

A ROUSING CONVENTION

The Grain Growers of Springfield district met in convention on Friday, March 16, in the Presbyterian church at Hazelridge. The meeting opened about 3.30 p.m. with Mr. John Holland, the district president in the chair and an attendance of about thirty-five. The first matter taken up was the National Platform issued by the Canadian Council of Agriculture. After a short address by W. R. Wood, of Neepawa, dealing with the main principles of that platform, there was a free and very complete discussion of the measures proposed. While some details came in for criticism, the general feeling was strongly in favor of adopting the platform entire.

After an address by Mr. Robt. Fisher, reviewing the work of the year, the election of officers was proceeded with as follows:—President, John Fisher, Hazelridge; Vice-President, Robt. Edmunds, Oakbank; Secretary, P. H. Hudson, Plympton; Representatives on Central Board, H. W. Lathwell, R. R. No. 3, Winnipeg. The convention then adjourned and were entertained to tea by the local branch at Mr. Scott's. The evening session opened at 8.15 p.m. with Mr. John Fisher, newly elected president in the chair. The following resolutions after some discussion were adopted:—

1—Resolved that whereas we have deliberately discussed in detail the reform policies as outlined in the Farmers' Platform, and whereas we consider they will minister to our best interests we hereby pledge ourselves to support said policies.

2—Resolved that all grain and farm produce should be sold on the central system, rather than by the bushel of odd weights as are now used.

3—Resolved that whereas no organized attempt has been made to find employment for returned soldiers in our district, and whereas no official attempt has been made to deal with the problem of labor shortage, and whereas at present government positions are held by men of physical fitness, fit for military service, and whereas people of alien birth are in many districts refusing to assist in the labor of agricultural production unless at exorbitant and impossible wages, we The Springfield District Grain Growers' Convention call upon the National Service Commission to take immediate action in these matters.

We also suggest to the National Service Commission, the advisability of adopting the plan in operation in the Mother Country, by which women are being employed in many positions for which they are found suitable, but which formerly have been held by men, in order that as large a number as possible of men of military fitness may be released for agricultural production or active military service.

4—Resolved that whereas experience has shown that the existence of forest belts is of great benefit to agricultural production by conserving moisture and sheltering from hot winds; therefore we urge upon the Provincial Department of Agriculture, the imperative need of taking action to promote forestry in the province and especially in those districts where drought is frequently a menace.

Two Stirring Addresses

A musical and literary program had been prepared for the occasion, which with two addresses made up a very pleasant and profitable evening's entertainment. The first speaker, W. R. Wood, of Neepawa, dealt with some of the general principles embodied in the Grain Growers' movement in its relationship to the Empire, the Nation, the Province and the local community. He was followed by Rev. R. A. Hoey, of Dugald, Manitoba, who gave a magnificent address on "Citizenship" especially in relationship to the modern development of the international spirit. He said the task of the next twenty-five or thirty years is the task of beating the national spirit from which we are slowly detaching ourselves into the international spirit of human brotherhood—the citizenship of humanity.

The difference between the present and the ideal is the difference between a pile of bricks and a beautiful cathedral—between discord and unity. We are not at one in the world. We need the unifying spirit of a practical and humane cosmopolitanism. We must begin scientifically to relate the elemental facts of our disposal. We have tried the despotic method and the political method and the theological method, but the world wants the application of the scientific method—a method in which due weight is given

to all the data and in which blind injustice is not permitted to dominate.

God has made the earth very solid and very round, and yet there are different zones. For the fullness of its life each zone requires the best of what the others produce. And while the zones are separated in space, they are united by great commercial waterways across the intervening seas. It is of the first importance for the successful existence of a united humanity that these great channels of world commerce be maintained inviolate. And they who with superlative audacity would place barriers upon these highways of the world's life must be condemned as traitorous to the wellbeing of the race. The commonweal of mankind stands inexorably behind the demand for Free Trade.

But one says Free Trade will build up Germany. What of it? If there is any task before the world today greater than the task of crushing—crushing the German military spirit, it is the task of going to the people of that great, sorrowing, burdened, heart-broken land, when it is fully chastened and purged of the demoniac possession under which its human soul has been enthralled, and building it up again into the glorious fabric of a unified and coherent mankind. Let Free Trade come, that as soon as possible after the war it may help to bind up the broken heart of the world.

