

A DIRECTOR AT WORK

The editor of the Manitoba page is delighted to have the following fascinating account of work done in the Macdonald district during the past few weeks from the pen of the director of that district Andrew Graham of Pomeroy. It is such an account as ought to be stimulating in the very highest degree to every district and to every branch of our association. Mr. Graham writes as follows:—

"I am very pleased to be able to report a very successful series of organization meetings just completed throughout the southern portion of Macdonald constituency. Mr. Brown, our provincial vice-president assisted at some of

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

the meetings and Mr. Burnell of Oakville was with me at most of the points visited. Both of these gentlemen did most excellent work and contributed largely to the unqualified success of the work.

"As a result of this special work we have now real live organizations at Roland, Pomeroy, Miami, Somerset, Swan Lake, Greenway, Roseisle, Graysville and Homewood. We also held two meetings at Carman, but that branch is still in need of some real missionary work and re-organization. Considerable of this work was new though at some of the points they had simply grown weary in well doing. I believe the principle cause of failure was the result of not making the organization a real community affair. It should have taken in not only the older men of the district but the young men and boys, the mothers, the young women and the girls. At every point where the women were present they entered into the work of organization with great heartiness and received full share of the honors and responsibilities.

"Our failures, in this constituency, in the past have been largely due to the fact that it was almost exclusively a man movement, and the objectives, the saving of money, better legislation, etc. If we are going to uplift our calling, educate our young men and women and make our farm life attractive we must interest them in our association. A proposition I made that met with approval was that all boys and girls on the farm under 16 years of age be allowed into the association as associate members without the right to vote, on condition that they purchase and wear our buttons at a cost of 25 cents. This would interest them early in life in our organization, give them a broader view point as to the importance and dignity of farm life and make them less likely to be lured from the farm.

"Our meetings have covered thoroughly the two C.N.R. lines, running through the constituency. They have already resulted in the addition of some 300 members, and this number should be increased to 500. In the near future we hope to organize at Altamont and Tobacco Creek. There are some real live branches on the Glenboro line but there is room for some active organization, and re-organization and we hope to effect this soon.

"We would be delighted to have a grand rally at some central point, in the form of a picnic in midsummer. This is a hard constituency to get together in by railroad, but our autos would make such a meeting possible in the summer."

CONSCRIPT FARM LABOR

The following resolution was passed at a recent meeting of the Woodnorth local association:—

Resolved, that we the Woodnorth branch of the Manitoba G.G.A. are strongly of opinion that in view of the difficulty of obtaining farm help on account of the numbers withdrawn from the land for war purposes we would urge upon the Government to bring in some measure to conscript all available alien labor at a set wage to assist the farmers in their efforts to produce more foodstuffs.

VIRIDEN ACTIVITIES

We clip from a local paper the following account of a meeting held on February 14, under the auspices of the Viriden local:—

"A large gathering of grain growers and Viriden citizens took advantage of the opportunity to hear R. C. Henders, M.P., president of the Provincial Grain Growers' Association, in the court room last Tuesday afternoon. Peter McDonald, president of the Viriden G.G.A. presided, and after extending a cordial welcome to Mr. Henders, asked James Scallion, hon. president of the

Manitoba G.G.A., for a few words. Mr. Scallion spoke briefly outlining the development of the association, and indicating some of the things achieved in the interest of the farmers of the West.

"Mr. Henders followed with an address, characterized by many present as among the best and most interesting they have had the privilege of hearing. He outlined the growth in numbers and influence of the association, and showed that whereas 8 or 10 years ago they had little standing and probably less influence, they had by consistent effort in the interest of the farmers, developed into one of most respected and influential organizations in Canada. He referred to the efforts of the association to promote better conditions for the marketing of grain, stock and other products.

"He advocated the government operation of the railroads as a war measure. Dealing with educational matters he expressed the opinion that the first two years of the agricultural college course should be taught in the public schools so that every boy would have the opportunity of getting some knowledge of farm work. At the conclusion of Mr. Henders' address, short speeches expressing appreciation were contributed by Messrs. Jos. Gibson, C. Stinson, J. A. Blakeman and others, which was followed by a motion conveying the best thanks of the meeting to him for his excellent address. The motion was made by Messrs. H. W. Dayton and A. Grose."

Joint Meeting Held

At a joint meeting of the Grain Growers' and the Agricultural Society, held on February 27, several matters of importance were discussed. Mr. Geo. Gordon of Oak Lake, gave an interesting address on the co-operation organization plan lately got under way for the handling of wool, and a general discourse on the Grain Growers' work, showing the advantages of co-operation. W. C. McKillop, superintendent of the experimental farm at Brandon, gave an able address on the necessities of the present time, from the agricultural standpoint, giving statement showing the food position of the Allies, and urged that we do our share of production.

