

Saskatchewan Grain Growers

Conducted Officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by the Secretary

J. B. Musselman, Regina, Sask.

The following letter has come to hand from the secretary of the former Beaverside local, viz.:

As secretary of the Beaverside local association I am receiving literature sent every mail from the Central Office, and I write to tell you that this is a terrible and useless waste of stationery, as the association is defunct. This is the second attempt to get the G.G.A. going at this point, the first being made by my father some years ago, resulting in the Itana Hubbard G.G.A., which subsequently died and was buried. The second was made by myself last spring, and though the president and I made a heroic fight against overwhelming odds (pardon the self praise), we were compelled to realize that when two are left entirely unsupported, there is little else to do but surrender.

In all seriousness, and begging your pardon for the foregoing flippancy, it is impossible to keep the G.G.A. going here, and therefore I wish to save the Central any further expense in stamps and stationery and labor. The reasons are: (1) Lack of interest and intellectual laziness on the part of the English-speaking people, and (2) the great majority of Galician and Ruthenian farmers, whom, owing to difference of language and national prejudice, it is difficult indeed to interest them in the subject. They are so immeasurably better off than they have ever been before, that they are content with things as they are. Best assured that I will do all one man can do to further the aims and ideals of the G.G.A., both here, and anywhere else I may be, and believe me, dear sir, yours most sincerely, F. Morton Rayner.

Mr. Rayner and the president deserve every credit for the great efforts they made to keep the local going. When left to carry on so unequal a fight it is not to be wondered at if the little force finds itself compelled to capitulate. Nevertheless, capitulation does not necessarily mean defeat. It is possible in such cases for people "to rise on the stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things." Even the seed, when put into the ground, must die before it can bring forth fruit, and the death of the Beaverside local may even yet generate new life.

Mr. Rayner puts his finger on two main reasons for the condition of things he describes, first, lack of interest and intellectual laziness on the part of the English-speaking people, and second, the large number of Galician and Ruthenian farmers in the district whom it is difficult to interest in the subject owing to difference of language and racial prejudice. Undoubtedly these are difficult conditions to combat, but they are not insuperable, and the only way to overcome them is to keep on the job.

Perhaps the only way of overcoming these difficulties is to get the people together, both English and foreign speaking, in social intercourse. There is no question but what this must be done if ever we are to build up a Canadian nation. It can never be accomplished so long as the various races remain apart, each keeping up its own social customs to the exclusion of all others, and each keeping exclusively to its own language. We must put the whole into the melting pot, burying our prejudices and our indifference so deep that they cannot resurrect. It may be a difficult matter, but it has got to come. Let our friends find out what kind of entertainment would be the most popular with both sections of the people, mixing the program as much as necessary, and in course of time, if not from the first, we have no doubt but what they would be able to sandwich in some little talk on Grain Growerism which would sooner or later bear good fruit.

A Study in Citizenship

One of the great needs of the present time is the making of good citizens. This is not the work of a day. It takes

time to make a good citizen, just as it does to make anything else which is worth while. We may have the best intentions in the world, and the very best of moral principles, but if we lack knowledge our citizenship is bound to be of a poor quality. It is therefore of the utmost importance, not only that we should have good moral principles and democratic ideals, but also that we should know how to apply those principles and ideals to government, both in our local and national life. Anything, therefore, that will help us to gain the knowledge which is necessary for this purpose is to be welcomed.

One of the best books for this purpose we know of, and one, moreover, which has the merit of dealing with the subject in the simplest language, is "The Dawn of a New Patriotism," written by John D. Hunt, Clerk of the Executive Council of Alberta. Mr. Hunt starts out on his task—if what is evidently so great a labor of love can be termed a task—with the following statement in the preface, viz.: "The success of democracy depends upon the education of the people along two principal lines: (1) political knowledge, and (2) what is of far more importance, political morality. Despotism may govern without faith, but liberty cannot. The ultimate security for democracy lies in a community conscience, which recognizes that there is a law of right and wrong which is not man-made, which is as independent of human wills as is the law of gravitation." Having made this statement Mr. Hunt sets about the task of creating the "community conscience" of which he speaks.

Mr. Hunt draws attention to the fact that one of the greatest drawbacks to country life is the lack of community organization and suggests that where ever a suitable organization exists or can be formed, an effort should be made to develop local talent rather than rely too much on outside assistance. For such an organization and such a purpose probably no better book could be found than that of Mr. Hunt's. He gives an outline of a simple constitution for such an organization, and gives many valuable hints on the best method of conducting the meetings so as to avoid their becoming wearisome or devoid of interest.

The first eight chapters of the book deal with the subject of democracy, which he defines as "a government in which every man, by virtue of his manhood alone, has an equal voice in the common affairs of the common country." He then goes on to discuss the question of Democracy and Citizenship, pointing out the dangers arising from want of knowledge of what comprises true citizenship, and how an uneducated people may be made to suffer by the enemies of democracy. The careless citizen, the selfish citizen, and the duties and responsibilities of citizenship are each dealt with in turn, after which the writer reviews a number of remedies for the evils of society, including Nihilism, Revolutionary Anarchism, Syndicalism, Socialism, Communism, etc., and devices for securing good government, such as the transferable vote, the list system, compulsory voting, and direct legislation. Scattered throughout these chapters are a variety of subjects for debate including in many cases arguments for the affirmative and negative, and a very large list of topics for discussion. This portion of the book is brought to a close with a powerful chapter on Government.

