had all the seed oats and feed oats that they needed. We had a very poor crop of oats, and most of us had to buy. Very few are as lucky as our members. We shipped in four cars of oats, and we are all pretty well sup-plied, and we got them at the right time, saving our members a great deal of money. Most of the farmers around that are not members, are looking around for oats now, paying 25 cents a bushel more than we had to pay.

We sent three delegates to the con-vention, two men and one woman, and when they came back they were more than ever determined to push things. The woman is a director on our board. The women have not formed a women's section yet, but the time will soon be ripe for them to line up. At present we have 51 members, 40 men, 11 women. Each member has a card to sell or pay \$1.00 extra, and I know one or two more are sold, but I have not got them in yet. So far we have done over \$5,000 worth of business this year, and now we think the time is ripe for in-corporation, and in a few weeks we expect to be an incorporated local. We never think of dying now. The ones that predicted death realize now that we were very much alive.

Enclosed please find money order for \$5.00 for Fighting Fund, received from ten cent lunches that the ladies have been serving at our meetings; also money order for \$8.00 fees—for 16 more members.—Reg. Tomlinson, secretary, Maverick G.O.A.

"CRAZY FOR HUMANITY"

"Some parties wish to know if Pop-lar View people are millionaires or crazy," says the secretary in the letter given below. We should judge, how-ever, that they are not the stuff of which millionaires are usually made. If on the other hand, they are crazy they are at all events crazy for human-ity, and they could not be crazy in a better cause on this side of the golden gates. The secretary's letter, and more still the fine gift with which it is backed, is an honor to the whole Asso-ciation. In comparison with the million-aires, they have given "more than their all." All honor to them. Mr. Patter-son writes as follows:—

I herewith enclose cheque for \$32.35 being proceeds of box social. Some people wish to know if "Poplar View people" are millionaires, or crazy. I wish to state here that they are neither, but they are not married to the dollar when their country's honor is at stake and our boys are suffering at the front. Kindly place this to the following funds:—
Red Cross \$564.90
Devastated Area Fund 282.45
Vimy Rest Fund 25.00
I am not sure if this is the correct name for this fund but our late presi-dent saw something about it in a paper some time ago and wishes to place \$25.00 with that fund if you can place it.—R. Patterson, secretary.