It is the man who thinks that a Scotchman is better than any other man on earth or that an Englishman is just a degree or two nearer absolute perfection than all the rest of the race that is a danger to the common welfare.

The history of our children are given to study at school is narrow and warping and selfish. It will help to make them conceited and vain-glorious—but it will never give them the world consciousness, the international spirit, the feeling of brotherhood for all mankind.

Religion Falls Far Short

Religion has not done all, is not doing all it should be doing to lead us to unity. It has too long countenanced this damnable pagan system of overlapping of denominations. The discords and suspicions and jealousies that have been allowed to separate us are a standing disgrace to our Christianity. The Irish Orangeman and Roman Catholic are side by side fighting a common enemy in Europe—and they are looking to us for united support. We ought to reach a religion which will support them with a common morality.

There is in our spirit far too much superciliousness, far too much exclusiveness, far too much jingoism. We are not the people we think we are. We are not as civilized nor as Christian as we deem ourselves and many another nation is not so heathen nor so far behind us as we judge.

Sometimes when I pray "Thy kingdom come," I have a vision. It is the vision of a united language, the language of humanity, of a parliament, the parliament of all mankind, of one flag, the union of all the flags, of one church, the church of the living God. And so when we endeavor to cultivate citizenship, let it be the citizenship of the kingdom, the kingdom that is coming, the kingdom for which we labor and pray.

Mr. Hoey's address was listened to with close attention and enthusiastically applauded. The Grain Growers' movement both in Springfield and elsewhere will be well advised to call upon Mr. Hoey again, when sane and carefully reasoned exposition of the modern democratic movement is desired. The singing of the national anthem brought to a close a most inspiring and satisfactory district convention.

RAGOT WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Our Auxiliary has a membership of twenty-three. We hold monthly meetings—meeting on the last Saturday of each month. We missed our meeting in January on account of weather conditions. In February we had the report of the Brandon convention and an address on Temperance and Community work and sewing. Five dozen shirts were

made and twenty-three pairs of socks knit by our members.

Arrangements were made at our March meeting for securing a dressmaker from the M.A.C. for one week to teach cutting and fitting which was carried out and has produced good results. At the April meeting a good paper was given on the cooking of meats and sauces. In May the subject of the Child in the Home was taken up by Mrs. Buckingham.

A lecture was given by Rev. Dr. Johns on Co-operation and Community work was given in June and arrangements completed for having a Girls' Sewing Class where young girls would be taught sewing one afternoon each week for fifteen weeks with Mrs. Maynes as instructor. Miss Crawford of the M.A.C. gave a demonstration of Canning and Preserving to our ladies for our August meeting.

In October arrangements were made for sending Christmas parcels with socks, etc., to our soldiers in the trenches. We also held a bazaar and a ten cent tea in aid of our funds. We had Mrs. Colin H. Campbell with us in our November meeting and an appeal was made for the Sailors' Relief Fund and the response amounted to \$58.00.

Our delegates were appointed to the Brandon Convention at the December meeting and it was arranged to buy wool and flannel for socks and shirts to be made up during the winter for the boys at the front. Our officers for 1917 were elected also at this meeting.

Our receipts for the year were \$191.62 with disbursements of \$191.40.

Up to the present time we have done some knitting and sewing amounting to eighteen shirts, thirteen knit caps, seventeen pairs mitts and thirty-seven pairs socks. We also have made a quilt and sold tickets to the value of \$25.00, the money going to the Red Cross.

We have had a beef ring working successfully for a number of years and have had excellent results. We have also a Union church which is an excellent arrangement for our district and doing much good work.—Ragot Women Grain Growers.

Note:—The sum of \$25.00 has been received at the Central Office to be donated to the Red Cross Fund as the result of the above sale of quilts. We feel sure that much benefit has resulted from this co-operative work on the part of the ladies both in the way of work accomplished and also in the social intercourse enjoyed and the mutual exchange of ideas along helpful lines.

SWAN VALLEY DISTRICT MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Swan Valley district association in Hemming's Hall, Swan River, on Tuesday, April 10, at 2 p.m. A hearty invitation is extended to all farmers who wish to attend this meeting. They will all be made welcome.

Mr. Jno. Livesay, the district secretary, is looking for a good turn out from the branches in his district if weather conditions and the state of the roads makes this possible. Make a little extra effort to attend this meeting of your district workers and make your plans for the year's work.

