

SPRINGHILL BANQUET

Springhill Grain Growers and their friends to the number of about sixty sat down on Tuesday evening, December 5, to a splendid supper, including all the delicacies which the Canadian farm housewife knows so well how to prepare. When ample justice had been done to these, John Clarke, the honorary president, was called to the chair and an interesting program of addresses was presented. Mr. Albert McGregor, the district representative, was the first speaker on the list, and dealt with the general work of the association and the necessity for concentration and co-operation in order to succeed. W. R. Wood, M.P.P., of Neepawa, followed with an address on the necessity of organization in opposition to the protective system and the interests that are actively seeking its extension in Canada and elsewhere. Mrs. Albert McGregor gave a bright and carefully thought out paper on Women's Use of the Franchise. Rev. A. W. Kenner spoke briefly, but effectively, on the nature and value of organization, especially in relation to rural life and problems. The last speaker was John Kennedy, of The Grain Growers' Grain Company, whose address dealt with the evils of the protective system, which he described as a private system of taxation for the benefit of its own special beneficiaries. He enunciated the proposals of the Free Trade League and its practical designs for propaganda work in Canada. The Springhill Association are to be congratulated on a most successful gathering.—Contributed.

"THEY MADE ME VICE-PRESIDENT"

It was a minister of a church in a little country town who uttered the words. He was not boasting, but simply stating the fact as one of the reasons for his personal activity in the movement for rural development. He had evidently been enough interested to become a member, and being elected to office his interest and activity increased.

Hasn't this action a hint for some more of the ministers? If a man is to be a minister in these days in Western Canada he must be a citizen and interested in the progressive movements about him. It is gladly recognized that a large proportion of western ministers are measuring up to the demand of the situation, but there are still some who are scarcely in line. The hint is for them. And is there not a hint, too, for the branch associations? Have you gone after the local ministers? Have you sought to enlist them in the movement? Have you estimated what their sympathy and help ought to be worth to you? Have you had them take their stand and say their say as to the principles and ideals of the association? They ought to be for or against. If against, you ought to be able to win them for the cause, and to secure and enroll them as workers with you.

And I think there is a hint for vice-presidents. This vice-president regarded his election as a call to active interest and initiative, and when he was in the city the other day he made it his business to get into touch with some of the people and some of the organizations from whom he thought he could get practical help for his association. Some vice-presidents do not seem to think their election to that office signifies anything. And when they so regard it—ten to one it doesn't. But the vice-president who magnifies his office and makes it a sphere of loyal and constructive work—he is a vice-president worth having. The vice-president ought to be the president's right hand man, for consultation, for initiative, for every kind of practical help, so that he will be ready in his turn for an effective presidency.

And what is good for the vice-presidents will not be bad for the other officers and for the ordinary members. The value and effectiveness of the Grain Growers' movement will be just in proportion to the number of members who regard it as their special privilege and their unescapable vocation to do practical work "for the good of the order." There should be no member who does not "talk up" the association, who does not commend its principles and motives and ideals, who does not

direct the attention of the indifferent and the opposed to the practical good it has already accomplished. Why shouldn't somebody in your association, the vice-president or yourself, take ten minutes in some meeting at an early date to encourage the whole membership of the association to pledge themselves individually to do some service of this kind during this year? All, absolutely all, that is needed for success is just the application all around of this simple principle of "working together." It's up to you to do it in 1917 and to begin it in the month of January.

W. R. W.

HOWDEN ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Howden Grain Growers' Association was held on January 3, with the following officers elected:—Hon. president, W. S. Smith; president, B. B. Graham; vice-president, P. Kines; secretary-treasurer, G. H. Kilburn; with a full board of directors. During the meeting H. F. Warne, elected as delegate to the convention of The Grain Growers' Grain Co., at Winnipeg, gave his report, and B. B. Graham also gave a short address on same. W. S. Smith and J. N. Poole reported on the district convention held at Gladstone, all of these addresses being very much appreciated by the audience. P. Kines was appointed as delegate to the Brandon convention and his report will be given at the next meeting, which will be held at the home of one of the members and we hope to have as large an attendance as possible.

(Sgd.) G. H. KILBURN,
Sec'y Howden G.G.A.

