

Manitoba Grain Growers

Two Creeks' Annual

THE Two Creeks' association got in early with its annual meeting, holding it on November 20. Reports showed a paid-up membership of 39 and a very satisfactory record in co-operative work, there being a saving to the community of at least \$250, as compared with local prices. The following officers were elected: W. Morton, president; J. Baras, vice-president; Arthur Lamplugh, secretary.

The retiring secretary, James Morton, who has filled the position since the association was organized but is now leaving for British Columbia, was presented with an address and a purse containing a handsome sum of money. In replying, Mr. Morton urged the members to stick to the movement and continue to fight for their rights with that unity which always means strength. Mr. Morton has been a progressive and public-spirited citizen and the cordial good wishes of the community follow him to his new home in the far west.

The Double-Six Committee

Not many locals have tried it though the idea has been abroad for some time. Yet it is practically impossible for it to fail and it might have saved the lives of a dozen associations that have gone under during the last three or four years. Ten to one it is the very thing your association needs at the present time. Why not have a try at it?

What is it? The double-six committee? Why, it is a group of 12 members of your local association, all young, all energetic, all enthusiastic, six from each sex, elected as plenipotentiaries to get into the membership of the association in the first three months of the year everybody who ought to be there. Sometimes the 12 are divided into two teams of six each (three young women and three young men in each team) each of which endeavors to excel the other in the number of new members secured. Sometimes they work simply as a solid group, determined to do the best possible for the association.

"That would be fine," says the Chronic Pessimist, "if we had the 12." The answer is, if you need the 12, get out and get them. I simply refuse to believe that nine officers of a Grain Growers' association, in an ordinary Manitoba community, cannot get such a committee, if they want them. If you need them, you ought to want them. Choke the Chronic Pessimist into silence and go out and get them.

"But," remarks Mudslow Stickler, "is it constitutional? Is there any precedent for such a course of action?" Of course it is constitutional. Everything is constitutional in the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association that is sensible, for the good of the cause, and not forbidden. Precedent? Yes, the history of the movement is jammed full of precedents for it. Has it not always been the rule that when in the course of the movement a need was found the movement set itself to meet the need in the most direct and effective way. Let Stickler stick if he must, but keep your association going forward.

"It is an attractive proposition," comments Talkster Mouthy, "but having a regularly constituted board of directors it does not seem wise to add this new machinery." Certainly not, brother, if your regularly constituted board is doing this job—and it is cordially recognized that some of our boards are—then your association is not one that needs this "attractive proposition." But where a thorough canvas has not been made, why not put on the job the bunch who are most likely to make a success of it?

Few indeed are the associations that do not need the stimulus and the buoyancy and the nerve which such a committee could impart to it. There might be some agitation and a little scurrying among dry bones, but it would mean new life to the work and the workers, and permanent gain to the movement.

It will take a little trouble to get it going, but it is worth the trouble. Get them appointed, get them to accept the commission. Get them to take it

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

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up enthusiastically and in years to come an active and progressive association will bless the day when it was induced by a few who had imagination enough to see the possibilities, to undertake the launching of a double-six committee.

Coming Along Splendidly

Yes, they are—the reports for 1918. It was requested that they should be got in to the Central office as soon as possible after the close of November and the secretaries are responding as good men always do when you put up a reasonable proposition to them. A very much larger proportion of the year's reports than at this time last year are now on file, and the hope is growing that by December 20, practically all the reports will be in.

Can you help in that? Just make it a point to—politely—enquire if that re-

port of your local has gone forward yet, and if not get it going.

Understand—as the lawyers say—that the Central office wants these reports and the facts they contain not just to satisfy curiosity, but to prepare year-end statistics for the movement at large which will be of definite service in the work of 1919. They are coming along splendidly—we have said it—but—keep them coming.

The Association and the Women

For a number of years women in considerable numbers had been manifesting their interest in the Grain Growers' Movement. In 1912 it was decided by the annual convention that they should be admitted into membership on equal terms with men. As they began to come into membership, and especially as a new world of activity was opened

to women by the enactment of woman suffrage, it began to be felt that the creation of some special machinery for their activities had become necessary. While they were interested in the general objects for which the association stood, it was recognized that there were some special features of the work in which they were specially interested and for which their position gave them special fitness. The new machinery for this special work was established as "The Women's Section of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association." That is to say, the women did not organize themselves into a separate association. The association, in which already women as well as men were members, established within itself a Women's Section for specific activities and ends; and provision was made for the women of local branches being organized into local Women's Sections. The establishment of such a section did not take away the membership of women in the general association. The very first clause in the constitution adopted in 1918 for the Women's Section wisely makes this clear. It states that "Women shall have the same standing in the association as men."

