



# MANITOBA SECTION

This section of The Guide is conducted for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President

## MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

### Honorary President:

J. W. Scallion - Virden

### President:

R. C. Henders - Culross

### Vice-President:

J. E. Wood - Oakville

### Secretary-Treasurer:

R. McKenzie - Winnipeg

### Directors:

Peter Wright, Myrtle; R. M. Wilson, Marringhurst; D. D. McArthur, Lander; C. Burdette, Foxwarren; B. H. Bewell, Rosser; R. J. Arison, Gilbert Plains.

### CONVENTION PROGRAM

The following is the official program for the annual convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association to be held at Brandon on January 24, 25, and 26.

January 24, 10 a.m.—Convention opened for business; 10.30, address of welcome by Mayor Fleming of Brandon; 11.00, reply by the president on behalf of the association; 11.15, president's annual address; 11.30, directors' annual report.

Afternoon session, 2 p.m.—Secretary's annual report; auditor's report; 3.00, report of the committees appointed at the last annual convention; committee on coal freight rates composed of F. K. Spence, Medora; R. Jackson, Hartney; M. J. Bastard, Pierson; report of the directors re co-operative marketing of cattle and farm produce; committee on noxious weeds, composed of C. Stinson, Hargrave; H. Umphrey, Miami; J. L. Brown, Pilot Mound; Mr. Grayson, Neepawa; Mr. Gray, Springfield; committee on constitutional amendments, F. Simpson, Shoal Lake, chairman; Wm. Keeler, Ashfield; J. L. Brown, Pilot Mound; H. Umphrey, Miami; T. J. McGill, P. D. McArthur, Carroll; committee on prices and supply of coal oil and gasoline, W. Johnston, Chater, chairman; J. E. M. Banting, Banting; and F. Simpson, Shoal Lake.

### Night Session

Address: "Government by Initiative, Referendum and Recall," F. J. Dixon. 9 p.m.—Address: "What should be the future activities of the Grain Growers' movement?" T. A. Crerar; followed by a round table conference.

Thursday morning, January 25.—9.30 a.m., reading of the minutes of previous meetings; 9.45, greetings from fraternal delegates; 10.30, address by Stephen Benson, Neepawa, "What is needed to improve the marketing of food animals and farm produce; 11.30, nomination and election of president and vice-president.

2 p.m., nomination of directors; 2.30 p.m., consideration of reports of resolution committee; 5.30 p.m., balloting for directors.

8 p.m.—Address: "Encouragements and discouragements of the farmers' movement," by J. W. Scallion, Virden; 8.30, address on some phases of national economics, speaker to be selected. Also an address on "The Farmers' Movement and the task of the 20th century," by Rev. Dr. Bland, Wesley College, Winnipeg.

Friday—The three sessions on Friday will be taken up with the consideration of resolutions submitted by the different branches and the report of the resolution committee.

### Many Resolutions

Notice has been given that resolutions will be introduced on the following among other questions: Agricultural implement duties (Desford branch), increase of the British preference (Elm Creek branch), car shortage (Dunrea branch), sample market (Elkhorn and Huston branches), reciprocal demurrage (Shoal Lake branch), government ownership of terminal elevators (Springhill branch), free trade in all articles included in reciprocity agreement (Pilot Mound branch), natural resources of Manitoba (Pilot Mound branch), telephone rates (Valley River branch), reaffirmation of Ottawa platform (several branches).

### THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

The nearness of the annual convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association of Jan. 24, 25 and 26 is a strong reminder that every association, if it has not already done so, should promptly prepare for the convention by discussion of the various matters announced to come before it, by the appointment of delegates thereto, by the preparation and forwarding at an early date of any resolutions it desires to have submitted to the convention, and, when desirable, by pledging its delegates to represent the views of the association.

Personally, I am of the opinion that pledging delegates to definite action is desirable only when all the facts are

properly before the local association, leaving to delegates the liberty of changing their stand if in the discussion at the convention such wider information and argument shall be adduced as to convince such delegates, and in their opinion would convince their associations, that the earlier decision based upon partial information was wrong.

In the propaganda submitted by the officers and directors of the central association to our local associations for consideration are several items of importance, worthy of careful study, and, I think, of hearty approval.

