



SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by F. W. Green, Secretary, Moose Jaw

AS WE SOW WE REAP

The seed time is on, work, work, early and late, cleaning seed, milking cows, caring for the teams (often an extra), a lot of seed-time work—working early and late, early breakfasts, late suppers, washing dishes, preparing dinners for the field, getting children off to school, watching for prairie fires, setting broody hens, washing, mending—rush, rush, no time to read, no time to play, scarcely time to pray. Yes, and what about the garden and planting trees—no time for that, only time at evening or noon, then you are too tired. Yes, but we have nice fresh radishes, lettuce, and other vegetables, a nice cared for garden with a properly arranged grove of growing trees is worth while. How nice it is to call at a well-balanced farm home—plenty of everything about, water, soft and hard, provided by a little forethought, a well cared for, sheltered garden, plenty of eggs, butter and home-cured meat, everyone well fed, clad and housed, where the people are engaged in home-making, are there to live, part of a solid community—the home of a real Canadian yeoman, an ideal citizen, fully cognizant of the fact that his little home or institution is, after all, the one real thing that makes Canada and the Empire permanently great—a home where flowers bloom and birds sing and music fills the air; a little time to converse with a stranger or neighbor, where one can rely upon hospitable treatment at any time—a place, in which every part of our social, municipal and whole governmental and religious organism seems to be held well in mind by the good people of the home.

Then how different a scene if you cross the road and view that shack with straw covered stables, not a blaff of shelter of any kind near—snow still round about the stable as high as the road—covered with litter, preserving same excellently until July. Enter the stable—you sink through the litter into several inches of water. The prairie was burnt last fall to within a few feet of the stable and shack—now snow is turned loose and has to go a mile to get a feed—no place even to set a hen where she could hatch a brood even in safety—wife either digging snow out of this straw protected bank, or carrying water from a dough half a mile away to wash, while across the prairie can be seen her good man hastening to get rich, surrounded by a group of hired men, cursing the spark plug of a new gasoline engine, while all the time the ground wire was broken.

Well, of course, this is seedling time and the crop harvested will likely be the kind we sow. I must confess my experience would lead me to believe that it takes many seedling times like the second picture, to reap a crop like to the first. Oh, yes, hear some say, a man has to start. Yes, that is so, and a piece of ground 20 feet square is not much to start on—yet protected by any kind of windbreak, and two hours per day attending to home making matters properly, will often give more solid comfort in return, than eighteen hours per day trying to get rich.

"As you sow, so shall you reap."

FRED W. GREEN.

Moose Jaw, Sask.

WHAT THE G.G.A. HAS DONE

The question is often asked, "What has the Grain Growers' Association done that calls upon me to join it, and spend a dollar a year towards upholding it?" This is a difficult question for most of us to answer, as very few in this community have been up against the hard facts which brought it into existence.

We are in some measure enjoying the fruits of other men's labor, and though we know something of the injustice that was carried on so rampantly a few years ago, it is not so marked in our own day. The last three years have been largely a period of organization and education, bringing the farmers from being scattered units, having no weightier influence, into one compact body, so that they may become a power and have their grievances looked into and remedied. Only the other week Colonel Sam Hughes was making light of the Ottawa delegation because he had heard the same views

brought forward again and again for the last ten or fifteen years. If Hughes never uttered falsehoods, J. Hill would be poorer and Western Grain Growers richer. F. W. G. That may be, but much has happened in that time, and today politicians (I was nearly saying statesmen, financiers, manufacturers and bounties of every class are taking it seriously and realizing that the tide of equality for all is rising rapidly, and that the farmers and the people are going to receive their due share of what they produce. I will try to bring before you what I consider has most affected us. The Manitoba Grain Act (what one might almost term the 'Magna Charter of the Grain Growers'), together with amendments to it from time to time, was really the outcome of the thought, energy and work of our leaders. The Act is faulty in some of its clauses, but it has done much to safeguard the interests of the farmer and to lift the burden of injustice and wrong dealing that before he had to submit to. There is one other important reform that they secured and which is often overlooked. The coarse grains were carried on at a much higher freight rate than wheat. By constantly bringing the matter up they at last brought a considerable reduction in the rates of those grains, making it possible for the producer to ship them, when, in many cases, it would have been impossible to do so.

The association has also taken up individual cases when members have not been fairly treated and helped them to fight, and invariably win, and if any member thinks he has been wrongly treated by railway or other corporations, he can lay his case before the executive, who will look into it, and, if it is a real grievance, endeavor to procure redress. Often the companies will settle without going into court when they find they are not up against a single individual, but an association.