DEEPPDALE MEETING

The Deepdale branch of the Grain Growers' Association was held on December 16. There was not as large a turnout as was expected, owing to the stormy weather. The officers elected for 1917 were:—President, T. H. Ward; vice-president, James Atkinson; secretary, Wilfred Rae; directors, N. Kapey, Thos. Cheavins, Alf. Matthews, Geo. R. Ward, Geo. Gardiner, J. J. Evison.

T. H. Ward, N. Kapey and Wilfred Rae were appointed as delegates to the convention at Brandon. Among the questions discussed was that of co-operative selling of livestock, but on a majority vote it was decided to leave it over until the first meeting in the New Year when a fuller discussion could be had, with a larger representation, and in the meantime to obtain further information on the subject. During the year we handled co-operatively one car of flour and feed, one car of coal, one car of apples and a quantity of twine, with a total saving of \$945.00. The above mentioned commodities were distributed among 56 members. Altho our total membership is 110 members, yet 54 of these did not receive any benefits whatever, owing to the lateness of their joining and our failure to purchase supplies at a satisfactory price. These members are to be applied to 1917.

(Signed) WILFRED RAE.

FORREST WOMEN'S MEETING

The annual meeting of the Forrest Women Grain Growers' Association Auxiliary was held at the home of Mrs. George Burton, Forrest. We meet the first Wednesday of every month, but have only been able to hold nine meetings on account of stormy weather during the winter months. At present our membership is 27, of whom 21 have renewed for 1917. Our receipts are \$358.60, most of which was made at a bazaar and picnic; expenditure was \$290.68, leaving a balance of \$67.92. Besides this we had a 10 cent tea, collection for which amounted to \$22.75. This money was used for postage on parcels which we sent to the boys at the front. We commenced to pack soldiers' comforts in August and since then we have sent away 63 boxes. The following are some of the things which we sent:—Socks, cake, candy, tobacco, gum and handkerchiefs. Our members have knit 75 pairs of socks, 9 pairs of wristlets, have also made 12 dozen shirts and 12

surgical shirts. A quantity of literature was gathered and sent to Camp Hughes, also \$20.00 was sent to Rev. G. A. Edmison, of Brandon, but now in England, to assist in buying hospital comforts for the wounded. We hope we may be able to continue in this work and if possible to branch out more extensively if our present prospects mature. At one of our meetings the improvement of our district cemetery was discussed and a committee was appointed to attend the men's meeting with a request for support in improvement work which was heartily granted. A committee was appointed to meet the managers of the church and trustees of the cemetery regarding the said improvements, with the result that a bee was organized at which all the members in the neighborhood turned out and did splendid work in spading the plots, cutting the weeds, etc., the result of which has made a marked improvement. The women were in attendance and served dinner and supper during the day. Trusting that this will be of interest to your readers and wishing The Guide every success.

(Signed) MARION J. ALLAN,
Sec.-Treas.

SPRINGHILL GRAIN GROWERS

At our January meeting everyone was in good spirits. There was considerable enthusiasm, and the indications are that we will have the best year in our history. A few more have paid up their membership which brings our membership now up to 40 and there are more to come. We have been able to keep up a respectable membership and good interest in the association without the aid of co-operative purchasing of certain staple commodities used on the farm, which shows that the farmers of our district recognize the value to themselves and what may be accomplished in their behalf thru efficient and effective organization and that it is our duty to see to it that our particular local is made as efficient as possible.

Our library, which we started four years ago, has been neglected and has got into a rather depleted condition. We purpose paying more attention to it in the future and endeavor to make it of real value to the community. Accordingly we have decided to take advantage of The Guide's free library plan and have appointed our board of directors a committee to make a systematic canvass of the district for subscriptions. Our aim is to get 40 subscriptions which will give us \$24.00 towards a library.

We made two new departures this year, to pay our secretary-treasurer a minimum fee of \$5.00, and to have some one at each meeting to read the objects of the association as stated in the constitution, the object being to familiarize our members with what the association really is, according to the constitution.

On February 9 the president and secretary are to address a meeting on the first two objects of the association, A. and B., as stated in the constitution. There will be five up from our association to the convention. Officers elected for the year are:—President, A. J. M. Poole; vice-president, W. H. Jackson; secretary-treasurer, Jos. Pekary; directors, Mrs. Isaac Yerex, Mrs. Tom Pearson, Mrs. A. J. M. Poole, Geo. A. Baker, Fred Harper, Rich. Jackson.

