

Secretary McKenzie's Report

The following is the report of the Secretary, Roderick McKenzie, at the Manitoba Grain Growers' Convention at Brandon on January 8

As compared to 1911, the receipts for membership dues shows a slight increase. Five new branches were organized, but to offset that gain there are a larger number of branches that did not send in dues than in any former year. The activity of our secretaries in forwarding dues in the first half of the year gave indication of renewed activity, as the amounts received were much higher than the corresponding period of the previous year. This early activity, however, was not maintained during the last half of the year, no doubt largely

portant work to engage our attention for the present.

Another encouraging feature of the year's operation is the increased number of our branches which hold regular meetings at stated periods. Where adequate preparation is made by the officers of the association to provide suitable programs for those meetings; they prove a marked success. In many instances the meetings of the Grain Growers' Associations have become the social centre of the community in which they are held. They become responsible for a development in the social side of farm life. They train members to interest themselves in public questions. They become the happy medium for building of character and training for usefulness.

Looking To The Future

One lesson we are to learn from the last eighteen months' experience is that if we are to fill the functions that the Grain Growers' association should perform in laying the foundation for a better and purer democracy, we will need to make a change in our system of organization. The methods employed in the early stages of the development of the

movement fail to meet the case at the present stage. It is quite apparent that the Grain Growers' movement is emerging from the shock it received some eighteen months ago, where some of our members were enticed by other influences from the allegiance they owe to themselves and the Grain Growers' movement. Grain growers are recognizing the baseness of abandoning their own organization at a time when it needs their help most. That interests who enjoy special privileges at the expense of the common people have become more aggressive from the fact that they had been able to make a split in the ranks of the farmers' movement at a critical period when questions of vital importance were to be decided is evident. They flatter themselves that the farmers' organization is no longer a barrier to their exploiting the common people. It is gratifying to observe, however, that there are indications that this temporary back-set has already reacted and is forming a basis for a more vigorous propaganda and stronger demand being made for economic freedom.

It would seem sound wisdom if this convention would devote a good deal of time to the working of a comprehensive scheme of organization along educational and co-operative lines, that would draw the rural population into closer relationship for the improvements of social conditions surrounding farm life. It is part of wisdom for the grain

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growers to adapt themselves to changed conditions. Hitherto we have been slow in doing so, but the exigencies surrounding the conditions under which we market our products and secure commodities for our homes and farms, demand a closer and more intelligent interest on the part of the farmers in everything that relates to the distribution of these commodities, to the end that the enormous and apparently unnecessary waste that now obtains between producers and consumers, if not totally eliminated, at least be reduced to a minimum.

Obstinacy is the mule among the passions—a mistake of nature.—P. S. Dupont de Nemours.



R. McKENZIE, Secretary
Manitoba Grain Growers' Association

due to the harrassing conditions encountered by farmers in securing their crop, by adverse climatic conditions and lack of proper farm help. Last month, however, showed a great revival of interest. Those branches that have held their annual meetings report more interest in the questions represented by the Grain Growers' movement than in any former year.

Contributions to Central

Since the Manitoba Grain Growers' association was formed, the branches have contributed to the Central Association dues as follows:

1903.....	\$ 703.80
1904.....	977.40
1905.....	1,618.00
1906.....	1,889.60
1907.....	1,847.00
1908.....	2,933.60
1909.....	2,823.80
1910.....	3,774.45
1911.....	2,548.45
1912.....	2,555.47

\$21,671.92

An average of \$2,176 a year. A very insignificant amount when you consider the magnitude of the problems that confront us, and with which we are expected to join issue. The issue is a conflict with privileged interests and for the Reign of Right and Justice. Those who desire that the Reign of Right should triumph must put themselves and their substance into the conflict. We need money, but our greater need is men—men who will put themselves, their manhood, into the struggle for economic liberty.

Increase in Co-operation

The feature of the year's operation is the increased number of our local branches, which are supplying their members with staple commodities on the co-operative plan. This feature of our work is being developed from year to year, and has now reached the stage where it seems to be necessary to give this co-operative movement some central authority to give it direction and ensure it a wider measure of success. Every effort should be strained in the future to foster and encourage this movement. Thinking men amongst us begin to realize that the problems of the future will only be solved by a higher form of co-operative effort among the producing classes. Training for this higher co-operative effort should be the most im-

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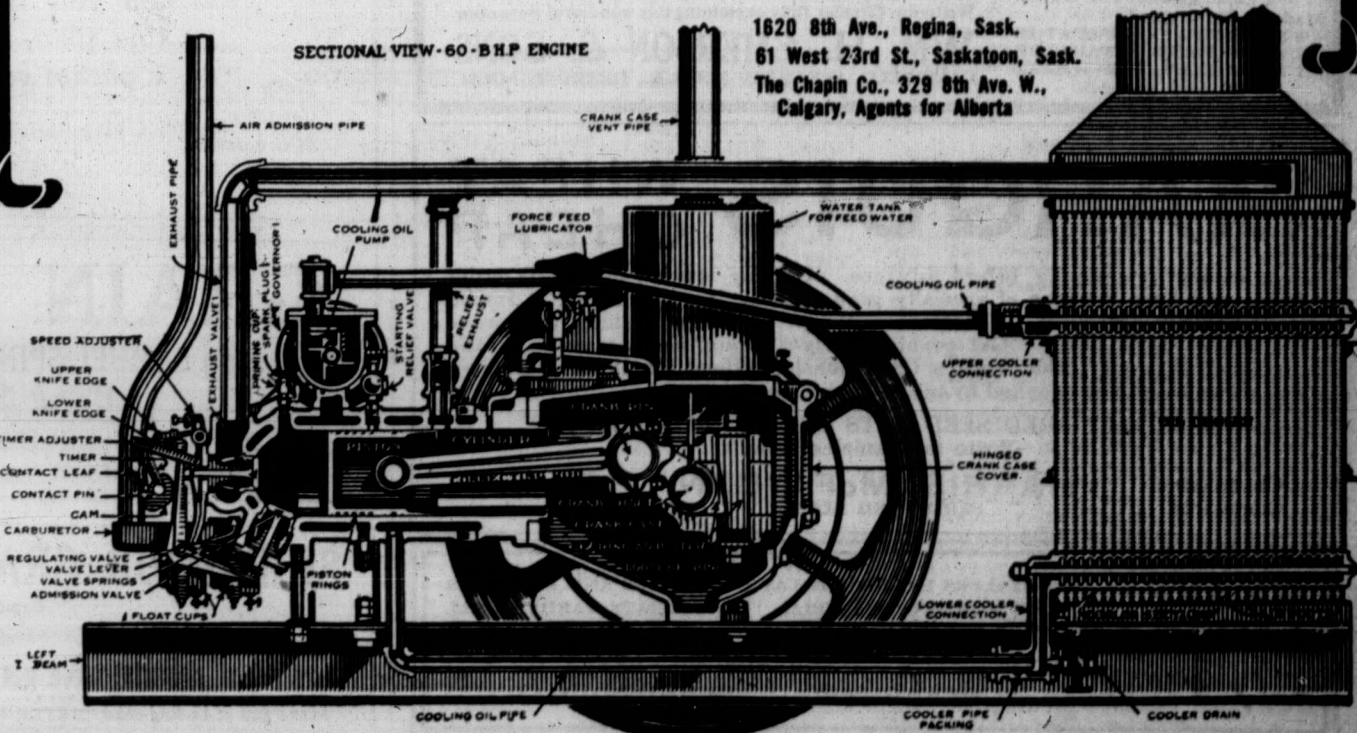
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