The past year has been a memorable one in the history of our movement. In the early part of the year a commission was appointed to investigate the conditions prevailing in respect to the storage and marketing of grain, and to report from their investigations on what they consider the best scheme in respect to it. The conclusion they came to will probably not meet the views of a good number, but the commission thought that a system of elevators owned by the farmers co-operatively, assisted by liberal aid from the government, would best meet the case. It has one great point in its favor and that is, while the government would advance on easy terms 85 cents on the dollar, the farmers putting up the remaining 15 cents, it would be entirely free from government intervention and no danger of becoming the plaything of political parties.

The great delegation to Ottawa may not have accomplished all that we hoped it would do, still it left its mark and influence on the minds of both political parties, and has moulded their thought a little in dealing with one or two questions that are of great importance to the West. It revealed its young strength to the legislators at Ottawa and it showed them that the West is in earnest.

What is the association trying to accomplish today? The main things are government control and operation of transfer and terminal elevators, the building and operation of the Hudson's Bay Railway by the government, and revision of the tariff towards free trade.

What is the main reason why we want government owned elevators? It is, that the farmer may get the best possible price for his grain in the keen competition of the world's market and that the wheat shall arrive at the ultimate market in the condition in which the farmer sells it, as far as possible, those who are interested in the grain trade having the handling of it. That manipulation and mixing goes on in the terminal elevators on this side, as well as on the other side is undoubted, as proved by the prosecution of various elevator companies during the past year.

The farmers are not alone in asking for

this reform; the Eastern millers and grain dealers are equally anxious to have it carried out as it presses hard on them, with the farmer in particular, we buy from the elevators they have to put up with inferior wheat at the same price as is paid for better wheat by their competitors who have fine elevators. For my part I think that only by government control can the Grain Growers hope for justice in reference to grade, weight, dockage and preservation of the identity of grain. Further it is absolutely essential if we are to have a successful sample market.

Just a word or two respecting the Hudson's Bay Railway. We have now a definite promise from the government that it will be built and owned by the government. If it had not been for the Ottawa delegation it would have without doubt been handed over for someone else to build and operate. The Canadian Northern had, through their chief engineer, full access to all the survey data procured by the government at the cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and they would have, almost without a doubt been handed over to them with permission to build the line, had not the government been made to recognize the strong feeling against such a course after the promises that had been made to the contrary. Although there are three trunk lines running through these Western Provinces, there is really no competition, and freight rates remain just as high as ever they were, but, with a line operated not for profit, but as a public utility, with rates as low as possible, only fixed as high as required to meet all charges, there will be real competition, and in order to procure their share of traffic it will be imperative for the big lines to reduce their rates. A few cents a bushel less on grain would make a difference to the grower. Failing government ownership there is a movement to get the farmers to build by forming a joint stock company. If it should mature, I hope they will realize that they are in a measure trustees of a public trust and by being content with a small return on their investment show to the other interests that self is not first, but the public good, and that the same ideal will dominate in the operation of internal elevators if the bill is carried through.

The tariff question I have no time to dwell upon; that it hits us hard there can be no question; it is estimated that every man on his farm pays from \$100 to \$150 a year for nothing through the tariff laws. Rather a stiff item to pay when we come to think that a big share of it goes towards filling the pockets of the manufacturers. The duty on implements presses very hard on the farmer, for they are, in a measure, to us the raw material of production, and how the manufacturers cry out to have that free, and in some cases are not satisfied to have a bonus as well.

What about the future? We must see to it that our organization grows in strength; we cannot allow it to weaken. Our opponents have tried time after time to drive in the wedge and split it asunder, but have failed. It will not be split by outside forces but by the indifference and neglect of its members. Someone has said that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and if we want to keep what we have won, we must be on the watch and keep moving along. All the Grain Growers are reaping the benefit of the work of the association, but only about one in ten are members of it. It is another case of ten men receiving good and only one to be found returning to give thanks. A man was telling his friend that his boy was a coker in physiology. Only the other day he said he was sure it was not the higher moral influence that made me a good citizen. "What did the boy say it was?" asked the friend. The father replied, "He said I was afraid of the police."