Our entire Ottawa program endorsed over and over by most of our local societies is again submitted, not so much for further endorsement or discussion, as to set forth clearly that Manitoba Grain Growers have not receded one iota from the position taken a year ago on any of the points then submitted to those in authority at Ottawa.

Attention is also called to the satisfactory attitude taken and promises made by Hon. R. L. Borden during his Western tour last summer, respecting, 1st, government operation of terminal elevators by independent commission; 2nd, Hudson Bay Railway; 3rd, co-operative societies; 4th, chilled meat export; 5th, compensation for stock killed or injured, on railway tracks. The fulfilment of the promises then made will no doubt be welcomed by our Western people, and we confidently look to the government to implement these promises at an early date by such necessary legislation as will give them effect in law and in operation.

The defeat of the proposed reciprocity in natural products, which would have meant so much to our Western farmers, especially in such a year as the present, is referred to, as is also the necessity for wider markets for reduced cost of living and of production of farm products through the lowering of duties on manufactured goods and the abolition of duties upon food products, agricultural implements, and other commodities constituting the raw material for farming operations.

Changes are recommended in the Inspection Act, especially as to the grading of wheat and barley. The use of the words "hard Red Fife wheat" has led to grave injustice to grain growers possibly not anticipated by those who are responsible for this use of the words. The purpose to be served should be to secure for a given grade hard wheat of certain value for milling purposes. The word "Fife" was possibly used, as at

that time it was the popular standard term for high class hard wheat. We now have other excellent hard varieties, so that the word, if ever justifiable, is now misleading as regards value.

The use of the word "Red" has doubtless led to still greater injustice. It may have been intended to indicate merely a variety of wheat, but it is made to apply more particularly to color, so that even pure Red Fife wheat is often degraded on inspection, not because it is not Red Fife, but because it is not "red," and this lack of color arises, not from impurity of kind or want of hardness, but it may be from mature ripening, or from growth on certain soils, or slight bleaching, or a similar cause which in no way affects its real milling value. It would seem desirable also that as our wheat and wheat products have to compete with those of the U. S. in the world's markets that the standards of inspection in the two countries should more nearly conform to each other.

In addition to the material referred to there are other questions that are worthy of consideration. "Direct Legislation" was heartily endorsed at our last convention, yet for educative purposes may fairly receive further attention, if time permits.

The exorbitant freight and express rates to which Western people are subjected deserve a pronouncement by the convention, as do other unreasonable and unjust charges through which the masses are compelled to pay tribute to the classes.

Changing conditions continually bring new issues forward. It is clear that this will be a convention for solid work and that side issues, lengthy speeches, and other matters not consistent with the accomplishment of the work in the short time allotted to the convention must necessarily be given a very limited time.

A matter that deserves more attention than it has yet received is that of organization. Every rural district should have a Grain Growers' branch, always ready for any emergency that may arise. This can be attained only by a large expenditure of energy and money or by increased activity on the part of existing branches or their members. The lack of funds in past years has prevented any systematic campaign organization except on a limited scale. The work has been left almost wholly to the officers and directors of the Central Association who have done excellent work with the funds available for such purpose. To my mind there should be a systematic organization campaign covering the whole of agri-

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All these books are kept in stock in The Guide office and will be sent, postpaid, to any address in Canada on receipt of price. Book Dept., Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg.

### DUNREA GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

At our last meeting we appointed the following as delegates to Brandon convention: R. Booth, R. Whiting and G. Rea. Unfortunately we did not get communication re alterations to constitution soon enough to enable us to discuss them.

Mr. Dixon gave us a very able address on Direct Legislation, but it was a very rough stormy day and the attendance was far smaller than we would have liked to see. However, we are going to try and get him to come back again before spring.

C. T. WATKINS, Sec'y.

### RURAL TELEPHONE RATES

The following resolution was passed unanimously by a largely attended meeting of telephone subscribers, held in Burn's Hall, Oakville, on Jan. 5.

"Resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting the proposed advance in telephone rates is not justified by conditions, and we protest against any increase until we have a complete statement showing that conditions warrant such increase, failing such statement we will ask that our phones be taken out if any increase in rates is made."

COLIN H. BURNELL,

Sec'y., Oakville Branch  
Manitoba G.G.A.

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