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THE PASSING OF THE BAR

That one of the greatest evils and darkest blot upon the record of civilized society in the shape of the open bar is to disappear from this fair Province on July 1 next, must be deeply gratifying to all who desire the permanent well being of Saskatchewan. The announcement by Premier Scott that a measure will be submitted to the legislature in May which, if it becomes law—as it is almost certain to do—will stop entirely on July 1 the retail sale of intoxicating liquor thruout the province, gives this assurance. The few remaining dispensaries of liquor will pass into the hands of the government and the electors of the province will be given every opportunity to state whether or not they will have them closed also.

Beyond all doubt the psychological moment has been selected for the bringing forward of this measure. Possibly never before have the people of this country been in a mood so ripe for drastic reform. The great war in which half the world is actively engaged and by which the other half is materially affected, has caused men the world over to think and to think soberly as only a great crisis or some outstanding calamity can do. Previously accepted moral standards have been weighed, tested and proven as seldom before in the world's history and many have been brought to see that their ideals as well as their ideas need reconstructing.

In this country we are reaping a harvest of unemployment, serious shrinkage of values, financial stringency, trade depression and languishing of our basic productive industries as the natural and inevitable fruitage of ten years of speculation, speculation and exploitation; a period which had been popularly called one of "good times," but which was in reality to the nation exactly what a "prolonged spree" is to an individual. These conditions are all too frequently attributed to the war but had this war not occurred or had it been delayed by another year conditions in this country would have been very much worse than they are. It is not to be wondered at that in this our "morning after the night before"—while those who most keenly enjoyed the spree are having serious difficulty to fit their heads into their hats—we are brought as a people to a stage where we can do some sober thinking. At the present time the people of Canada generally and of Saskatchewan in particular are practising economy along many lines as they have not done for years. Men and women are realizing that waste—personal waste as well as the waste of exploitation—must be checked if we are ever as a people to be truly and permanently prosperous. The bar room has always been a most prolific source of waste, both of money and of efficiency. The man who drinks not only wastes his own money but that of the state as well. Besides he lowers his earning power, his efficiency in society, and he falls an easy prey to the thousand and one devices employed by men to filch from him whatever means or property he may possess.

Heretofore most of the supporters of prohibition have been actuated by moral considerations. Today millions of men the world over actuated by economic considerations are determined that booze shall go. It is no longer considered respectable for a man to make gain out of the inebriety of his fellow. Respectability demands that our weaker brother who is the slave of appetite shall not be exploited and fleeced because of his weakness. We no longer admit into refined society the man who for personal gain encourages the debased appetites of another.

Who can tell how soon will come the time when men shall have become sufficiently enlightened to demand of each other that no man shall exploit for purposes of personal gain, the weak-

nesses or the foolishnesses of others. The thousand and one "get-rich-quick" schemes which are constantly foisted upon a gullible public, as well as very much of what is generally looked upon as legitimate commercial enterprise but which in reality is merely a refined manner of playing upon the weakness, ignorance or stupidity of others, are fast coming to be ostracized by all who are sufficiently enlightened to comprehend the great basic truth that the best permanent interest of the individual is always the best permanent interest of society as a whole.

Central Expresses Satisfaction

Immediately when word reached the Central Office of the purpose of the government to close the bars of Saskatchewan on July 1, the secretary sent the following telegram to the Hon. Walter Scott:

"The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association having repeatedly declared for the total abolition of the retail sale of intoxicating liquor, I desire hereby to express on its behalf the keenest satisfaction with the policy of your government as announced by yourself at Oxbow for the control of the liquor traffic in Saskatchewan."

It should be recognized by our people everywhere that the keenest opposition on the part of the liquor interests will be put up against the enactment of the proposed law and an effort made to frustrate its purpose even after it is passed. It would be wise for all branches of the Association to follow the lead of the Central Office and assure the government that they will heartily support the proposed measure.

J. B. M.

THE PRESS AND THE S.G.G.A.

The following is a clipping from the Saskatoon Star:

"The Grain Growers' and their Ventures."