It is something like that with the elevator interests. It is not that they are anxious to give us a square deal, they are treating us a little better just now, but they are afraid of the police in the guise of the Grain Growers' Association. Why, it is worth a dollar a year we pay into it only to uphold the policeman and keep him on the alert. Only last year I think

SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Life President: E. N. Hopkins

President: J. A. Maharg - Moose Jaw

Vice-President: Chas. A. Driscoll - Neepawa

Secretary: F. W. Green - Moose Jaw

Treasurer: J. A. Maharg - Moose Jaw

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District Directors: No. 1, Jas. Robinson, Wapato; No. 2, J. R. Symons, Fairville; No. 3, T. Wood, Corbington; No. 4, John F. Reid, Orestia; No. 5, R. J. Pella, Broadway; No. 6, Dr. T. Hill, Kinsley; No. 7, T. T. Cushman, Melfort; No. 8, A. K. Koss, Prince Albert; No. 9, A. J. Greenwell, Teulon.

it was they nearly succeeded in wresting from the farmer the privilege of loading cars. They sent a deputation along with other interests to interview the members, and made such a plausible tale, that if the policeman hadn't been on duty and presented a counter case, with clearness and justice, they would have succeeded. Every member that ships grain sought to take out a life membership ticket, for it meant to every shipper from fifty to one hundred more on every car.

As time goes on there will be other questions face us and demand solution. Better schools, better transportation facilities, question of taxation, Direct Legislation and other economic and social problems. What better place to thresh them out than in our local associations. Take the C. P. R. exemption from taxation; the government should be called upon to abrogate those clauses granting the exemption. The cry of confiscation and breach of faith would be made, but it is an injustice that they should not be called upon to pay their share to local taxes. The value of their lands have increased fourfold through the determination and industry of the settlers, who have to bear most of the burden. Our demands are possible, expedient and just. If they were granted tomorrow not one cent would the consumer have to pay.

The other day in town I heard a man, when talking about the work of the association say that for himself he was satisfied with things as they are and did not see why he should want them altered. It is this spirit of indifference, I might say selfishness, that we have to fight against and overcome. There are many like him who are content to enjoy and take advantage of all the benefits accruing through the work and thought of others, yet will not move a hand or move a step to improve present conditions. Appreciating what others have done to make our lot easier and better as men with right minds and true hearts, we ought to do what little we can to improve the conditions of our life not merely for ourselves but for those that will come after us.

"Let us then be up and doing
With a heart for any fate:
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait."

J. W. DARMAN.

Lashburn, Sask.

MONTHLY STATEMENT

Understood we give the amount of fees paid to the central office by our various branches during the month of March.

Antler, \$7.00; Allan, \$6.00; Attica, \$10.00; Atwater, \$4.50; Bryerton, \$9.00; Boldenhurst, \$7.50; Baring, \$10.00; Bess, \$5.00; Beaverdale, \$2.50; Battle Valley, \$5.00; Broadway, \$11.00; Bulyea, \$5.00; Balmay, \$7.00; Central Butte, \$7.00; Carletonville, \$10.00; Carlyle, \$14.50; Copeland, \$15.00; Crowsnest, \$10.00; Central, \$5.00; Churchbridge, \$17.50; Crowsnest, \$2.00; Dalesboro, \$8.00; Dale, \$4.50; Douglas, \$14.50; Duna, \$6.00; Eagle Creek, \$12.00; Enderby, \$9.50; Earl Grey, \$9.00; Ebenezer, \$10.00; Fairlight, \$4.00; Foam Lake, \$19.00; Forest Bank, \$8.00; Freehold, \$8.00; Gervais, \$10.00; Giesbe, \$2.00; Graytown, \$13.50; Glenberry, \$5.50; Glenora, \$7.00; Hildesley, \$8.50; Heron, \$1.00; Herbert, \$15.00; Highland, \$9.00; Junata, \$5.00; Idalov, \$6.50; Invermay, \$9.50; Keadon, \$5.00; Kennedy, \$4.00; Kelso, \$15.00; Kinsley, \$7.25; Kamsville, \$7.00; Keeler, \$1.00; Lalar, \$5.00; Leadville, \$10.00; Long Creek Valley, \$10.00; Lake Centre, \$5.00; Laird, \$5.50; Lawson, \$5.50; Laura, \$8.00; Landis, \$6.50; Lawson, \$14.50; Milden, \$19.00; Merwin, \$10.00; Mayfield, \$5.50; Meota, \$8.00; Milestone, \$22.00; McIntosh, \$5.50; Minto, \$2.00; \$10.00; Marquis, \$2.00; Neudpath, \$12.00; North Star, \$8.00; North Battleford, \$18.50; Nottingham, \$8.50; Newlands, \$12.00; Orlton, \$7.50; Orestia, \$8.50; Pleasant Valley, \$14.00; Payton, \$8.50; Paxton, \$5.00; Prairie House, \$5.00; Pilot Mound, \$7.00; Poplar Park, \$7.00; Raymore, \$8.00; Rabbitfoot, \$4.00; Redwood, \$4.00; St. Paul, \$11.00; Senise, \$9.00; South Melfort, \$5.00; Scott, \$11.00; Spy Hill, \$11.50; Swarthmore, \$12.50; St. Benedict, \$5.50; Sylvana, \$5.00; St. Paul,