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Secretary's Report

Roderick McKenzie, Secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association Presented the following report to the Brandon Convention

As compared with 1913, the receipts for 1914 shows a gratifying increase, in-dicating that the Grain Growers' movement is more popular among the farmers. Many branches have been organized, largely in the newer districts of the province. At the same time a dis-couraging feature of the work is that many of our branches have not reported or sent in any dues for the year. Since the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association was formed the branches have

Association was formed, the branches have contributed to the Central Association as follows: \$ 703 80 1003

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Big Work with Small Funds

In addition to the dues the branches have contributed \$2,760.41 to an Emergency Fund. This makes a total of \$30,341.11 paid by the farmers of Mani-toba to maintain their own organization, or an average of \$2,445.00 per year. No other class in Canada has main-tained an organization on a per capite tained an organization on a per capita tax so small. No other organization in



R. MCKENZIE Secretary, Manitoba Grain Growers' Association

Canada has contributed so much to the moulding of popular opinion in the direction of economic freedom and true democracy as the Grain Growers have done. The Grain Growers' movement is recognized by freinds of democracy thruout the Dominion as blazing the trail for economic freedom of the masses. The one act of the Manitoba Grain Growres' executive in getting the railway companies to extend the seed grain rates for the season of 1915 will save the Manitoba farmers vastly more than they ever contributed to the support of the movement.

An analysis of the causes of failure of some of our branches reveals the fact that it is due to one of three causes: Indifference on the part of the officers elected,-want of a proper place for meetings (in several places I might men-tion having to pay \$3 or \$4 rent for eachmeeting),-and what is probably a more numerous cause-the officers and members yielding to insidious outside hostile criticism that had for its purpose the poisoning of the farmers' minds against their own organization.

Active Organization

An organizer has been kept in the field from the first of January to the first of August, and from the first of November to the end of the year. Much of his time has been taken up with organzing among the foreign population. We

have met with gratifying success among these people, but it is necessary on account of having no literature in their own language to devote more personal at-tention to them than to English speaking communities. Unfortunately for Manitoba the methods adopted in the past to encourage these people to exercise their rights of citizenship has not been of a character that tends to make good Canadians. It would be money well spent if this Association should exercise an influence in bringing them into closer relationship and co-operation with the English speaking people, so as to build them up into a higher standard of citizenship.

Co-operation and Education

The key-note of our activities should be co-operation and education,—that kind of education that trains farmers to take the place that properly belongs to them in the directing of public affairs. On the labors of the countrymen depends the whole strength and health, --nay, the very existence of society, yet in our country politics, economics and social reforms are urban productions, the farmers getting only the crumbs that fall from the political tables. Truly, the creation of our rural civilization is the greatest need of our time. We have been in the habit of complaining of the action of men whom we entrust with legislation; how much have we done in the past to how much have we done in the past to influence legislation along the lines of true democracy. How many farmers have we in Manitoba today who are prepared to assume the responsibility and the privilege of leading the hosts of reform in our legislative bodies. Our duty lies before us, training men to lead in the fight for freedom, relieving the masses from economic slavery and trainmasses from economic slavery and training ourselves to support the men whom we will select as leaders in the struggle for social reform and economic equality.

HORSES FOR CANADIAN SOLDIERS

T It

At the Brandon Convention on Thursday, W. Elder, buyer of army remounts for Western Manitoba, addressed the delegates on the system which is being followed in securing horses for the second Canadian contingent. He stated that he had instructions to buy 100 heavy artillery horses and 150 saddle horses, and he was expecting instruc-tions very shortly for a number of hig geldings for transport purposes. Owing to the advantage which had been taken scalpers and certain unscrupulous dealers, the government had given instructions "that all horses should be purchased direct from the farmers. He laid stress upon the fact that only the best horses were good enough to carry Canadian soldiers into action, and pointed out the long and trying journey they had to go and the absolute necessity that they should be in good flesh and condition. There was no fixed price, and he paid whatever he considered each horse was worth. The most he had paid was \$200, but he would pay more if he saw a horse that was worth it, and when he bought heavy transport horses he thought \$225 would be the lowest price that would be paid. Mr. Elder an-swered a number of questions, and said full information could be found in correspondence between the Chief Remount Commissioner and Secretary McKenzie, which was published in the Manitoba section of The Guide on December 30.

John R. Drexel, discussing his detention in Germany, said:

"The kaiser has forbidden the Ger man troops to drink. the czar has forbidden drink to the Russian troops, and France has stopped the sale of absinthe.

"The war, instead of relaxing tem perance morally, has stiffened it. In this stiffening effect the war isn't like Blanc's case.

"A ragman knocked at Blanc's door. "Any old rags or bones, sir?" he

said. "''No. Go on away,' said Blanc. 'My wife's gone south for the winter.' "The ragman beamed.

"' 'I give three cents apiece for empty bottles, sir,' he whispered."