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BETTER SCHOOLS DAY

Probably never before in the history of the province have the people of Saskatchewan been so fully alive to the importance and the needs of our public schools and our entire system of education as they are today. Those who are close students of the signs of the times see in this awakening interest a rainbow of promise which portends the utmost good for the future of Saskatchewan.

After all the premier problem, not only of Saskatchewan but of the entire world, is the problem of the education of the people. An educated people can never be permanently kept in thralldom to a select class, be that thralldom mental, political, financial or ecclesiastical.

The Saskatchewan Public Education League, organized some six or eight months ago, has been no small factor in creating the present wide interest in matters of education which permeates this entire province. The S.G.G.A. has from the beginning been a factor in this movement, and several of its leading officers hold official positions in the league. The association recognizes that above all other influences which will make for the establishment of better conditions amongst the farmers on the land that of a broader intellectual development of the farmers themselves stands preeminent.

The press and survey committee of the S.P.E.L., under the chairmanship of Norman F. Black, M.A., D.Paed., sent out the following circular announcing the special holiday which was proclaimed by the lieutenant-governor, of the province for June 30, to be known as Better Schools Day.—J. B. M.

Hon. J. A. Calder Explains

Regina, June 1.—As many enquiries are being made regarding the Better Schools Day, which is to be observed throught the province on June 30, for the holding of public meetings for the discussion of educational reform, a representative of the press committee of Saskatchewan Public Education League approached the Hon. J. A. Calder, former minister of education, for a statement of the general nature and aims of the Better Schools movement.

Non-partisan, Popular, Province-wide

"This movement," said Mr. Calder, "was originated by Premier Scott, and approved unanimously by the legislature, for the express purpose of having every citizen examine our school system from top to bottom with a view to improvement. There is a general feeling abroad that in the past we have too slavishly followed the school system of Ontario and Eastern Canada, and that the institutions we have put up for the education of our children do not effectively fit into our present western prairie conditions. In addition to this it is necessary to recognize that owing to the increase in our population and the growth and development of our municipal institutions and other new conditions, the time has arrived when we should take steps to modify and improve our educational facilities to meet these new conditions.

"It is most gratifying to note the very widespread interest that is being taken in the matter. The press daily contains news regarding the work of the Saskatchewan Public Education League, the creation of new branches, meetings of educational associations and other similar gatherings. Besides, the press itself by editorials and special articles has done and is doing splendid work in educating the public mind respecting the main problems that confront us. For the purpose of further interesting the public generally in their study of our school system and assisting all who are directly interested in securing concrete, practical suggestions as to ways and means to obtain better schools and better results, it has been deemed advisable to proclaim Friday, June 30, as a special day to be set apart for the purpose of holding public meetings throught the whole province. It is expected that hundreds of such meetings will be held, and that public-spirited citizens everywhere will take a leading part in their organization and in the discussion that will take place.

"At these and subsequent meetings it is important that attention should be given to certain phases of our school problems which have recently been the subject of a good deal of discussion.

Some of these are the securing of a better attendance of children; making provision for the education of children in sparsely settled communities where they are not in sufficient number to permit the organizing of a district; the steps to be taken to assure that every child will acquire an adequate knowledge of English; the amending of our courses of study so as to provide that the great majority of our children will be efficiently fitted for their life's work; the possible establishment of a good many institutions conveniently located and especially adapted to give farmers' sons a practical secondary education; improvement in the inspection and supervision of all schools with a view to securing more efficient results; the means to be adopted to raise the status of a teacher and to increase the length of time teachers remain in the profession; the provision to be made for the efficient and economic administration of rural schools; the advantages and disadvantages of the existing rural trustee system; the best policy to be adopted to assure that all property in the province bears an equitable share of the cost of education; the method and machinery to be used in raising and collecting the revenues should be distributed; the use to which the school house can be put as a social and civic centre in any community; the publication of a monthly provincial school journal for the guidance and assistance of inspectors, supervisors, trustees, teachers and parents; the advantages of the consolidated or union graded schools for rural districts and the conditions under which they can be successfully and economically organized, and changes required to more adequately provide that our children shall grow up with strong, healthy bodies, sturdy in character and fitted to play their part in our civic life."

PICNIC AT YORKTON

Central Secretary:—The Yorkton Grain Growers' Association is holding an old-time basket picnic at the fair grounds in Yorkton, June 28, program as follows: From 2 to 4, addresses by J. A. Maharg, president S.G.G.A.; J. B. Musselman, Central secretary, and probably Chas. Dunning, manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company; from 4 to 6, races and tug-of-war; from 6 to 7, supper; 7 till dark, baseball; 8.30, dancing. Entries for baseball and tug-of-war teams to be handed to the local secretary not later than the 27th. Hot water for tea will be available on the grounds, also the usual refreshments and soft drinks. A hearty invitation is extended to all Grain Growers to be with us on this day.

D. H. WALKINSHAW,
Sec., Yorkton G.G.A.

CO-OPERATIVE BUYING

Central Secretary:—Referring to the amendment to the Co-operative Associations Act, chapter 37, paragraph 7, it says, "The association, insofar as transactions in farm supplies are concerned, shall after December 31, 1915, sell only to shareholders and to members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association." This seems a barrier in the way of a local that is thinking of incorporating, as very few existing locals are able to handle a carload of goods, and it would simply mean that we would want to have a warehouse and capital enough to take over any goods after our members have been served. Or, on the other hand, does this apply to the Central trading power of the association only? Please reply to this at earliest possible date, as the incorporating papers are pending a reply.

