

THE NINE OF POWER

Among human kind, team work is a matter of imperative necessity. The twentieth century is only beginning to realize its possibilities. Few of the great things of the world have been one-man achievements. Practically all the superlative enterprises have been attained by combination of forces. In theory all Grain Growers believe this. They are able to point with some pride to things that have been accomplished by working together. They are able in some degree to refute the old lying slander that farmers will not stick together. They are enthusiastic over the general principle that unity means strength. But in practice the average local association has scarcely more than begun—if it has begun—to apply the principle in its work in the community. Let us see what it might do:

Acceptance Of Its Mission

1. The local association can realize that it exists to represent and to commend and to propagate in its own immediate community the principles, ideals and type of life for which the general association stands. It can convince itself that there is a task set to its hand, a responsibility laid upon it for moving that community nearer that ideal. And it should be impatient and dissatisfied with itself till it is actually accomplishing its mission. A railroad engine is not constructed to stand in the station blowing off steam. An ocean liner is not built to lie idly at the wharf. A Grain Growers' Association is not organized to simply exist in happy contemplation of its high ideals—but to move its constituency in practical ways nearer to the acceptance and practice of them. And while that is not being done no association should allow itself to indulge itself in comfortable ease.

The Machinery At Hand

2. The local association can realize that it has the machinery for the work. One man has often inspired a whole community with his view. A group of two or three men have often transformed the thinking of a nation. Given half a dozen men with an object before them, a purpose which they desire to accomplish, and, unless it be utterly antagonistic to the interests or subversive of the rights of the people at large, it will not be easy to thwart it. What then should not nine good men and true be able to accomplish when they realize that personal responsibility is laid upon them for a service to their people, when they consult together as to ways and means and methods, and when every one of them puts his shoulder to the wheel to make it go. That is the situation in the local branch of our movement. Nine men of power: a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and six directors—elected by their fellow citizens, entrusted with a mission to their community, confronted with a task worthy of the best that is in them—ought we not to expect great things from them, of which we and the community shall be proud in days to come? If nine men, with conditions such as these about them, fail for a whole year to accomplish anything for rural citizenship, for general enlightenment and progress, for true democracy, then some drastic revision of method is demanded that the cause may not suffer. But it is scarcely conceivable that nine men, living, united, purposeful, resolute and with an adequate conception of their responsibility as representatives of the movement, can fail month after month to secure some adequate result to their efforts. Nine such men with such a cause must succeed.

The First Requisite

3. Unquestionably the first duty is that of unitedly facing the situation. Not separately—not individually—but unitedly. Nine men filled with desire to serve, coming together to examine the need and the supply and the circumstances and the prospects in order to lay a basis for work and to begin work upon that basis. Strange as it may appear, there is good reason for thinking that nine-tenths of our failures have been at this stage. There has been too frequent lack of the sympathetic getting together, the intelligent scrutiny, the purposeful investigation on the part of the nine which must pre-

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.

cede a successful year's work. Instead of that in many cases there has been too frequently a yielding to the easy pessimistic impression that there is not much to be done and that any considerable effect upon present conditions is scarcely to be expected. It is always easy to be a pessimist, but it is cowardly and unworthy also. The true man will not allow himself to be led into giving up at least till he has seen and tried. Hence the nine are expected as soon as possible after they have been elected, to get together to survey the field and to plan the year's work. The recently revised constitution includes among the responsibilities of directors the following: (1) to appoint a secretary-treasurer; (2) to consult together as to the work; (3) to have general oversight of the work in the community; (4) to plan for deepening and extension of the influence of the association; (5) to compile a list of parties living in its local area; (6) to allocate to each director responsibility for a certain section of the district in canvassing for membership. The convention held last January passed the following resolution in reference to the work of the nine:—

This convention urges as a means to the strengthening of our work that every local association be asked to regard it as a primary obligation laid upon their board of directors to take as an essential part of each year's work the arranging for a canvass of the association's immediate district in the interest of maintaining and extending the circulation of The Grain Growers' Guide.

In the face of such duties it is imperative that the officers of the association should together face the situation as to how best in their circumstances they can fulfil them.

Each In His Own Way

4. As to details each local must largely work out its own salvation. No rules can be laid down. But some general problems may be cited which in some way or other each group will have to face for itself, problems which it is of first importance that no branch should even for a year allow itself to ignore. Such are the following:—

(a) The problem of getting and holding the largest possible membership for the sake of what a large and united membership may mean for the local community and for the general cause.

(b) The special 1918 problem of securing women members since the association now has a Woman's Section, with a board of directors and a secretary of its own.

(c) The extension of the circulation of The Guide. It is absolutely essential to our progress that The Guide bring its weekly message of progress to an ever enlarging constituency of readers.

(d) The making of the local association an aggressive social force in the community, getting people hitherto separated into sympathetic co-operative contact.

(e) The working out of something in an educational way for the community. The branch that is not educating its community is far from being ideal.

(f) Getting the young people to work for the cause. The organization that has the young people gets the community. We must have them that they may attract for us those whom older people could not secure.

(g) Enlisting the motor car as a part of our machinery. Every car in the community should do at least a hundred miles this summer in the interests of the association, helping your own and adjacent branches, assisting organization, doing district work.

(h) Levying tribute upon the education, the musical talent, the literary power, the platform ability in the community generally, outside as well as inside the association, for the work.

(i) Seeking fraternal co-operation with other organizations having ideals analogous to or identical with our own

in order to effect mutual and general benefit.

(j) Acquainting the branch with its district organization and its aims in the direction of extending and deepening the influence of the movement.

