

Manitoba

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

MARQUETTE DISTRICT CONVENTION

The directors of the District Association of Marquette are making strenuous efforts to make their District Convention, which is to be held in Minnedosa on Wednesday, November 24, at 2 p.m., a huge success. The secretary, Bert McLeod, is sending circulars to every branch secretary in his district notifying them of the convention and urging them to appoint a full list of delegates to attend. Newspapers in the district are heartily entering into the spirit of advertising the meeting and co-operating with the different branches to make the convention a success. Officers for 1916 will be elected at this meeting and there will also be the nominating of the director to represent the district on the Central directorate.

Such questions as the livestock exchange, public abattoirs, free wheat, grading of wheat, will be discussed. An evening meeting is advertised at 8 p.m. at which the Central secretary, R. McKenzie, will deliver an address on Rural Credits.

DISTRICT OF SWAN RIVER

The District Association of Swan River will hold a convention in Swan River on Tuesday, November 23, at which the secretary expects representatives from all the branches in the Swan River Valley and district to be in attendance. The question of how the organizing of the district can best be overtaken by the district officers is going to receive close attention by the delegates. R. J. Avison, of Gilbert Plains, will represent the Central Association at this convention and assist in laying plans for extending the work of the Grain Growers' movement in the Swan River Valley.

LISGAR DISTRICT

J. L. Brown, director for Lisgar constituency, is arranging for a public meeting at Pilot Mound on the 16th. The feature of this meeting will be the collecting of all contributions to the Patriotic Acre and the allotting of the receipts to the different War Relief Funds. R. C. Henders, president of the Association for Manitoba, will be present and give an address at an afternoon and evening meeting. It is expected that representatives from other branches in the Lisgar district will be in attendance at this meeting and arrangements made for organization work in the district.

WINKLER ASSOCIATION

The secretary of the Winkler Association called at the Central office this week. He reports their branch as making progress as they have now forty-two members in their Association, having nearly doubled their membership in the past year. They have already ordered two cars of apples this season and expect to do more co-operative buying.

PATRIOTIC ACRE FUND

Contributions received up to date from individual farmers are as follows:

Wm. Bertram, Rounthwaite	\$20.85
H. McMillan, Margaret	15.00
R. Lamb, Sanford	28.22
Thos. Paterson, Springfield	30.00
Thos. Cooper, Cameron Branch	42.55
Total	\$136.62

We hope all our branches are keeping the Patriotic Acre in mind and as soon as the threshing rush slackens up a little will get in touch with the members and other farmers who have given pledges to contribute to the Patriotic Acre, so as to have this matter well in hand. "He gives twice who gives quickly" applies to this fund in a special sense. Secretaries get busy and get this fund in shape early in the season.

AS OTHERS SEE US

The following is from a letter received by the secretary of the Central Office from a gentleman in the United States, who is largely interested in Saskatchewan farm lands:

Dear Sir:—I have been reading with much interest an account of the meeting of the farmers in annual convention. I am, of course, a stranger to you and to Manitoba, but not to Saskatchewan, where I am a very much interested producer in that I have at this time more

than ten thousand acres under cultivation indirectly and directly. I am very much interested and pleased to note that the producer is sitting up as it were and taking account of himself, that he begins to feel that he has some rights others must respect, that he is not only going to be asked to be recognized, but demands it. If he continues so to do and acts not hastily but wisely, then, and not till then, may we expect to prosper in Canada. It has been my experience, and I speak knowingly, that the farmer in Canada is the most distressed and poorly paid, that he takes a larger risk and less pay for his labor than any other, that he is the most preyed upon of any class, that in fact every other interest is protected but his, that he is today paying more than his share of the taxes and carrying more than he should of the burdens of his country, and that the farmer of Canada today as compared with the farmer in the States is on a very unequal footing. He pays so much more for what he has to buy and receives so much less for what he has to sell.

Everything in your country seems to be

a combination against the producer. Your lumbermen, wholesalers and retailers, your elevator companies, whether co-operative or independent, ask and get outrageous tolls for their gain. On this side of the line we would not stand for such combinations and understandings among elevator and lumber interests any longer than we could get to the courts. If necessary we would fine them. If that would not break up their thievish practices we would imprison them. I feel there is a wide field for your Grain Growers to reach out after. Simply look about you and verily you will see that the field is already white for the harvest.

