

# Manitoba Farmers' Resolutions

*The following is the conclusion of the Report of the Convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association held over from last week*

Friday afternoon the resolution committee was given a clear field. Many resolutions were referred to the executive as the most direct body thru which action could be secured on them.

The action of the produce section, except one member, of the Winnipeg Board of Trade in deciding to buy eggs on a "loss off" basis was approved. This means that these dealers will only buy those eggs that are worth buying and all rotten, cracked or spoiled eggs will be deducted as they should be. Thus the man marketing eggs will be paid according to quality.

E. R. Sutherland, Stonewall, moved a resolution to ask that municipalities be given power to impose a surtax of not less than one mill or more than ten mills on the dollar on all vacant and unimproved lands and to use such money for local improvements. It was carried. Josiah Bennett said a tax of five mills on all the vacant land in the three western provinces would mean \$35,000,000 a year.

The meeting expressed disapproval of spending the money of the province on the proposed Jefferson Highway from Emerson to Winnipeg when good main roads for farmers use are needed badly in so many places. J. L. Brown said this road would necessitate a first cost of \$9,000 a mile that should go to inter-municipal roads.

A resolution calling for closer standardization of educational methods including teachers' certificates and text books in the three western provinces was moved by A. E. Hill, Brandon, and was passed.

## Better Fruit Inspection Needed

J. Dowsett, Carman, moved and spoke to this resolution: "That in view of unsatisfactory car inspection of fruit at shippers' points, especially in regard to apples from Ontario, the executive be asked to take all means to have a more careful inspection of this fruit made."

A car had been bought from The Grain Growers' Grain Co. containing frozen and undersized apples. He had two barrels but all the apples in his barrel were damaged and they were not satisfied. It had been a detriment to co-operative trading there.

R. Chapman, Nings, said that the Dominion Fruit Inspector's office in Winnipeg was not being utilized by these people as it should be.

Frank Simpson, Shoal Lake, had found it very difficult to get redress thru even the inspectors for bad apples.

T. A. Creer showed the difficulty in securing the class of apples desired this year. Previously, when the company had contracted for apples at a certain price from the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association other local associations in Ontario had sometimes circularized some locals at ten cents lower for certain grades or limited quantities. The company had protected itself against such methods which were inimical to the best interest of the grain growers by allowing for a spread in price. The company had given no guarantee to buyers which they had not secured from the Ontario Growers. Some Government inspectors were even said to be in league with the dealers. He advised that when a car was received it should be examined and if not satisfactory should be refused then and there. If it were necessary to pay a draft on the car do so and it would be later refunded if on sending a fruit inspector immediately from Winnipeg the car was found to be not up to grade or representations. The whole apple business had been an unsatisfactory one, difficult to handle but which they felt was necessary to help the farmers to get justice in this matter. He favored the resolution which was then put and passed.

A resolution condemning the evil of speculation developing out of the option market on the Grain Exchange and ask-

ing that all possible means be taken to eliminate this was referred to the executive.

The advisability of securing a duplicate system of sampling cars was debated and referred to the executive to be considered with the other phases of the grain marketing problems they now have investigating.

Josiah Bennett found mistakes on sampling but it was impossible to get restitution. A delegate thought the farmer might keep a sample to check up by or send on a sample to the inspector but none seemed to have found that worked out. Bert Macleod, Shoal Lake, never knew but one car to be changed as to grading and that was a car of oats that was graded No 1 Northern. R. McKenzie said there was now no way of detecting mistakes. Our system did not compare with Minneapolis. The Grain Growers' Grain Co., Ltd. carried on duplicate sampling on their own account for a year until they were deprived of the privilege in the yards. There was no possible explanation of the common mistakes now except on the ground of error and such possibility could be greatly eliminated by duplicate sampling.

## Standardization of Sales Agreements

The Portage district delegates moved a resolution: "That the government of Manitoba should have a standard form

the association was now so big and broad and its principles so progressive that it could be confused with no political party but could make political parties listen to it. It could afford to commend or censure.

A resolution moved by John Blake-man, Virden, requesting The Grain Growers' Grain Co. to appoint a committee to thoroughly investigate the prospects of manufacturing implements west of the Great Lakes was referred to the Executive.

Jno. Lovie, Holland, proposed a lower classification by the railways for fence posts. The Executive was left to look after it.

Another resolution referred to the Executive had to do with some means of reconsidering the plan of Municipal Hail Insurance so that it might be got into operation.

## Close Mails to Liquor Ads.

The Marringhurst branch proposed: "That this Association petition the Government with a view to the prevention of the advertisement of alcoholic liquor through the mails." The resolution was unanimously passed.