(k) Giving definite encouragement, stimulus, guidance and training to young people who may give evidence of power to develop into acceptable and efficient community servants.

(l) Establishing permanently and strongly the pride in your organization, the camaraderie, the esprit de corps, which is a very helpful, if not an absolutely essential element in the success of any organization. As you, the nine men entrusted with official powers for your association, "tackle" unitedly these obligations, we shall see the movement advance to greater achievements, and to complete realization of its ideals.—W.R.W.

JUST A "MEMO" PAD

It has its place in the kitchen or the living room of the farm house on a shelf where it is sufficiently "up" to be out of the way of the baby when he starts on a foraging expedition for something to tear up, and yet sufficiently near to be handy for the boss when he has a few minutes leisure. What does he want a "memo" pad for? Well, it happens that he is one of these chaps—more common now than they used to be—who is always "thinking up" things for the community and for the association and for progress and betterment generally. And when he comes in off the tractor or from the chores he often has an idea, a live, vigorous, jumping idea that he wants to keep for later use. "Three Shakes" is all the time it takes him to fasten that idea on the top page of the pad, and then it is there ready to be used when occasion shall require. And the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association is being strengthened and assisted from day to day and from week to week by that "memo" pad on this farmer's kitchen shelf.

Being a "relation" of the farmers (a sort of a cousin—by courtesy, ye ken) I was permitted the other day a glance over his shoulder when he had his "memo" pad in hand, and what I read was something like this:—

Life membership— inquire, investigate—any good? Any need for it? Ask branch re resolution on the title business. Discuss preparing for a local rally previous to June Convention. Urge planning for and attendance at June Convention. Has local a "really worth while" idea to send up as a resolution to district? Find out how many will prepare fifteen-minute talk on association work for series of summer meetings—report to district secretary. Make sure that district and Central dues are forwarded and report in. Have one more set after Bill Jimbleton for membership—Thursday, at the sale. Suggest Mrs. F speak to local re 1918 as the Women's year in the association. Solo for next meeting from city cousin visiting H's.

N.B.—Miss Amy J. Roe, 290 Vaughan Street.—Have our women communicated with her yet? The Committee of Commerce and Agriculture—find out how constituted? Is the new tenant on MacTavish's farm a subscriber to The Guide?

Perhaps they may seem trifles but when you link up with these queries the definite, resolute purpose of a man who is bound to make the most of them for the good of his association, you have a combination that is going to get results. And when you have half-a-dozen men of this type in every local association, the province of Manitoba will be moving some. We haven't got them yet, but they are coming, they are being won, they are growing up, they are getting into line. Will you come with your youth and your optimism and your assurance and your purpose and your "memo" pad and join the growing group for the highest good of all the people of Manitoba.

HOW SHALL WE TAX?

Grain Growers all over the province will be interested in the resolution looking to investigation of methods of taxation which was passed at the recent session of the legislature, on motion by Hon. Mr. Brown, seconded by Hon. Mr. Thornton. The association is being represented on the committee of enquiry by two members of the executive. Any suggestions or proposals from individuals or local associations will be welcomed, if sent in to the Central office. The following is the text of the resolution constituting the committee:—

That, whereas, chiefly by reason of the conditions created by the present war, the important question of the most equitable method of levying taxation throughout the province to meet public requirements, has become a problem for serious consideration; and, with a view of ascertaining, as far as possible, accurate knowledge and data respecting the premises, it is deemed advisable that the fullest enquiry be made to that end;

Therefore, be it resolved:—

(1) That a committee of this House, consisting of such members thereof as may be selected by the executive, with the addition thereto of representatives of—

(a) The Grain Growers' Association; (b) The Union of Manitoba Municipalities;

(c) The City of Winnipeg; (d) The University of Manitoba;

(e) The Winnipeg Board of Trade;

to be likewise selected, be appointed and directed to fully enquire, investigate and report upon all and singular the premises, and such other matters and things having relation to the said subject or intimately associated therewith, as may be specified by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

(2) That the said Committee, for the purpose of said enquiry, shall have all the powers and authority respecting the summoning of witnesses, requiring them to give evidence under oath, to produce documents, and to compel their attendance before them, as is given to Commissioners appointed pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 34 of the revised Statutes of Manitoba 1913.

PREPARING TO "FLIT"

Within a few days from the time these words are being read the Central office of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association will have been moved from the old location at 404 Chambers of Commerce to the third floor of the new Bank of Hamilton building on Main street. More commodious quarters have been secured there, which it is hoped will afford opportunity of increasingly effective service. Till further and more definite notice is given, mail should be addressed to the old location, but it is desirable that our membership throughout the province should be early informed of the proposed change, so that as soon as possible after the "flitting" all correspondence shall be sent to the new address. The Bank of Hamilton building is centrally located on the east side of Main street, at the intersection of McDermott avenue and Main. "Central" will expect its friends from all over the province when they are in Winnipeg to come and visit it in its new home.

YOUR YEAR BOOK

Have you got it yet? Copies for all the branches have been mailed or expressed out from the Central office. If your secretary has not received them, or does not find them at an adjacent express office he should write us at once. As the cost of issuing these has been high and as they contain the constitution, it was felt that the local association would willingly pay the express charge and see that they are distributed to their members. Any member who has not received his copy should consult the secretary of his branch and follow it up till it is placed in his hands. And let us again emphasize the advisability of keeping these for reference and for comparison with previous and future issues.

When the sources of wealth are communally owned every member of the community will be accounted a shareholder and his share of the general produce will be secured to him.—R. J. Campbell.