As far as our country is concerned we need no protection from the "interests," since we are well able to take care of ourselves. We ship in all our lumber and ship out all our grain—never using the elevators unless some of the tenants are compelled to. Neither do we use the lumber yards unless for a little filling in. We are mightily interested in the poor fellows who are working so hard against such odds and who cannot take care of themselves.

Speaking about the tariff reminds me that I can ship my lumber into Canada from the United States, pay the tariff, and then save money. I can ship my flax into the markets of the United States, pay twenty cents duty and make good money in addition as against your markets. I can buy all my machinery here, ship to Canada, pay your tremendous

duty, and then save big money as against buying in Canada. For instance: I bought a Minneapolis threshing machine, 36 x 56, for \$792.00 that I could not buy in your country for less than \$1,350.00. I bought a Rumely Oil-Pull engine here for less than \$2,600.00 that you cannot buy in your country for less than \$3,700. We are at this time buying harness to take with us for thirty dollars and less that you cannot buy for twice that figure in your country. We have just purchased halters for 75 cents and we paid \$2.50 for no better in Weyburn last summer. I could go on indefinitely and give you facts and figures that would make any farmer in Saskatchewan open his eyes if he knew such were possible. About all the reason I can think of that the farmers stand for these things is that they do not know it. They have become so used to being the burden bearers—the slaves as it were—the down trodden—that they simply pass it by. The only other excuse I can think of is that while every other interest has been sitting up day and night if need be taking good care of their interests, the poor farmer has been so busy making ends meet that he has not had time. Again every other interest is united but the farmer. I ask, how long will these things be? and you will reply, as any other intelligent person will, just so long as the farmer does not look after his own. I do hope the day will come when the producer in Canada secures his rights.

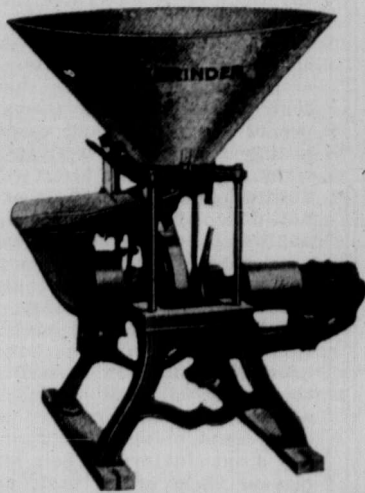


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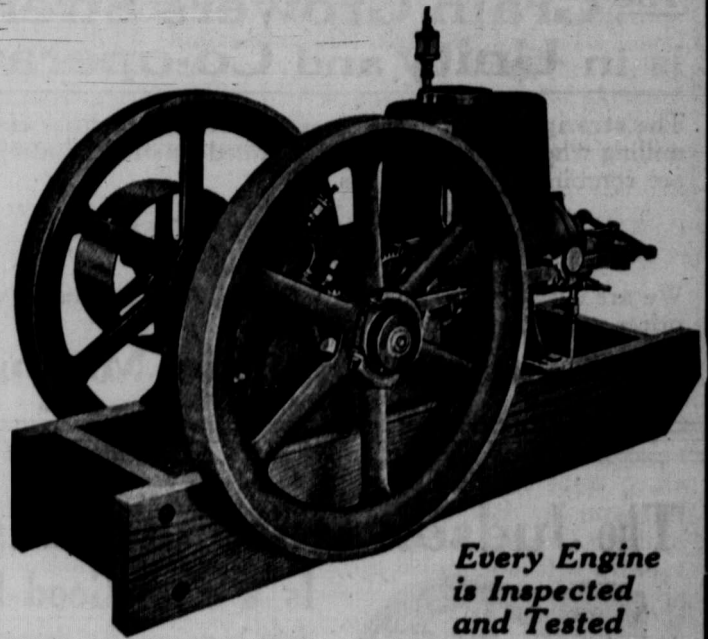
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