

Mr. Partridge's Message

The Doughty Champion though out of the Fray through illness, sends Words of Cheer to his Comrades

The following letter from E. A. Partridge who is now in San Antonio, Texas, recuperating, was read to the convention at Prince Albert by Mr. Green and aroused tremendous enthusiasm. A message of sympathy and hope for his speedy recovery was sent by wire by the convention to Mr. Partridge. His letter reads as follows:—

"You will wonder why I have not written to you before this time, especially when things are moving so rapidly in matters in which our association is so vitally interested. You will understand when I tell you that my general nervous condition is such that even the reading of the reports of what is going on greatly upsets me. I underwent a complete re-arrangement of my leg. I regret to say that it is not healing as satisfactorily as I hoped for, though I believe in the end benefit will be received.

I get THE GUIDE regularly and the Winnipeg papers occasionally. I note with pleasure that you are holding up the banner of 'ideal citizenship' before the people on every opportune occasion. You are bringing many recruits into the 'Army of the Common Good' by this service. You are helping to bring 'in the Kingdom' which can never 'come' until we have a sufficient number among us 'seeking after righteousness' (literally, right wisdom). 'There is that which is best which if discovered and applied, etc.'

No material prosperity will avail anything in the securing of happiness except as it affords an improved opportunity to increase that 'right wisdom' which leads men individually and collectively to perceive and act in accordance with the truths enunciated in the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount.

This great movement of the tillers of the soil in which we are ranked as leaders is only truly great and will only be truly successful so long as it remains fundamentally seeking after social justice wider than the advancement of self, or even class interest—a desire to enjoy the fruit of our labors that we may the more efficiently discharge our duties as husbands, fathers and citizens, not forgetting, however, the duty we owe ourselves to cultivate our powers of body, mind and spirit that we may live as fully our individual lives, as the discharge of our duties to others will permit.

Our chief limitation as a class is the lack of proper ideals as to what environment, opportunities, interests and activities are necessary to the leading of full and dignified lives. We so seldom remember that we—all of us, not simply a few who possess material wealth, position or power, are children of the Eternal Father and as such co-heirs to all the possibilities and possessions of an Infinite Universe. We lack dignity. We give honor to those who consume rather than to those who create. With the ballot in our hands we bow down to those who stole our national heritage and are daily stealing our opportunities to cherish our wives and educate our children, under forms of law which outrage all sense of human or divine justice in the mind of every honest thoughtful man.

High ideals as to the duties, purposes and possibilities of life, sound opinions on matters relating to the creation, division, distribution and application of wealth and power of the people who do the world's work to enact wise laws and compel their impartial enforcement—these are the things most to be striven for and this is the order in which they should come.

We need the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, but we need to know the sinister causes of poverty and inequality of opportunity. Men in high places know the causes, but unfortunately they profit by them and do not desire to see them removed, hence the farce of commissions solemnly sitting to enquire why the cost of living is so high, when it is as plain, as noon-day that while wages and prices of farm products as they come from the farm have advanced somewhat, the price of everything the wage-earner and farmer must buy has advanced a great deal more.

Every gift of nature and natural advantage of position, coal mines, timber limits, water powers, commercial sites, from which men draw their supplies

or opportunities to create shelter, food, clothing and tools have been seized, capitalized at their monopoly value, and this capitalization of the privilege to use God's bounties taking the form of stocks and bonds goes on demanding its toll from generation after generation of toilers without surcease and with much addition to the amount as the work of exploitation goes merrily on. And each little holder of stock based on a monopoly of privilege of one kind or another, be he active mechanic, farmer, merchant or retired worker of any sort, helps to darken counsel because of his little selfish interest in the institutions by which the princes of monopoly are holding the working world in thrall.

Just for this reason, THE GUIDE or any other progressive publication with a mission to lead and instruct, must suggest truths rather than enunciate them frankly lest the bitterest opposition come from those it was created to serve.

Education of our people, children and adults, in the truths of economics and the duties of citizenship, the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, Public Ownership of Public Utilities and Natural Resources brought about largely by the Taxation of Land Values (which include all natural resources and advantages of position) and the imposition of heavy and steeply graduated succession dues, and possibly graduated income taxes as well, to hasten the breaking up of fortunes large enough to be a menace to good government—these are the means by which involuntary poverty and ignorance will be banished from the earth.