"The trend of the Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan at the convention held last month was in the direction of a wide development of the co-operative idea. Many of the proposals discussed by the delegates had been before conventions in the past, tho they could hardly be said to have reached the stage where they could be definitely classed as fixed principles of the association. To what length the co-operative system may be safely attempted by the G.G.A. is a matter to which many have given thought of late. Upon this subject the Swift Current Herald has the following: 'Probably the most ambitious organization in the west is the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. We are led to believe that if only given a fair chance this association will shortly be able to jump farther and dive deeper than any other combination in Canada. They are anxious and willing to remodel the commercial and moral status of the country and are prepared to take on anything from bartending to banking and from retail merchandising to wholesale manufacturing.'

"The Saskatchewan Grain Growers have done, are doing and will continue to do, a great deal for the uplift of the farmer and for the development of progressive agriculture. Of late, however, it would appear that the association's straight agricultural endeavors have been sidetracked to a considerable extent in order to give play to some giant schemes of a commercial nature that would involve a capital outlay of millions of dollars. The question of the farmers embarking in the banking and mercantile business and gaining control of the liquor traffic of this province occupied a good deal more time at the recent convention than was spent in discussing matters that would tend to enhance the prospects for a bumper crop next fall."

"Some of the schemes of the Grain Growers will doubtless bear very profitable fruit in due course; but there

are a number of reasons why our farmer friends should remain anchored to the earth at the present time and not be carried away by fancy flights into the millionaire realms beyond. 'Let not ambition mock your useful toil.'

"Apart from the question of co-operation in the purchase and distribution of supplies, the marketing and even milling of grain, and the loaning of money, matters, the working out of which will call for a great deal of expert attention, we might point out that the Grain Growers' Association entertained no suggestion for the control of the liquor traffic in the province, as intimated by the Swift Current paper. They went unanimously for the total abolition of the bar; there was no halfway measure."

"The Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan is now a powerful institution, well organized and with experience enough to be conscious of its capabilities for accomplishing much for mutual welfare. There is always the possibility of it attempting too much or of overspeeding, but with these dangers guarded against, the association should be able to go a long way, and be doing a good work for the farming community at every step."

GRAIN GROWERS' CONCERT

A concert under the auspices of the McKay Grain Growers' Association was held in the McKay school house on Friday evening last. The program rendered by A. G. Hawkes, and a number of others from Percival district, was excellent, and was much appreciated by the many present. The program was as follows:—God Save the King; instrumental selection, Orchestra; chorus, Men of Harlech, choir; recitation, Master Ekland; song, Albert Nelson; chorus, Lone Folks Do; recitation, Miss A. Ekland; song, "Lads in Navy Blue," Miss M. Hawkes; chorus, "King George," choir; recitation, Mr. McCreary; chorus, "Christians Awake," dialogue, "Dr. Cureall," Hawkes Co.; song, "Won't You Buy My Flowers," Miss Ekland; duet, "Money Matters," Miss Hawkes and Vic Hawkes; chorus, "O Canada," recitation, Lewis Hawkes; song, "Always think of Mother," Master Nystrom; recitation, Master Ekland; song, "Chinaman," Vic Hawkes; chorus, "Grain Growers," choir; instrumental selection, orchestra; "God Save the King."

REPORT FROM EDAM

Received your favor of the 15th inst., with membership fee receipt, button and copy of invoice for car of apples shipped us last fall, for which I thank you.

Enclosed please find \$15.00, being \$10.00 for membership fees and \$5.00 for a box of the G. G. A. buttons.

We held a meeting on Saturday, February 20, and listened to our convention delegates tell us what a big time you had at Regina convention.

We did not have time to go thru all the resolutions, but this local heartily endorses your past policy and your proposed new business for the coming year. We intend to hold another meeting and debate the rest of the resolutions.

We were particularly pleased to hear that the Central intends to push on the good work of co-operative trading and hope that you will obtain legislation to enable you to start wholesale houses or factories and keep the good work rolling. I was personally pleased to hear how strong the ladies' branch of the G. G. A. had become; all success to them.