This excludes the idea that we have in the Manitoba association, two sections, a Men's Section and a Women's Section. There is no "Men's Section." There is a general association composed of men and women and a Women's Section composed of women alone. Every woman who is a member of a Women's Section is so in virtue of the fact that she is a member of a local Grain Growers' association. And the meetings of the general association are always meetings in which men and women have equal rights. If any further confirmation of this position were required, it is furnished by a resolution moved by Mrs. J. S. Wood, seconded by Peter Wright and carried unanimously at a meeting of the board of directors, held in Brandon, on the 24th day of July last. It was as follows: "That local officials of the Grain Growers' Association be urged to assist in moving toward the fullest co-operation between the men and women by making it clearly understood that all ordinary meetings of the association are meetings in which the women have full rights and which it is expected they will always attend as well as the men."

Perhaps the clearest characterization of the relationship is that which regards the Women's Section as a permanent committee of the association, specially constituted for a special line of activity. Three special advantages are realized by taking this view: 1st.—There is no tendency to regard the members of the Women's Section as excluded in any way from the interests and activities of the general association. 2nd.—The general association is kept closely and fully in touch with all the proceedings of the section, and the fullest understanding and sympathy is maintained. 3rd.—The section secures not only the assent, but also the cordial backing and co-operation of the general association in the realization of its ideals.

Thus we can rightfully regard our organization as a true community organization. Two bodies working independently would be one more example of segregation and weakness. An association with its Women's Section working together in wholehearted co-operation will assuredly make for efficiency and true unity.

We need a Christian ethics of property more perhaps than anything else. The wrongs connected with wealth are the most vulnerable part of our civilization.—Rauschenbusch.

Most men who have used up their life to acquire wealth, look back with homesickness to the idealistic aspirations of their youth as to a lost Edenland.—Rauschenbusch.

As society is deepened and broadened by the activities of various types, old institutions will be modified and new ones appear, largely by means of judicious experiments.—Sellars.



R. C. HENDERS

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association will be held in Brandon, January 8, 9 and 10, 1919.

The board of directors of the association and the board of directors of the provincial Women's Section will meet on Monday evening, January 6, at 8 p.m., and on Tuesday, January 7, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. The resolutions committee, consisting of Messrs. Donald McKenzie, A. J. M. Poole and J. W. McQuay, will meet on Tuesday, January 7, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Registration of delegates will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, and the convention proper will open at 10.30 a.m.

Every local association is entitled to send one delegate for every ten members or fraction thereof. They will be entitled to all privileges of the convention and to vote on all questions. Associate delegates may also be sent who will have all privileges except introducing motions and voting.

As in former years, arrangements are being made for a very complete program. Questions of vital interests to the rural population and to the country generally, will be discussed. Important resolutions from district and local associations will be dealt with. No effort will be spared to make this "farmers' parliament" for 1919 an outstanding success. Much depends on there being a large attendance who will carry to every corner of the province the inspiration and the encouragement of the convention. Let every branch be fully represented. If you have never thought about coming before come this year and you will not regret it.

Railway Arrangements

Special attention is directed to the fact that no convention rates will be in operation. Every delegate will require to purchase a regular return ticket, getting at the same time from the agent a receipt for the amount paid for it. This receipt he will present with his credentials at the convention office when he registers on the first day of the convention. This is necessary in order to furnish the data required for pooling the fares of the delegates. It is simpler than last year but the securing and presentation of the receipt for the amount paid for return ticket must be attended to. If travelling over more than one railway, receipts should be secured for each ticket purchased. No single fare should be purchased.

Credential certificates are being sent to secretaries who will furnish them to the delegates appointed. They should be made out and signed before leaving home.

In case any district convention shall not have been held before the annual convention, the nomination for the office of district director for 1919 will, as provided for in the constitution, be referred to the delegates from the district who are in attendance at Brandon.

Resolutions to be presented at the convention should, as far as possible, be mailed in to the Central office in advance, so as to reach the office not later than January 2. This gives opportunity to have them in the hands of the resolutions committee in time to secure full consideration.

It may be mentioned that one of the most important matters to be dealt with at the convention will be the revised National Platform of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. It has already been published in The Guide. It is hoped that it will be carefully studied by every delegate so that there may be ample and adequate discussion of all its proposals.

It is recognized that the unparalleled health conditions of the past two months and the fact that no special rates are being given will tend to militate against large attendance at the convention, but our hope is that every local association will do its best to overcome these and to secure as full representation as possible. Let a large and successful convention be the inauguration of "The Best Year Yet" in the history of the movement.

Faithfully yours,

R. C. HENDERS, president.

W. R. WOOD, secretary.

Nota Bene.—The above convention call is being issued in the expectation that health conditions in the province will by that time be so cleared up that there will be no handicap upon the convention being held as usual. Our members may be assured that if conditions have not so improved, or if there is any necessity for postponing the convention or modifying our plans, notice will be given in good time so that everyone will be fully advised as to the situation.