Perhaps you would not mind reading this letter to the Prince Albert convention. I will then not be altogether deprived of the opportunity to take part in the meeting which I had so eagerly looked forward to attend.

I would like to suggest with respect to public ownership of elevators, that it would be wise for the lead of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Executive to be closely followed in dealing with the matter as they have given much more time and study to the problem in its present form than any of our own members, perhaps myself excepted.

Re Hall Insurance, I would say that the Taxation of Land Values when it comes, as come it surely will, will provide ample funds for insurance against all natural visitations without injustice to any.

I hope the convention will heartily endorse the action of the other provincial organizations in the matters of a National Council of Agriculture and the Initiative and Referendum, also a plebiscite on the creation of a Canadian Navy, and a pronouncement in favor of the elimination of the protective principle from the tariff. Give the Life Membership a boost. It deserves it!

I would also bespeak a most hearty welcome to Mr. Drury, the worthy master of the Dominion Grange, from our association.

The royal welcome and continued courtesy shown to the Manitoba delegates and myself as the Saskatchewan representative by Mr. Drury and his associates on the occasion of our visit to the Grange meeting in Toronto makes it specially disappointing that I am not permitted to be present at our own convention to give the 'right hand of fellowship' to our brother from the east. In Mr. Drury our National Council will possess a valuable counsellor and it is my hope that he may be elected its first president.

Wishing the officers and members of the association a progressive and harmonious meeting, I remain,

Faithfully Yours,

E. A. PARTRIDGE."

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Report of Secretary-Treasurer on the Progress of the Scheme.

In the absence of A. W. Irwin, secretary of the Life Membership Fund, his report was read by J. A. Mahorg, one of the trustees, as follows:—

"I have great pleasure in presenting to you our first report, and allow me here to congratulate you upon the success already achieved. Our roll contains the

names of 339 life members, men who realize the truth of the saying that 'in unity there is strength.' Our net capital is \$3,486. The success of the past is to me an inspiring thought for the future, and no doubt it inspires you. For what has been accomplished in the past, in this our western land, can be far surpassed in the future, if we work shoulder to shoulder and with the pure motive of benefiting one another. It is computed that there are approximately 100,000 farmers already located here in Saskatchewan who are eligible to become members with the 339 enrolled and to share in the benefits of the association. If we can but enlist their sympathy and gain their confidence, and this we can if we bestir ourselves individually and make known the claims of the association to those who it is our privilege to meet, in the performance of our special duties and in accord with the opportunities presented. I want you to think what strength and resource for good would be included in that 100,000 hard working, clear-headed men, combined together with us and united for mutual good in this our association. In conclusion, allow

me to wish you all personal success and also success to the Life Membership of the Grain Growers' Association."

A. W. IRWIN, Sec.-Treas.

The following is the financial statement of the Life Membership Fund:

RECEIPTS	
To 339 Life Members at \$12 each,	\$4068.00
To Bank Interest,	12.00
To Bank Loan,	\$14.00
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	\$4294.00
PAYMENTS	
April 3 By Books,	2.00
By R. C. Sanderson,	2.00
Feb. 5 Mortgages:—	
Albert Killam Ellis,	\$500.00
W. D. Hillson,	1200.00
F. W. Green for Grain Growers' Assn.,	500.00
Bank and cash balance,60
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	\$4294.00

Official Minutes of Convention

Summary of Proceedings at the Ninth Annual Gathering of Saskatchewan Grain Growers' at Prince Albert, February 9-11, 1910

The ninth annual convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association opened in the Presbyterian Church at Prince Albert on Wednesday, February 9, 1910, at 10.00 a.m.

President E. N. Hopkins occupied the chair and made a few opening remarks after calling the convention to order.

G. F. Chipman was appointed by Secretary F. W. Green to take the minutes of the convention.

Mr. Hopkins then read his presidential address, which was received with great enthusiasm.

His Worship, Mayor Holmes of the City of Prince Albert, was introduced to the convention, and in the course of a brief address he gave the Grain Growers a most cordial welcome to the city of Prince Albert, and invited them to a banquet to be given by the city on Friday evening.