Chapters 10 and 11 contain a sufficiently full account of Ancient History to give a general idea of the state of civilization reached by Spartans, Athen-

ians and Romans, and of the influence these people have had on the history of the modern world.

From chapter 12 to the end an attempt is made to give the story of the origin and development of government in England, showing how the privileges we enjoy were won only after long years of conflict. This story is illustrated by numerous extracts from historical novels and other classical works, such as "Harold," by Lord Lytton; "Hereward the Wake," by Chas. Kingsley; "Long Will," by Florence Converse; "Ivanhoe," by Sir Walter Scott; "Becket," by Lord Tennyson; "Simon de Montfort," by James Lincoln; "Wat Tyler," by Robert Southey, and others, and also by extracts from the speeches of great British statesmen, such as Pitt, Fox, Chatham, Burke, John Bright, Disraeli, Gladstone and Chamberlain.

The value of historical novels as a means of education in democracy is perhaps not sufficiently realized. They are not merely entertaining tales of mythical personages. They have a living interest for the people of every age. They tell the story of how the common people became the vassals of the powerful, and how they gradually threw off their shackles and attained their freedom. They tell the story of the limitation of the power of the sovereign, the attainment of the supremacy of parliament, the establishment of the principle of trial by jury, the fight for the freedom of combination of workers, and the rise of the great trade union and democratic movements which have become so powerful in our own time. In brief, they are the story of democracy in the form of romance, and as such are of the utmost value.

The book concludes with an appendix giving the five periods of English history, from Magna Charta to the present time, with the leading constitutional features of each, with a list of important facts in English Constitutional History. The prime ministers of Great Britain with their periods of office, and a list of historical novels with the periods of history covered by them. We can thoroughly recommend the book to all who wish to take up this interesting study.

Generous to Y.M.C.A.

It is quite a rarity for a local to forward to the Central Association the whole of its fees. We have therefore the greater pleasure in giving publicity to the following from the New Bank local at Manna. Without any flourish of trumpets the secretary announces the fact, and asks that half the amount should be forwarded to the Y.M.C.A. We have great pleasure in doing this. The secretary's letter reads as follows: "Please find enclosed \$43.50, being total for 44 paid-up members, which I consider very good for this district, as nearly every one in the district has joined up, and several outsiders. I still expect a few more yet, and will forward them as soon as possible. The total amount is forwarded, half of which is to be forwarded to the Y.M.C.A. Wishing you great success in the campaign for more members." S. Martin, secretary New Bank local.

Embargo and Price Fixing

Recently the announcement was made that an embargo had been placed on the importation of a large number of commodities as a war measure. If such embargo is necessary in order that democracy may triumph over Kaiserism, no one in the West will raise any objection. What western men do object to is the enrichment of the already rich classes in the east at the expense

of the community. The placing of an embargo on certain articles causes an artificial scarcity in those particular lines, which, in the absence of protective measures, means the forcing up of prices. If, therefore, we agree to the placing of an embargo on any particular article we have a right to expect the government to take steps to see that we are not fleeced by the Canadian producer of that article by the undue raising of prices.

In one respect an embargo is worse than a tariff, in that while a tariff brings some profit to the public treasury, however little that may be, an embargo puts the whole of the profit into the pocket of the producer. If an embargo is necessary, it ought to have as a concomitant a definitely fixed price, or at all events a reasonable limitation, in which case, while serving equally well the purpose of the government, it would be a means of protection to the consumer—a protection, that is, in the best sense.

New Local Organized

Another local was organized in District No. 11, on June 3, 1918. This local will be known as Glenrose G.G.A., and will hold its meetings in the Knowles School House, about ten miles north of North Battleford.

There was a good turn-out at the organization meeting. Addresses were given by C. C. Davies, district director; H. H. McKinney, superintendent of organizations; D. Japp, sub-organizer; and W. Dolson, secretary of North Battleford G. G. Co-operative Association.

The motion to form a local was unanimously carried and nearly all present joined the new organization.

This new local will not engage in co-operative trading in its own organization, but many of its members will become shareholders in the North Battleford Co-operative Association, and do their trading through it. It is expected that a great many of the locals about North Battleford will find it very desirable to purchase their supplies through this new Co-operative Association, which now has an office in North Battleford, and which is getting well organized for handling the farmers' business.

D. M. Findlayson, M.P., is a life member of the association and will be one of the leading members in the newly-formed association at the Knowles school house.

The directors of the Glenrose local are C. R. MacKay, H. H. Mitchell, D. M. Findlayson, H. M. Guillot, N. Mair, A. Mair, G. Bailey and W. Tee. Mr. McIntosh was elected president, Miss Richardson, vice-president and H. M. Guillot will act as secretary until the regular secretary-treasurer has been appointed by the board.

This was one of the new locals organized by Mr. McKinney on his recent trip. More than 80 locals have now been formed since the first of last January, and they are constantly being organized at different points in the province. Mr. Davies is getting his district well organized; and particularly the territory near North Battleford.

Support the Fighting Fund

Has your local contributed to the Association Emergency Fund, or, as you will probably call it, the Fighting Fund? This Fund is fighting the cause of our members all over the province. It deals with verbal contracts for purchase or sale that are not being lived up to, agreements with hired men, adjustment of fire insurance claims, over-assessment for taxation of Grain Growers' Associations doing business, claims for the killing of horses and cattle on railways' right-of-way. Adjustments with grain and elevator companies, claims against machine companies and other subjects innumerable. It is to the interest of every local to support this fund to the extent of at least \$5.00. It is a paying proposition.