OVER 300 ATTEND

The Grain Growers of Pincarth held their Annual Social on Friday the 16th, in Waller's Hall, Pincarth. Mrs. A. V. Thomas of Winnipeg gave an address on the objects and aims of the Home Economics Societies. The Pincarth Musical Club gave "The King" as a first number followed by a recitation by Miss V. Honey, a reading by Mrs. R. Horning and a song and encore by Mrs. A. Hill. Mrs. Thomas's address was punctuated by numerous bits of humour which kept the audience in a ripple of laughter and interested to the last word.

Another selection "O Canada" by the Musical Club and a song by Mr. Williams, were followed by a debate "That the time is opportune for school consolidation in Western Canada" with Messrs. A. Hill and Cockburn for the affirmative and Messrs. Griffith and Creighton for the negative. Mrs. A. V. Thomas, Mrs. J. W. Turnbull and Rev. E. Annand

acted as judges and gave a verdict of five points for and five points against.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Hill (the latter of whom has a very pure soprano voice) sang a duet "There's a long, long trail a' winding" which was very heartily encored. Mrs. Horning gave a reading and after a song by Mr. Williams, the Musical Club sang "Good-night, Gentlemen, Good-night." Mrs. George Fowler accompanied.

Lunch was served and after an interval for social intercourse, the floor was cleared for dancing and music supplied by Mrs. Fowler and Messrs. Creighton and Crowhurst. We think the attendance as stated above indicates the popularity of the Pincarth Annual Social.—Pincarth Express.

LITTLE SOURIS WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The women of Little Souris held a meeting on March 15 for the purpose of organizing a Women's Auxiliary of the Little Souris Grain Growers' Association. Ten members joined at this first meeting and as soon as the roads improve we expect more will be able to attend and join our auxiliary. Mrs. A. G. Thornton was elected President; Mrs. J. McKelvie, vice-president, and Miss Gladys Thornton, secretary.

Note:—It augurs well for the future of the Little Souris Grain Growers' Association when the women are interested enough to organize an auxiliary. We are very glad to welcome them and recognize the good they may do in our association work and in many ways raise the standard of a higher community life in the districts organized.

LONGBURN ENDORSES THE FARMERS' PLATFORM

At the last meeting of the Longburn G.G.A. the Farmers' Platform was taken up for discussion. It was all endorsed with the exception of clause 2, plank 2, and we decided to leave this part until we would have more definite information regarding it. This clause refers to having an income tax. This will be taken up at a later meeting after we get some information on this clause.—Extract from a letter from G. G. McArthur, Sec.

CARMAN DISTRICT HOLDS CONCERT AND SALE

A Sale of Work, Concert and Dance was held in the Oremule School House near Dinsmore on March 2, in aid of the Red Cross Fund. It proved a great success. After a lengthy program Mr. H. Hedger, one of our grain growers' commenced to sell the many articles contributed. It was evident at the commencement that the farmers were all well supplied with the needful—as bidding was brisk. Two quilts donated by Mrs. McCracken and Miss Coleclough realized a good sum. An autograph cushion made by Mrs. Maurice Davies, our sec-treas brought in \$45.00. The whole result of the sale was \$291.00.

ROARING RIVER MEETING

The March meeting of the above association was held on Wednesday the 7th March and altho the attendance was not large yet a very profitable time together with lots of business was disposed of. The opposition of the Provincial government with regard to the Recall Bill came up for discussion. On the Friday night following we held our Annual Concert and Social and we had a packed house which is very gratifying as the proceeds were for patriotic purposes. Our District President, Mr. A. McClary was with us on this occasion and acted as chairman. The program was of the usual Roaring River quality and reflected great credit on the committee in charge; credit is also due the three ladies in charge of the refreshments and who helped to make the evening a success.

JOHN LIVESAY,

Sec-Treas.

A NEW BRANCH FORMED

A branch of the G.G. Association has been organized at Ppura Creek (near Dauphin) with fourteen members at present for which the secretary has forwarded the proportion of fees to the Central Office. They expect to do some co-operative buying among their members. Mr. H. A. Timm has been appointed secretary-treasurer of this new branch, which we hope to see increase in membership in the very near future. Our best wishes are extended to them in their new activities.