Central please note the change made in secretary-treasurer, Springhurst, Man., to Jos. Pekary, Springhurst, Man.
(Signed) A. J. M. POOLE.

TRAVELLING LIBRARIES

By Mrs. Albert McGregor, Arden
Books. What are they? A luxury or a necessity? An absolute necessity.
Our Dominion requires the very best development of her growing citizens as she has never needed it before. This can not be had without literature. An almanac, a few catalogs, a weekly paper, will not satisfy the hungry longing for something to fill up the spare moments. When books are placed within the grasp of a community of young people, the difficulty of counteracting the empty glitter of cities is largely solved. A more distinct personality is developed, a broader mind and a more sympathetic attitude is

maintained towards others by those who make books their friends. A more intelligent interest is taken in the affairs of the day, making for the development of a cleaner and saner government. When we are placing books in our communities we should not forget to place a few books in the language of the foreigner who is in the community. While we are anxious to have the foreigner read and speak our language, very arbitrary methods are not always conducive to the best results.

The older people will enjoy their own language more and will be more content and happy in their new environment. The fault of many travelling libraries is they are too serious or too frivolous. The people who select the libraries too often select books that interest only specialists, and quite forget that the people in the country are not seeking to be specialists by reading library books, but wish for amusement good wholesome entertaining books, of love, home and children, and the strictly informative ones tucked in between.

The methods of getting libraries are numerous. Some libraries, started out as private ventures, made up chiefly of cheap fiction, have not been satisfactory. A good way to get reading to the people is for the government to undertake the matter of sending out travelling libraries.

The Manitoba Agricultural College has a set of travelling libraries which it sends to organizations of women. It is evidently designed to be informative chiefly and contains many rather heavy books on specialized subjects. The college also sends out clippings from papers and magazines on many subjects, called packet libraries, but no books are contained in these packets.

The Department of Agriculture in Manitoba has offered to give \$25.00 to any district for a library, if that district first secures \$25.00; this would make a beginning of \$50.00 worth of books. The University of Saskatchewan and the University of Alberta also send out libraries, but these are not available outside of their own provinces. The Public Library Commission of Bismark, N.D., send out libraries of 40 or 50 books to any community where six responsible people will sign an application card free, except transportation charges.

McGill University, Montreal, send out libraries of 25 or more books on a deposit of \$3.00 and local cartage. They have supplied a number of Grain Growers' Associations and will be glad to supply more. The following appreciation is from a lady at Bright Sand, Sask., who was instrumental in securing a library for their district, a pioneer district with many foreigners: "I must say Miss Hall (the librarian) has been most helpful and stretched the rules most generously, her only aim apparently being to accommodate us in this needy country. The lists cover practically all subjects on which one would want to read."

Address—Miss E. G. Hall, Librarian, Circulating Library, McGill University Library, Montreal, P.Q.
(Sgd.) FLORENCE MCGREGOR.

Arden.

PATRIOTIC ACRE RECEIPTS

Cameron Grain Growers' Association, per Jas. and R. Tomlinson	\$60.00
Brant-Argyle Grain Growers' Association, per Jno. Luke	30.00
Tremaine Grain Growers' Association, per P. C. Northcott's Family	5.00
Geo. Cormack, Vista Grain Growers' Association (Rosburn P.O.)	25.00
Beulah Grain Growers' Association, per B. M. Morgan	40.00
Since January, 1917, total	\$160.00

HAZELRIDGE ANNUAL

The annual meeting of the Hazelridge Grain Growers' Association was held on December 16, 1916. Carter McDermott was elected to the chair. The following officers were elected for the year 1917: President, Alfred Fisher; vice-president, Carter McDermott; secretary-treasurer, Powers Iliff, re-elected; directors, J. S. Hall, A. Young, John Fisher, O. Christopherson, Alex. Matheson, F. Hadaller, George Koltola. Total number of paid up members for 1916 is forty-six. Amount of produce bought thru this association for the year ending November 30, 1916, is \$3,220.80.

POWERS ILIFF,
Secretary-Treasurer.