

Manitoba Section

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by E. McKeown, Secretary, Winnipeg, Man.

DIRECT LEGISLATION CAMPAIGN

The Manitoba Federation for Direct Legislation has completed its winter's work and the officers are well pleased with the success attained. The first report of the work done was submitted at a general meeting of the Federation, held in their office, 239 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg, on Saturday, April 22. The financial statement showed that there had been received since September, 1910, when the Federation was organized, the sum of \$2,074.15, of which \$1,500 was a donation from Joseph Fels. Mr. Fels gave this amount on condition that an equal amount should be raised by the people of Manitoba, so that it is still necessary for the league to raise more than \$500 to fulfill the pledge made to Mr. Fels. Of this amount all but \$24 has already been subscribed so that there will probably be little difficulty in raising the necessary amount. The total expenses of the Federation amounted to \$1,908.50, leaving cash on hand \$763.65.

Organization Work

F. E. Coulter, of Oregon, was engaged as organizer early in the winter, but resigned, and his work was taken up by F. J. Dixon, of Winnipeg, early in February. Mr. Dixon has held seventy meetings throughout the province at which 4,450 people have attended, making the average attendance sixty-three. This attendance is considered very satisfactory in view of the brief time in which the propaganda has been carried on. At each of these meetings Mr. Dixon distributed free literature and also sold a considerable number of pamphlets on Direct Legislation. Already the Federation has distributed 6,000 copies of Robert L. Scott's pamphlet on Direct Legislation, many of these going to Saskatchewan and Alberta, and being sold at five cents each. In addition to this, 15,000 cartoon leaflets have been distributed and 6,000 other leaflets. Altogether there have been 40,000 booklets and leaflets distributed in the campaign. It has been decided by the Federation to retain Mr. Dixon as organizer, and to prepare for a lecturing campaign beginning in the fall. Meetings will be arranged whenever possible during the summer, and Mr. Dixon has already been engaged to address a number of Grain Growers' picnics. He is a good speaker and exceptionally well informed, not only upon the subject of Direct Legislation, but also upon the subject of Land Value Taxation. Any organization in Manitoba desiring to secure Mr. Dixon as a speaker should address him 239 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg.

It has also been decided to issue French and German translations of Mr. Scott's pamphlet. The French translation has already been made by Maurice Constantine, of St. Claude, Manitoba.

Voluntary Assistance

The work of the Direct Legislation Federation is entirely carried on by voluntary subscriptions. The membership fee is \$1, which entitles each member to all the literature issued. There have already been 200 fees sent in from various parts of the province and a number of branch leagues have been formed.

It will be remembered, that the Direct

Legislation Federation is composed of four affiliated organizations, namely, the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Manitoba League for Taxation of Land Values, the Royal Templars of Temperance, and the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council. A meeting with Premier Roblin was held during the past winter in which representations were made and a very courteous hearing was given by Mr. Roblin. The premier made no specific promises, but suggested that the Federation continue its educational campaign.

Any person desiring information on the subject of Direct Legislation should address the Manitoba Federation for Direct Legislation, 239 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg.

SALEM FOR RECIPROCITY

Salem Grain Growers have passed the following resolution dealing with the reciprocity question: "Resolved, that we, the Salem branch of the M.G.G.A., endorse the ratification of the reciprocity agreement now before Parliament, and ask for the complete abolition of duties upon agricultural machinery and implements, an increase in the British preference to fifty per cent. of the general tariff, and we further declare that the tariff resolution passed before the government by the Canadian council of agriculture on December 16, 1910, is a correct representation of the opinion of the Manitoba people today."

MINITONAS WANTS PACT

At a regular meeting of the Minitonas branch of the M.G.G.A., held on April 15, the following resolution was passed: "Whereas we, the members of the Minitonas branch of the M.G.G.A., regret the action of the provincial government when they deemed it necessary to raise their salary from \$1,500 to \$1,500; and whereas, we also regret that the opposition, in the face of their promise last July for a cheaper government, made it unanimous, be it resolved that the secretary send a copy of this resolution to D. McDonald, M.P.P., and ask him for an explanation."

Another resolution passed unanimously in response to a letter from Glen Campbell, M.P., and a speech delivered by him in the House of Commons, Ottawa, on April 7, 1911, and is as follows: "Resolved, that we, the members of the Minitonas branch of the M.G.G.A., instruct our member, Glen Campbell, M.P., to vote for reciprocity; that no offering of amendments on lower tariff of manufactured implements will do, that he vote for reciprocity and let the amendments come after, and that our secretary be instructed to send a copy of this resolution to Mr. Campbell, and to The Guide." It was also decided to ask these members (our representatives) to come and explain these matters more fully. It was also decided that a copy of The Guide be sent to each of the ministers officiating in this district during the remainder of the year. In disposing of the proceeds of a social, twenty dollars was voted to the central association.

STEPHENFIELD ORGANIZED

The following is taken from a letter from Jas. Allan, of Stephenfield: "At a meeting of the farmers of this district it was decided to form a branch of the Grain Growers' Association at Stephenfield. A good representation of farmers was present and the following officers were elected: President, Arthur South; vice-president, Robt. Daily; secretary, James Allan; directors, O. Spark, J. Bowers, W. Trindell, N. Nordquist, G. Stephenson, Ed. McDermaid. We have fifteen names on our list at present, but expect to have twenty at the least."

SWAN RIVER PICNIC

Another union picnic is being planned for the last of June among the branches in the Swan River valley, to include Thunder Hill, Swan River, Durbin, Kenville and Benito. These picnics instil enthusiasm into the branches and make them real live workers for the cause of the common people. Speakers will be present from the central office and, with a number of local speakers to give addresses as well, a good time is expected. The plans are to make the picnic the best ever in the Swan River district.



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