WM. FINNIE,
Sec., Kamack Local

Answer

Secretary, Kamack Local:—Replying to your favor of the 19th, I have to state that when the amendment to the Co-operative Associations Act, to which you refer, was before the house for consideration, it was only by the earnest efforts of Mr. Maharg and myself that the retail dealers were prevented from

securing an amendment which would have confined the activities of the co-operative associations to dealing with their own shareholders only.

A rather strong position is taken on this question by many leading men in the legislature as well as out of it. It is affirmed that these co-operative bodies of farmers, if they are merely a banding together of certain men for the collective purchase of their own supplies, should be obliged to confine their activities amongst themselves, and there is pretty good argument with which to sustain this contention. The position is taken that where these organized bodies do not go regularly into trading and undertake to carry stocks of goods on hand with which to permanently supply a community they should not be permitted to sell their own surplus to the general public at prices which the merchants cannot possibly meet.

In this manner trade is seriously disarranged, and false impressions of the retail values are created greatly to the detriment of those who assume the responsibility of regularly supplying the entire community. This problem would disappear entirely if the co-operative association were to enter upon trading in a regular manner, carrying supplies on hand and assuming a measure of responsibility to the community in this connection.

The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association is not a "close corporation," and the membership fee is very slight, so that there can be no good or adequate reason why anyone wishing to participate in the activities of the organized farmers should not become a member of it. If the local body is going to give the same service to non-members as to members, it is difficult to see how the local organization can be permanently maintained.

The regulation does not refer to the Central, which is working under a special act and not under the Agricultural Co-operative Associations Act.

This clause in the Co-operative Act will have to be amended, and I do not think that at the next session of the legislature there will be any difficulty in securing an amendment which will authorize at least all co-operative associations which carry stocks of goods regularly on hand to sell to all comers. In the meantime, until this amendment has been secured, the writer is unable to see how any serious consequence may result to any local body which permits non-members to join with it in making up carload shipments. It has happened on occasion that the local merchant himself has joined with the local association in making up full carloads, and to the present no trouble has arisen because of such action on the part of the local co-operative body.

J. B. MUSSELMAN,
Central Secretary.

WOMEN'S DONATION

Central Secretary:—I have pleasure in enclosing you herewith \$47 for the Belgian Relief fund from the Pearl Lake W.G.G.A. of Allan, Sask.

ERMA STOCKING,
Prov. Sec., W.G.G.A.

INVERMAY ACTIVE

Central Secretary:—The membership of our local has increased nearly three times in the last three months. A contest was held between the paid up members. Sides were chosen and the losing side was to have given a supper, which fell thru. The members all secured one member and one got sixteen, bringing the membership up to eighty-nine.

By sending cards to the members stating prices and terms, fifty of them sent in their orders, making the largest order sent from here. July 1 is Grain Growers' day here, and a picnic is to be held on the shore at Stonewall Lake. A booth to supply refreshments will be on deck and half of the proceeds will be donated to the Emergency Fund.

J. C. SNELL,
Sec., Invermay Local

\$150 Cash Prizes'

Boys' and Girls' Seed Selection Competition

The Grain Growers' Guide wants to find out where the best wheat and oats are grown in the Prairie Provinces. In order to discover this The Guide is going to pay \$150.00 in cash prizes to boys and girls who will assist in this work. Any boy or girl between 10 and 18 years of age (inclusive) living on a farm in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta may enter the competition. Each contestant may enter the competition for wheat and for oats, and any number may enter from the same family, provided only that no one person may win more than one prize.

The method of selecting the seed will be to go out into your father's grain where the crop is best, just before the binder starts, and select enough of the choicest heads of wheat or oats to thresh out two pounds of clean seed. Put these heads into a sack and pound them until the seed is threshed out. Then winnow them on a windy day, put them into a sack and mail them to The Guide.

The Guide will pay the postage on one sack for each contestant so that they will be under no expense whatever. The competition will close on September 15 and all sacks of grain must be in The Guide office by that date. They will then be judged by an expert grain inspector who has no connection with The Guide whatever and will be entirely disinterested.

The prizes will consist of \$150.00 in cash and will be divided as follows:

Prizes for Wheat:

1st Prize	\$25.00
2nd Prize	20.00
3rd Prize	15.00
4th Prize	10.00
5th Prize	5.00
6th Prize	7.00
7th Prize	6.00
8th Prize	5.00
9th Prize	4.00

Prizes for Oats:

1st Prize	\$20.00
2nd Prize	15.00
3rd Prize	10.00
4th Prize	5.00

This competition is being conducted by the Rural Improvement League of The Grain Growers' Guide. Every boy and girl who wishes to enter must become a member of the Rural Improvement League, which will cost nothing except a little work you can do for The Guide in your own community. Any boy or girl wishing to enter this competition and earn one of these cash prizes, which will be definitely paid out and mailed within two or three weeks after the close of the competition, should sign the attached coupon immediately. If you wait until the crop is ripe it will be too late for you to qualify as a member of the League. Sign the coupon and mail it today. We will reply promptly and tell you how to join the League and give you full instructions to help you select the best grain on your farm.

Secretary, Rural Improvement League,
Grain Growers' Guide,
Winnipeg, Man.

I would like to become a member of the Rural Improvement League and enter the \$150.00 prize competition for the selection of wheat and oats.

Full Name

Post Office

Province

Age

Father's Name