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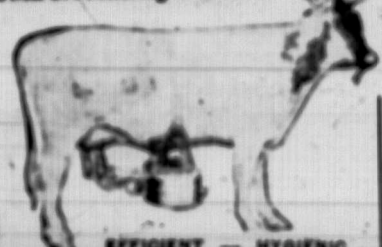
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Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by H. C. Henderson, President, 404 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

A LETTER TO PREMIER BORDEN

To the Right Honorable
Sir Robert Borden,
Ottawa.

At a meeting of the Grain Growers' Association, held at Harlington, Man., on August 19, 1917, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved that we, members of the Grain Growers' Association view with deep concern the attempt to place a fixed maximum price on wheat. We have no objection to a fixed maximum and minimum or flat price being set on wheat providing a corresponding price showing a reasonable amount of profit be set on flour and all wheat products, rolled oats, sugar, farm implements, binder twine and other manufactured goods actually necessary to our existence and business. We insist, however, that all these things must be subordinate to the main source of wealth, the product of the soil.

Whereas the essence of this resolution is to demand justice and equality, we consider that if a set price is placed on grain only it is not just and is liable to create a condition in the west not desirable nor consistent with good government. The West has done more than its share in the "war" in men and donations of money for patriotic purposes and absolutely refuses to be exploited further for the benefit of the milling concerns and parasites of the grain business.

J. A. VOPNI, Chairman.
W. H. COTTON, Secretary.

Harlington, Man.,
August 19, 1917.

SWAN RIVER CONVENTION

A convention of independent electors was held in Swan River on Tuesday, August 21, to select a candidate to contest the federal constituency of Nelson in the coming election. A resolution was unanimously carried pledging the nominee to the principle of conscription of man power, wealth and all resources of the nation for the winning of the war. The names of George Dickinson, W. I. Ford, A. McLeary and W. H. Sims were presented to the convention, and the choice falling upon W. I. Ford his nomination was made unanimous. Mr. Ford in a neat speech accepted the nomination and the meeting closed with "God Save the King." Mr. Ford has been a successful farmer in the district for a number of years, having come from the Treherne neighborhood. He has been active in the work of the Grain Growers' Association and is at the present time the district representative on the board of the provincial association.

To many it will seem superfluous to draw attention to the fact that the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association is one organization and The Grain Growers' Grain Company, or rather since the recent announcement, the United Grain Growers, is another, yet correspondents so constantly mix them in addressing letters that an occasional mention of the fact is necessary. Just get the names right and then there will be no trouble. The one is the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the other, formerly The Grain Growers' Grain Company, is the United Grain Growers. The first is a farmers' association, the second is a business company.

SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

There comes a terrible moment to many souls when the great movements of the world, the larger destinies of mankind, which have lain aloof in newspapers and other neglected reading, enter like an earthquake into their own lives—when the slow urgency of growing generations turns into the tread of an invading army or the dire clash of civil war, and grey fathers know nothing to seek for but the corpses of their blooming sons, and girls forget all vanity to make lint and bandages which may serve for the shattered limbs of their betrothed husbands. Then it is as if the Invisible Power that has been the object of lip-worship and lip-resignation became visible, according to the imagery of the Hebrew poet, making the flames his chariot and riding on the wings of the wind, till the mountains and the plains shudder under the rolling, fiery visitation. Often the good cause seems to lie prostrate under the thunder of unrelenting force, the martyrs live reviled, they die, and no angel is seen holding forth the crown and the palm-branch. Then it is that the submission of the soul to the Highest is tested, and even in the eyes of frivolous life looks out from the scene of human struggle with the awful face of duty, and a religion shows itself which is something else than a private consolation.

It is many a year since George Eliot wrote these eloquent words in her "Daniel Deronda," but they depict a spiritual experience which is being shared by thousands in these days of war.

Perhaps some such catastrophe was needed to shock mankind into consciousness of its solidarity, to startle the individual into recognition of his responsibility for the conduct of affairs in the community and in the world. The man who will not admit his occupancy of a place in the world course and his share of influence for good or ill, for justice or injustice, for peace or war, is either a child or a fool and, having attained the stature of manhood he has no right to be either the one or the other. The man who makes up his mind that he is going to live for himself is making choice of a heartless, inhuman and criminal course. A place in the ranks of humanity demands on the part of the individual the human consciousness, the social consciousness, the world consciousness.

Have we got it yet? The Grain Growers have been trying, not without some indications of success, for 15 years to awaken it. The war is emphasizing with tremendous stress the call. Men in days to come must not shirk "doing their bit." The time of peace is only a degree less tragic than the time of war. Never again, in peace or war, may the individual be permitted to go the way of independence and extortion and oppression which his selfishness might seek to lead him. Never again must multitudes be permitted to suffer because of the rapacity of some man, or of some corporation, or of

some class, or of some nation. The social consciousness, and the social conscience, and the social sympathy must be aroused so that when such action is attempted the way will be promptly barred. He who will not of his own initiative respect the rights of others must be taught by the constraining mind and if necessary the compelling hand of the community that he may not ride rough-shod over the well-being of his fellow-men.

Let us not falter then, in these days when the depths of the human spirit are being sounded, in our task of calling men to active personal participation in the life-activities of our time. Let us consistently oppose the anti-social interests that would advantage themselves even by the stress of war to prey upon the unthinking and the unprotected. Be it ours today as ever to seek to rouse in all the truly personal and truly social spirit which will rejoice to do its part in maintaining and safeguarding the well-being of each.

W. R. W.

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

As the fall approaches district officers are beginning to think about the early winter organization and recuperation campaign and the perfecting of arrangements for the district convention. More and more the district officers are coming to recognize and shoulder responsibility for the maintenance and promotion of the movement throughout the district. The coming together of the district executive to discuss the work in the area included in the district is coming year by year to issue in practical strengthening of weak branches and here and there in successful extension. A fraternal visit from one of the district executive to a branch which has become a little discouraged shows that they regard the movement as a going concern, worth working for and with a at least once a year, and if possible, work before it.

Every district should do something twice a year in the way of a district convention. Some districts have a well established and successful semi-annual convention. It means work at it is well worth while. The general stimulation to those who attend goes back through them to the locals and the whole work is strengthened. With the movement as far advanced as it is in Manitoba there should be no difficulty, there is no difficulty about a program. Any district executive that sets about it can secure a program that may mean great things for their branches. It just takes a little gumption and a little faith and a little work and a little perseverance.

A district convention in the fall or early winter helps to prepare the way for the provincial convention. Every year the effort is being made to secure that a larger number shall receive the inspiration which comes from attending the Farmers' Parliament at Brandon. The district convention is a kind of half way house. Moral—get your district together this fall in a convention that will stir things up and move things on.

THINKING IT OUT

There are too few who read, but the number of those who think is infinitely smaller. And yet thinking is one of the primary needs of the world's life. It is by the activities of those who think



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