

**BRANDON DISTRICT MEETING**

The third annual convention of the Brandon District Grain Growers' Association will be held in the City Hall, Brandon, on Friday, December 22, at 2 o'clock. Each local association in the Brandon district is entitled to send delegates at the rate of one for every five paid-up members for 1916. A first-class program is being arranged. Particular emphasis will be laid on organization and each branch is requested to bring a report of their activities for the year 1916. Representatives from the Central Office in Winnipeg will be present to speak on several important subjects, and a number of the best workers in our district will lead in the discussion. We particularly urge that your local be well represented, and that you come and tell us of your methods, plans for the future, and difficulties, if any, encountered. Reduced rates may be had on all railroads. Return tickets for fare and one-third. Remember the date, December 22, at Brandon, and endeavor to make this our most successful district convention by sending a large delegation prepared to take part in the discussions.

D. C. McKENZIE  
Secretary Brandon District Grain  
Growers' Association.

**EMPIRE ASSOCIATION**

The Empire branch of the Grain Growers' Association held their annual meeting on December 5. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, H. Jackson; vice-president, G. Burgess; secretary-treasurer, J. W. Jackson. Of their 24 members for the present year 18 have paid in their dues for next year. At their meetings throughout the year they have had an average attendance of 11 at each meeting; this is a better showing than many of our branches can state. We hope to see a still larger membership for the coming year.

**STRATHCLAIR ANNUAL MEETING**

Secretary Fred Williamson reports their annual meeting as follows: The Strathclair Grain Growers' annual meeting was held on Saturday, December 9. The attendance was the largest yet and the enthusiasm shown made it the most satisfactory annual meeting we have ever held. Reports were given by the secretary and directors for the past year and by the delegates who had attended the Marquette District Convention at Shoal Lake. Officers were elected for next year, three ladies being added to the directorate. The meeting adjourned to assemble on Saturday, December 16, when the delegates to Brandon Convention will be appointed, a program for the winter arranged and "The Farmers' Platform" discussed.

**MARQUETTE DISTRICT CONVENTION**

The Marquette District Grain Growers third annual convention was held in the Masonic hall, Shoal Lake, on Thursday, December 7, at 2 p.m., President C. S. Stevenson in the chair. Minutes of last meeting were read and adopted. On a roll call being taken the following associations were found to be represented: Hamiota, Empire, Arrow River, Lavinia, Newdale, Strathclair, Shoal Lake, King's School, Foxwarren, Binscarth, Vista, Angusville, Oakburn, Bethany, and Birtle. About 100 delegates were present. A resolution asking that Rural Telephones be reduced to \$18.00 per year was passed. Mr. Griffiths, of Binscarth, gave a fine address on the Place of Farmers in Public Business, followed by addresses by Messrs. Short, Dalgarno, Simpson, Henders and Malcolm, on the best methods of electing farmers to parliament, after which it was decided to endorse the platform and methods of the Canadian Council of Agriculture to attain this end. A resolution was passed opposing any action being taken in setting the prices of grain and other farm products as the cost of production is increasing as well. Frank Simpson gave an address on Public Abattoirs, but the question was held over until next meeting. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, R. Dalgarno (Newdale); vice-president, B. Griffiths (Binscarth); secretary, B. McLeod (Shoal Lake); directors, F. Simpson, of

Shoal Lake; and J. T. Davies, were nominated to be voted on at the Brandon convention. In response to an invitation from the council of Minnedosa Town it was decided to hold the next convention there, date to be set by the officials.

At the evening meeting R. C. Henders gave a rousing address on the work, aims and standing of the Grain Growers, showing that greater struggles than any yet encountered will have to be met, the greatest being the fight against the tariff and the substitution of direct for indirect taxation, favoring taxation of land values, income tax, and tax on corporations instead of the present system of raising revenue by duties on imports. He cited the fact that the stand taken for Free Trade by the Brandon Convention in their deliberations was in the opinion of Premier Asquith a valuable contribution to the cause of Free Trade in the old country, inasmuch as it gave them the view-point of the agriculturists in Western Canada along these lines. Rev.

# Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President, 404 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

**SEED GRAIN RATES**

A secretary of one of our local associations writes as follows: "I feel that this special seed grain rate should be a great help in Manitoba towards strengthening the membership of our branches, as it will mean the saving of thousands of dollars to those of us who were hard hit by rust and heat and hail. I find there are many farmers who do not know that we have the Central Association to thank for securing us this special seed grain rate."

**SECRETARIES! TAKE NOTE**

We wish to express our appreciation of the splendid work being done by a large number of our secretaries at local points. This work is seen in the returns now coming in and the enthusiastic manner in which some of them write concerning the interest felt in the different localities, concerning the magnitude and importance of our work. We are drawing near the close of another year. There are still quite a number of locals who have not sent in any re-

The Central Office wishes you one and all a Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year. We hope to see a full representation of men and women delegates at our Annual Convention at Brandon, on January 10 to 12, 1917

Mr. Martin, of Strathclair, stated that his views were much the same as Mr. Henders, and he favored a system of taxation that would bring more land under cultivation, such as taxation of land values. After extending a vote of thanks to the speakers the meeting closed. (Contributed.)

**ETHELBERT FARMERS MEET**

A meeting of the farmers in the Ethelbert District was held on Monday, December 4, attended by 250 of the farmers living within a radius of fifteen miles surrounding Ethelbert. They organized and appointed their officers, and in the near future hope to have an elevator at that point. Altho speaking the Ruthenian language among themselves many of them are fair speakers in English. It is anticipated that they may have one of our largest branches at this point. They will be linked up with the Dauphin district work. Our best wishes are extended to this new branch.