Hoping the membership will be doubled during the coming year.

A. W. WINDO,
Sec. Edam G. G. A.

MAPLE VALLEY ORGANIZED

On February 23 Messrs. Rowe and H. Ketcheson, of Davidson, addressed a meeting of farmers in this district at

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:		
Dist. No. 1—W. H. Beasley	.....	Balbeck
" 2—M. P. Roddy	.....	Rouleau
" 3—G. E. Noddle	.....	Lampman
" 4—R. M. Johnston	.....	Eastview
" 5—J. W. Easton	.....	Moosomin
" 6—F. W. Redman	.....	Grenfell
" 7—C. O. A. Travis	.....	Govan
" 8—Thorn M. Eddy	.....	Bethune
" 9—John F. Reid	.....	Orcadia
" 10—J. L. Rooke	.....	Togo
" 11—T. Sales	.....	Langham
" 12—Andrew Knorr	.....	Prince Albert
" 13—W. H. Lilwall	.....	Wilkie
" 14—T. M. Morgan	.....	Aqueduct
" 15—Frank Burton	.....	Vanguard
" 16—W. T. Hall	.....	Surbiton

the Maple Valley schoolhouse, the result being the birth of a new G. G. A. at this point. I enclose herewith \$3.00 for six paid up members and have the promise of a good many more at an early date. The following officers were elected: President, Albert Rutherford; Vice-President, Frank Stevens; Secretary-Treasurer, Jno. R. Ross; Directors: Walter Worrall, A. W. Rowley, Cory Galloway.

JOHN R. ROSS,
Sec. Maple Valley G.G.A.

LIFE MEMBERS

Enclosed find draft for \$24.00, fees for two new life members of the G. G. A., C. W. Newson and J. C. Nolte, of the Lang G. G. A.

I. R. GRAHAM,
Sec. Lang G.G.A.

WILL BUY BRITISH GOODS

Resolutions passed by the Harrow (Lakeview) Grain Growers' Association at a meeting of February 27, 1915:

"Whereas, under most pressing circumstances, the federal government has been obliged to increase the general tariff by 7½%, and whereas many of our members have been misled by the Eastern potentates' pseudo-patriotic patter of 'Made in Canada' goods; and whereas, from long experience, we have had much occasion to thoroughly grasp the true import of these infant industries patriotic squalls, and understand the caliber of this breed of patriotism;

"We, as an Association, do strongly advise our members and sympathizers to purchase British goods wherever possible, so that the federal treasury may benefit thereby, and our earnest desire for free trade with the Mother Country be emphasized in a practical manner."

WILLMAR'S SUCCESSFUL MEETING

The Willmar G. G. A. held a social in the schoolhouse here on Tuesday, February 23, which was certainly one of the chief events of the winter. As the door was open to all comers, the schoolhouse was packed and a large number had to stand all evening. The report of the delegates to the Regina convention was heard and seemed to be well received by the members present.

G. E. Noggle, our District Director, was present and in a very interesting and instructive speech showed clearly the benefits derived by the farmers from the G. G. A. and co-operation. Mr. Noggle's remarks were well chosen and he gave the members present some points to think out for themselves, which no doubt will in time result in much benefit to our Association.

Refreshments were served by the ladies, which they found to be a very difficult undertaking owing to the crowded state of the building, but a spirit of co-operation and equity seemed to pervade the meeting and made much easier this difficult task.

After this Thos. Leggett gave a short speech, in which he reminded the audience of the good to be derived from being subscribers to the Grain Growers' Guide, also pointing out the advisability of immediate action in sending in their subscriptions. The meeting closed by singing "God Save the King."

Willmar local was organized about three months ago and has a membership of fifty-four, with prospects of a further increase in membership soon. They have already derived considerable benefit from co-operative buying, especially in coal and fence posts. One of the delegates procured some Patriotic Acre forms and is meeting with gratifying success in securing signers for same.

J. G. LINKLATER,
Willmar G.G.A.

AN ENQUIRY

Kindly let me know how I can become a member of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers? I think you are doing a grand and noble work.

J. HARRISON.