Mr. Hall, president of the Board of Trade of Prince Albert, also welcomed the delegates.

Mr. Hopkins on behalf of the Grain Growers replied to the addresses of welcome, and accepted the invitation to the banquet.

D. W. McCuaig, president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; Jas. Bower, president of the United Farmers of Alberta and E. J. Fream, secretary of the United Farmers of Alberta were introduced by the president, and gave expression to fraternal greetings from the sister provinces.

The president then called upon the officers and directors of the association to come to the platform in order that all might know them.

The president called for brief reports from local branches, which were given by Walter Simpson, Regina; This. Eyres, New Ottawa; Frank Durrick, Roche Perce; W. R. Francis, Govan; R. L. Hayes, Stoughton; E. H. Clayton, Dubuc; E. Hoppe, Dundurn; E. J. Dobson, Bladworth; W. Davis, North Battleford; E. A. Hadley Wilcox; M. Midgeley, Zelma; M. Rodman, Allan; Mr. Dunning, Beaverdale; Mr. Pinkus, Oliver; Mr. Jones, North Battleford; W. H. Murphy, Latham; W. J. Lawless, Normanton; H. Dorrell, Moose Jaw; W. H. Beasley, Belbec; Mr. Terry, Nokomis; and G. H. MacKay of Fertile Valley.

F. W. Green asked all the paid-up life members to stand and over seventy rose. He then asked how many others intended to become paid-up life members, and still a larger number rose.

The convention adjourned at 12.00 noon, and opened for the afternoon session at 1.45 p.m.

On the opening of the afternoon session, F. M. Gates, vice-president of the association, reported to the convention on the interviews that had taken place between the executive committee and the local government re the resolutions passed at the last annual convention. He recited the details of the first interview with Premier Scott on the internal elevator question. The entire membership of the executive were present at this interview, and also Geo. Langley, M.L.A. This first interview with the government was very unsatisfactory, particularly as the government saw constitutional difficulties standing in the way of taking over the elevators. Later it was decided by the executive to take action independent of the sister provinces. Following up this decision, F. W. Green, secretary, was appointed to interview the government on behalf of the association re the elevator question. Mr. Green met both the government and the agricultural committee of the legislature, to whom he presented the case. Nine definite replies and assurances were received; but beyond the resolution of the House, no further action had been taken up to the present time. Mr. Gates stated that Hon. W. R. Motherwell was expected at the convention to-morrow, and he would probably be able to make some definite announcement as to the government's attitude on the elevator question. If not, then it would be the duty of the convention to take some action. The premier had been given to understand that the Grain Growers' were in earnest. The matter of coal supply and time for foreclosing mortgages were also brought before the government by the executive, but without satisfaction.

A. G. Hawkes presented the report of the executive committee. F. W. Green presented his report as organizer. He appointed district chairmen of organization committees, and also suggested that the conveners of these committees sit as a committee to plan organization work between seed time and harvest. The men appointed by Mr. Green as chairmen for the various districts are as follows:—

First.—The Outlook line and those associations west and south of Moose Jaw, and the main line west from Regina. Chairman, H. Darrell.

Second.—The Soo line south from Drinkwater to North Portal. Chairman, Frank Shepperd.

Third.—The Estevan line from Estevan to Gainsboro and the nearby associations. Chairman, Wm. Noble.

Fourth.—The Arcola line from Antler to Regina, including the Stoughton branch. F. M. Gates.

Fifth.—The Wolsley-Reston line and the C.N.R. from the Manitoba boundary to Regina. Jas. Robertson.

Sixth.—The C.P.R. main line from Regina east to the Manitoba boundary. A. G. Hawkes.

Seventh.—The Kirkella line and nearby associations north to Lanigan. Mr. Fletcher.

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line, and those south of Moose Jaw, west from Regina, line from Estevan nearby associations, south from Drinkwater. 4th.—The Arcola line, including the C.N.R. from the to Regina, 6th.— from Regina east andary. 7th.—The nearby associations 8th.—The C.N.R. katoon. 9th.—The ewan east to the 10th. The C.P.R. katoon to the Mani.—The C.N.R. east to the Manitoba om Warman north east to Valparaiso, running west out western boundary

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F. W. GREEN.

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