**LISGAR DISTRICT MEETINGS**

District Director Wright and District Secretary Godkin send in the following announcement for meetings to be held in their territory:

Morden—Wednesday, December 20.  
Thorahill—Thursday, December 21, afternoon.  
Shadehead—Thursday, December 21, evening.  
Darlingford—Friday, December 22.  
Agar—Tuesday, December 26.  
Crystal City—Wednesday, December 27.  
Pilot Mound—Thursday, December 28.  
Manitou—Friday, December 29.

The hour of holding the meeting to be fixed by the local secretary of each of these branches. Matters of very special interest will be up for discussion at these local meetings. Delegates to the Brandon Convention are to be appointed from each local. Let there be a special rally. Reports coming in from annual meetings are unusually encouraging and we are looking for a splendid closing up of our year's work.

ports or made returns of dues for 1916. We send out this intimation in the hope that it will be the means of calling attention to this fact, as our books in the Central Office will have to be closed not later than Saturday, December 30. This will necessitate that returns to appear in the financial statement for this year must be in the office prior to that date. Do not leave this matter over to the eleventh hour. Kindly get busy at once as it will relieve the pressure of work at Central Office by having reports in at the earliest possible date. We have only about one week to the Christmas holidays will be on. Let the Grain Growers of the Province endeavor to fix their program of work so that Convention week will be kept clear. We want to see the largest delegation at Brandon that has ever been at one of our Conventions. Matters that will be far reaching in their influence upon this Province will come under review and plans will be laid for active aggressive work. Get your resolutions ready as quickly as possible and send them up thru the regular constituted channels so that they will reach this office in time to give the Resolution Committee sufficient time to deal with them. The Convention Call and delegates' certificates are being mailed out to the local secretaries and will have reached some before this issue of the Guide appears. Should any secretary fail to receive supplies please notify this office at once.—R. C. H.

**NEEPAWA DISTRICT CONVENTION**

Neepawa District had the most successful convention in its history of December 7 in the town of Gladstone. While the attendance was not as fully representative as might have been desired the numbers were comparatively large and the program decidedly above the average. Hon. Dr. Armstrong's lucid address on rural credits was listened to with close attention and followed by interesting discussion. The frankness of the government in discussing with the people legislation proposed and in course of formulation evidently impressed the Grain Growers

favorably. Two brief practical addresses by J. W. Drysdale of Neepawa, were stimulating and helpful. The first dealt with school gardening and the second with the co-operation of rural and urban municipalities in the establishment and maintenance of rest rooms, to be utilized also as community centres. At the evening session Rev. A. C. Strachan, of Gladstone, gave a thoughtful and stimulating address on community organization. He was followed by John Kennedy, who spoke at length on Tariff and Free Trade, dealing with the glaring abuses of the tariff system and the principles and ideals of the recently organized Free Trade League. The reception accorded his remarks leaves no doubt as to where the majority of the Neepawa Grain Growers stand on the question. The high cost of living, the burden of the duties, especially upon implements of agriculture, the restricted market for farm produce and the indefensible tariff against the Mother Country have prepared them to give united and loyal support to the movement for relief from bondage.

The district provided itself with a brand new set of officials. A. J. M. Poole and S. Watson, two of the most aggressive of the younger members of the association, were elected president and vice-president respectively. J. H. Wright, of Wellwood, who has proved his worth in the local association, was made secretary-treasurer, and William Milne, the efficient president of the Keyes branch, was nominated as district representative. The district has done good work in the past, and with a staff of young and energetic men such as now hold office there is every reason to look forward to complete effectiveness and more perfect organization in the future. There may be a local association here and there in the district which is a little drowsy, but the movement is not dead by any means in the district, and there is good reason to expect a marked revival before many months have gone by. Local secretaries should take notice that district dues are payable as soon after their annual meetings as possible to the newly-elected secretary, J. H. Wright, at Wellwood.—W. R. W.

**LAVINIA ANNUAL MEETING**

The fourth annual meeting of the Lavinia local Grain Growers' Association, was held in their offices on December 8 at 1 p.m., President G. Smith in the chair. A splendid representation of the members were present. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. There being no further discussion the president called on the delegates who attended the District Convention held at Shoal Lake, on December 7. J. T. Arthur gave a splendid outline of the proceedings of the meeting, touching on the high cost of living, and the platform of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. Ed. W. McConnell spoke on reducing the rural telephone to \$18, a copy of same to be sent to the resolution committee at Brandon convention. There was a splendid discussion by the members on the platform outlined by the Canadian Council of Agriculture. After each and all of the planks had been fully taken separately, the president put the motion, and the meeting decided that they were in favor of same. The meeting adjourned for five minutes to give the members a chance to renew their membership fees. With business once more resumed the auditors for the general secretary reported a very satisfactory business for the year ending. The books showed a cash balance of \$116.02. J. W. Stewart, co-operative secretary for the last two years was urged to continue as same, but owing to pressure of business he declined and John Foxton, general secretary, accepted the position. Will Chappel will act as general secretary for the ensuing year. The delegates to the Brandon Convention were next appointed. The following are the executive for the ensuing year: R. W. Cochran, A. Skinner, W. Matheson, Arthur Kerr, Fred Wyatt, H. Thompson. In the near future a gathering of the local members and their wives will meet and it is fully expected that President Henders will address the meeting.

ED. W. MCCONNELL,