The convention approved of a motion that the Executive be asked to point out to the British Government the steps taken here to safeguard the soldiers from the evils of the drink traffic and to request that in so far as could be

between the time separation allowances stopped and regular pensions began. There were many to whom this is a most trying time. An extra amount of money afterwards did not cover the difficulty and sometimes the Patriotic Fund was not so fully available as it should be.

## Civil Service Posts

The following resolution regarding civil service appointments was unanimously passed: "That for returned soldiers incapacitated for the ordinary functions of commercial and industrial life, yet eminently fitted for civil service posts, federal and provincial, such as post offices, registry and customs offices, etc., the government be urged to arrange whereby these men may be appointed to such positions as they become available, respectively; and that a department of the government be established to have control of such appointments, such department to be answerable to parliamentary and not cabinet control, and so removed from the spoils system."

It was recommended that our homestead lands be withdrawn from entry by foreigners until our soldiers have returned so that our best lands may be available for them.

A resolution from Souris, asking that a census of the army to be disbanded be taken as soon as peace is declared so that every man could be classified according to his trade or calling and be placed in the best possible position on his return was referred to the executive. One delegate, Mr. Leathers, thought that behind every returned soldier should be placed the average per capita wealth of the Dominion.

Another resolution the convention left to the Executive after endorsing its principle was "That whereas thru enlistment of men for war service there is a shortage of help for farm work, numbers of farmers throughout the province being unable to procure help even during the winter months, and whereas, National and Imperial interests demand that production should be maintained at its highest possible level, therefore all means available should be used to organize the labor supply." This was proposed by Russel local.

President Henderson thought with this resolution should be coupled an appreciation of the action of many men in the towns and cities too young or too old for service who were ready to go out on the farms or elsewhere that their services could be made greatest use of. He believed this labor would be of great service. One delegate thought many people in the towns and cities would be glad to spend their holidays next summer working on farms if some means were taken to organize this help. He believed it was very efficient help too. Another delegate pointed out how serious this labor situation was. Many farmers in his district were selling much of their stock for they simply could not look after it. A great depletion was going on. Even when in winter they could not keep up to normal; what would next summer show?

A number of resolutions passed by the women delegates in a separate meeting were fully endorsed by the general convention.

## Sleighs Should be Widened

Andrew Graham, Pomeroy, pointed out the serious inconvenience of having sleighs narrower than the regular width of the road. When the road got high horses crowded one another off and sometimes with serious results. As horses got heavier the difficulty increased and men often had to leave loads or could not take some horses out at all. A Benito man thought this an important question where there were consolidated schools and top heavy vans. Another thought this was a fine

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A group of the yearling Home Guard men, winners of the Copper Challenge cup at the gun sale at Ashford, Kent, England. The champion gun is on the extreme right. There is one each of Remingtons, Aliberts, and the broad seems well adapted to conditions similar to those of Western Canada.

for lien notes and land sales agreements, that the holder of a lien note should have no power to interfere in any way with the property of the person who signs said note till said note becomes due, that the power of private sale in either lien note or land sale agreement be cut out."

A. E. Hill thought this was a very important matter. He believed all lien notes and such sales agreements should be standardized but feared the action was drastic regarding lien notes. If it were impossible to interfere until a lien note became due the property thus covered might in the meantime thru neglect be depreciated until there was little left. He believed all lien notes should be registered at a fee not exceeding 25 cents. Several other delegates voiced the same opinions and with an addition recommending lien notes be so registered the resolution passed.

A resolution commending the action of the provincial government for its efforts in the interests of moral and general welfare of the people of the province was carried. It especially commended the extension of the franchise to women, compulsory education and the efforts toward the abolition of the liquor traffic. One delegate feared this might be taken as an excuse for applying the false name "Grits" to them but A. Graham pointed out that

done this danger be removed from the boys now in England. A number with sons at the front felt strongly on this but the convention generally recognized the difficulty of the problem as it exists in England.

The convention took no uncertain stand on several problems regarding returned soldiers. It distinctly opposed the granting of scrip to returned soldiers. Previous abuse of this method was shown. Tho it favored free grants and financial assistance to soldiers who desired to become actual settlers, scrip could only result in detrimental speculation.

Protest by resolution against the enlistment of boys under 18 years was carried.

Equalized pensions for all soldiers who have been on active service at the front or incapacitated while serving under the flag was favored. Delegates pointed out the absurdity of privates receiving much smaller pensions than officers whereas there has been no social distinction here, all springing from much the same social status in practically all cases. Special cases of distinguished service should be recognized by special medals or honorary appointments in the gift of the country but not by increased pensions.

Special support should be arranged for by the government for the dependants of soldiers killed in the service,