At this gathering the following resolutions were passed: "Whereas it is shown by the railway reports that while the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern Railways are operated at a loss the Canadian Pacific, has made substantial profits, demonstrating that a well equipped and efficiently managed road can be operated at a fair profit; and whereas an increase in railway rates would more seriously effect the West than any other part of Canada.

"Therefore be it resolved, that we the Agricultural Society and Grain Growers' of Viriden, Man., in meeting assembled, vigorously protest against any increase in railway rates, and, as an alternative, would recommend the government to take over and operate all the railways of Canada for the duration of the war, guaranteeing a reasonable return to shareholders in companies at present paying a dividend.

"The Agricultural Society and Grain Growers' of Viriden, Man., in meeting assembled, hereby declare it as their opinion that as an aid to production, the duty on all agricultural implements should be removed or materially reduced during the continuance of the war."

PORTAGE PROGRESSIVES

Readers of The Guide will be interested in reading the striking terms in which the Portage district association announces its March Convention. We quote verbatim from their large bills:—

Our boys are fighting for Democracy. In every Democracy there are certain volunteer associations that protect from within. Such is the Grain Growers' Association. Our aim is better citizenship. Our watch words are Education, Co-operation, Legislation. If you agree with us come and help us. If you dis-

agree, come anyway. We need your view-point.

Attend—Portage District Grain Growers' Convention which will meet in the Municipal Hall, Portage la Prairie, Friday, March 22, at 10.30 a.m.

Programme—Morning Session.
10.30—Registration of delegates and Get-Together Meeting.

11.00—Reports from locals.
Adjournment to 1.30 p.m.

Afternoon Session.
1.30—How they do things in Saskatchewan, Jas. Barrett, Bagot.

2.00—"Rural Ratepayers from a Teacher's Viewpoint," Miss Annie Hutchinson, Teacher, Beaver.

Discussion.
2.45—"Co-operation," Donald McKenzie, Forest.

3.15—"Organization Round Table Talk." Opened by President. Discussion led by W. R. Wood.

4.30—"Homemakers' place in our Organization," Miss McCallum.

Evening Session.
7.30—Address from the Mayor, S. R. Mariatt, Portage la Prairie.

"Community Life," Mr. R. A. Hoey, Dugald.

"The Challenge of the Crisis," Rev. J. W. Churchill, Portage la Prairie.

"Advantages of our Organization," W. R. Wood.

Musie to be supplied from Beaver and Oakville Branches.

The Portage District Association includes the following branches: Edwin Longburn, Portage la Prairie, Pine Creek, Portage Creek, Poplar Point, Rosser, St. Francis Xavier, Baie St. Paul, Elm Bank, Elie, Oakville, Salem, Beaver, Lillyfield.

The officers of these branches are urged to call a meeting and make an effort to have as many as possible attend the convention to be held in the Municipal Hall, Portage la Prairie, at 10.30, Friday, March 22. Presidents and secretaries are especially urged to be present.

President, C. H. Burnell, Oakville, vice-president, J. Bennett, Pine Creek, sec-treas., B. Richardson, Beaver.

TERENCE SOCIAL MEETING

Terence Grain Growers' in co-operation with the local Soldiers' Benefit Society called the community together on a recent evening in a social way in the Millan school house. Everybody came. The chair was ably filled by Rev. J. W. Reid of Griswold. W. R. Wood addressed the meeting on the community possibilities before the association and urged the increase of membership. A number of musical and literary numbers were rendered. The crowning item was the auctioning of some thirty-five pies, apple, plum, raisin and every other delicious variety that ever was invented. They sold from 45 cents up to \$8.00 or over, the total result being a tidy sum of \$102, which was devoted to the work of the Soldiers' Benefit Society. Terence Grain Growers' are looking forward to enlisting a much larger proportion of the community than heretofore in the work of the association and in the strengthening of the cause.

LOCAL MEETINGS

The following series of meetings has been arranged for the week beginning March 18 to be addressed by Donald G. McKenzie, Esq., of Forrest, and Mr. Bayne of the United Grain Growers' Ltd. The work of the Association and the work of the Company and the relationships subsisting between them will be discussed. The social and community advantages of the association and the benefits of co-operative marketing will be thoroughly dealt with. Local workers are urged to use every possible means to advertise these meetings and to secure the largest attendance. Ladies are especially to be invited. Bring the whole family. It is for the community and it is of the first importance that the community should be on hand.

Monday, March 18, 2 p.m., Pilot Mound.

Monday, March 18, 8 p.m., Marring-hurst.

Tuesday, March 19, 2 p.m., Crystal City.

Wednesday, March 20, 2 p.m., Clear-water.

Thursday, March 21, 2 p.m., La Riviere.

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