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Volume II

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TAKING THE TIDE AT THE FLOOD

Convention of Saskatchewan Grain Growers at Prince Albert last week showed how they have grasped their opportunity. The Road Leads on to Victory. Six Hundred Delegates were present. Remarkable Enthusiasm displayed. Decision on Elevator, Hail Insurance and other questions. Canadian Council of Agriculture Organized.

The Saskatchewan Grain Growers in convention at Prince Albert last week, gave the Saskatchewan government to understand clearly that the elevator question must be settled promptly and properly.

Hon. W. R. Motherwell was present but could make no definite announcement. He said that the government would appoint a commission of five members of which the Grain Growers would be asked to nominate two. F. W. Green informed the convention that he had a definite promise in a letter from Premier Scott that there would be three representatives of the Grain Growers on the commission. The convention expressed its regret at Mr. Motherwell's failure to make a definite announcement and requested that three Grain Growers be appointed on the commission.

There were 600 farmers in attendance at the convention and the enthusiasm was remarkable. Meetings were held in the Presbyterian church and the city extended heartiest welcome, doing everything possible to entertain the Grain Growers including a splendid banquet on Friday evening.

The convention reached a decision on the hail insurance question which promises a settlement of that matter. Among the visitors present were E. C. Drury of Toronto, Master of the Dominion Grange, James Bower and E. J. Fream, President and Secretary United Farmers of Alberta, D. W. McCuaig and R. McKenzie, President and Secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association.

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

The Canadian Council of Agriculture was endorsed and the first meeting of this organization was held Friday night, when the following officers were elected: President, D. W. McCuaig, vice-president, James Bower, secretary-treasurer, E. C. Drury. The council authorized Mr. Drury to secure evidence for the prosecution of the cement, wire fence and cotton mergers. The sum of \$400. was voted for the purpose. A committee composed of James Bower, A. G. Hawkes and R. McKenzie was appointed to secure evidence on the matter of cattle guards to present the case to the Dominion Government next fall. It was decided by the council to devote all the energy to only a few matters and this assures success.

President E. N. Hopkins Brought Good Tidings

President E. N. Hopkins in opening the convention said:-

This is the fourth time that it has been my privilege to submit to you the annual report of this association. On former occasions we felt proud of our heritage and we rejoiced in the progress that was being made in the agricultural interests of our province. But, while we were highly gratified with the results obtained in those years, we believe that the past year has been a record one, not only on account of the tremendous area brought under cultivation for the first time, not only on account of the large number of settlers who have come to make Western Canada their home, not only for the unusually fruitful harvest, but also for the steps that have been taken in agricultural organization to ensure to the farmers fairer treatment in the

grain market, and better facilities in storage and transportation.

From the standpoint of grain production, the season of 1909 will go down in the history of the province as a banner year. From early spring to the late fall, the weather was all that could be desired enabling us to produce and garner a magnificent crop, which was not surpassed either in amount or in quality by that of any previous year. When I announced to you three years ago that in 1906 we produced 37,000,000 bushels of wheat and that it represented 20.40 bushels per acre, you cheered and justly so. When it was announced last year that we reached the 50,000,000 bushels mark in wheat production and that our total grain yield for 1908 was 100,000,000 bushels you were equally pleased. You would scarcely have believed then that in 1909 our grain production would be greater

on this continent; and as to yield per acre we outstrip them all by 20 per cent. showing to the world that we have the soil and climate, as well as the area for producing an abundant yield of the finest quality.

But, gentlemen, what would it profit us as farmers enduring the heat and toil of the day, to have an almost unlimited agricultural area and the ability to produce enough wheat to feed the world, if we fail to make adequate provision for ensuring to ourselves the due return for our labors? For ten years, our association has labored to protect the interests of the farmers and a year ago, our convention emphasized the necessity of a larger measure of protective legislation. There was a time in our history when our legislators were accustomed to come around and tell us what they were going to do for us. That time is fast passing

we would appeal to our legislature independently of the other provinces. Your secretary, Mr. F. W. Green, was appointed to present our case, and I think every man will admit that Mr. Green did so in a masterly manner.

Government and Opposition Unanimous

But, gentlemen, we live in a country where party politics prevail, and our association was fearful that the provincial legislature would make this question a party question, for we believed that it was too important a question, one that affected the whole commercial life of the province, to be thrown into the arena of party politics and be made a party football. When I saw by the public press that the leader of the government and the leader of the opposition had stretched forth their hands across the floor of the House, and said, "We will approach this question as statesmen and not as politicians." I felt like thanking them on your behalf, for I knew that if we have the united intellect of the legislature, coupled with that of the grain growers of the province working out a solution to the problem, we need not fear the result. But, gentlemen, it is up to us as individual members of the association to see to it that our political friends in the legislature live strictly up to that understanding.

There is one more feature of our work that must be briefly touched upon, and it is the one which comes most closely home to the farmers of the province. This feature is the question of local organization. I need scarcely point out to you the lack of permanency in our former mode of organization, and hence it was the policy of the association last year to enter upon a vigorous organization campaign. In this connection your executive deemed it advisable, in order to facilitate the work, to unite the offices of secretary, treasurer and organizer. Mr. Green was persuaded to take this united office. Our association might have been compared in former years to a maple tree: it would bloom in the spring, but in the fall many of the branches would die and it would become necessary for our secretary-treasurer to bring his pruning knife and remove the dead branches. But during the last six months, our working organizer has been going up and down the country injecting a little life-germ, so that the tree is fast becoming an evergreen.

During the year, our secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. C. Sanderson, who has served the association so well and so faithfully for so many years, was compelled to resign owing to poor health. I am sorry to have to report that he and also Mr. Partridge (another member of last year's executive), have had to seek the sunny south in an endeavor to regain their lost health and strength. I am sure you will all join with me in the hope that they will speedily be fully restored and be enabled to return to us.

"Look Well After Local Organizations"

If in closing, I should say a few words that might look like advice, I know that you will excuse me as this is the last time that I shall address you in my present capacity.

Ever since the organization of our association, the influence we have exerted with the government, both local and federal, have become stronger and stronger until today they are prepared to accept our principles even if they do not always

OFFICERS SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION FOR 1910

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than that of the two previous years combined. Yet, this year we raised 90,215,000 bushels of wheat, (an average of 22.1 bushels to the acre), besides 105,465,000 bushels of oats and 12,630,616 bushels of other kinds of grain, making a total production of 218,310,616 bushels. Now, gentlemen, this is a record to be proud of, and it is when we think of what we did this year and when we remember that only ten per cent. of our arable land is under cultivation, that we begin to realize the possibilities of our fair province from a grain-producing standpoint.

Saskatchewan Three Rungs from the Top

It will interest you, too, to know that this year, only two states in the American Union, Minnesota and North Dakota, produced more wheat than did Saskatchewan and that only two states, Illinois and Iowa, produced more oats. Thus, as a producer of wheat and oats, we stand third among the provinces and states

away, and it is in accordance with the new order of things, that we decided at our last convention, to do as we had done before, and go to our government at Regina and at Ottawa and tell them what we wanted them to do.

It was in this spirit that we deemed it advisable, almost immediately after the convention to send a representative to Ottawa to lay our resolutions, and especially the one relating to the government ownership and operation of terminal and transfer elevators, before the Dominion parliament. Mr. Langley, who was sent on this mission, will submit his report before the close of this convention.

We also resolved last year that the inter-provincial council should continue their negotiations with the three premiers to emphasize the necessity of the governments establishing a system of interior storage elevators. Your executive met in November last and decided that we were making haste all too slowly and that