

# Saskatchewan Grain Growers

## Resolutions and Reply

As a result of crop conditions in Saskatchewan, arising from frost, drought, and drift, a number of locals have adopted resolutions, which have been sent to Central, requesting that the Dominion and provincial governments be appealed to for seed grain and other supplies to such farmers as are suffering from the above effects. Amongst those who have sent in such appeals are the locals of Govenlock, North Gully and Hickleigh, copies of which have been forwarded to the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

### Reply From Hon. W. R. Motherwell

Under date of the 8th inst., the following reply has been received by the Central from Hon. W. R. Motherwell, which not only appears to be an answer to these resolutions, but is pregnant with suggestion of methods whereby some of the evils complained of and being experienced by Saskatchewan Grain Growers' may in future be obviated:

"Your favor of the 5th inst., has just come to hand. Replying I note that you say with respect to the crop situation in the Govenlock district. This is probably one of the driest portions of our province this year, and that is saying something. Unfortunately, however, our friends down there seem to be very averse to taking up the only tillage system that will lead to success, that is summerfallowing. Not only was seed, feed, and grub distributed in that area by the Dominion Government in 1914, but the Saskatchewan Government expended some \$50,000 or \$60,000 in the same area running eastward along the Montana boundary and the first six townships, this last spring. I told the farmers on that occasion that unless they would take hold of the tillage methods that have been found advisable in all our open plain areas, there was very little use of them continuing in the grain growing business. They also insisted on sowing too much to the acre, particularly of oats, which in a dry year proves ruinous. We are making inquiries as to what kind of prepared land the seed we supplied them last spring was sown on, and then we will better know whether they had any right to expect a crop or not. We find that even in that dry area in a dry year like this, immediately following a previous dry one, that where a man has buckled down and had a good summerfallow, he has beaten out the drought and has prospects of an eight or ten bushel crop to the acre. I merely mention these matters to show you that governments must be assured in the future that reasonably proper tillage methods are being used before they would be justified in continuing this government seed distribution much further.

### Grain Should be Retained

"I might add that we have written the Ottawa authorities and Dr. McGill's office advising them that in our estimation all local supplies of seed grain should be retained in the interior until local seed requirements are taken care of. Later on it can be determined how best to make disposition of such seed. It is to be hoped that the same mistake will not be made as occurred in 1914, when all the clean local seed was first shipped out and then dirtier stuff shipped back at a much higher price. I have no authority for stating that any plan of government seed distribution will be adopted to take care of the present situation. I can go this far, however, that in my opinion the indiscriminate distribution of seed grain in the past has been a blunder and has been largely responsible for the poor tillage methods that have been practiced since. My own opinion is that if there is to be any seed distributed, by whatsoever authority, there are three conditions at least that should be complied with. First, the retention of the local seed supplies in the locality until the seed requirements are filled. Second, supervision by the municipal authorities to see that unworthy or undeserving applicants do not get seed, or do not get it to throw around on land that

## Conducted Officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by the Secretary

J. B. Musselman, Regina, Sask.

is not properly prepared. Third, that a smaller allowance be made per acre than what is usually sown in the more humid localities like, say, around Regina and East thereof.

### Winter's Provisions

"With regard to the winter's provision. Our labor department is distributing posters throughout that and adjoining areas, inviting all available labor to come into the crop districts and help those who have a harvest, take care of it. We are endeavoring, as far as possible, to supply all our own harvest labor from the dried out and frozen areas, giving them the first preference. For your information regarding this, I am enclosing copy of a wire Premier Martin this morning sent W. W. Cory, relative to this matter."

### Premier Martin's Wire

Regina, August 8, 1918.  
W. W. Cory, Esq.

Interior Department,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Your wire. Walker's report not correct. Government has not cancelled request for farm labor outside province. Understand rates west of Sudbury yet in force and that harvest excursions already arranged for from Ontario will be successfully run off. Hope also to secure a small labor supply from B.C. A fair number of soldiers on harvest furlough, and still a larger number from the dried out and frozen areas. Volunteers from our urban centres may also be anticipated. Aggregate labor supply from these various sources, will probably obviate necessity of drawing upon United States this season.

(Signed) W. M. Martin.

### Set Price for Substitutes

Recently a resolution was sent through the Central, from the North Gully Grain Growers' Association, to the Canada Food Board, placing themselves on record as being opposed to the exorbitant prices charged for wheat flour substitutes, and expressed the opinion that the price of such substitutes should be fixed on the same basis as wheat, according to the cost of production. Accompanying the resolution was the following statement of prices obtained on July 23: Rice, 3 pounds for 40 cents; corn meal, 10 pounds for 20 cents; rolled oats, 20 pounds for \$1.45.

A copy of this resolution and the accompanying price list was forwarded to the Canada Food Board, which was replied to as follows, bearing the date of August 8:—

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter covering resolution of North Gully Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. This matter of substitutes is receiving the most earnest consideration of the board. We have already named prices for substitutes, which we think are fair, in a general way, for the Dominion. Retailers protest that these prices are altogether too low. (Signed) S. G. Todd, secretary to Canada Food Board."

### Doing Big Business

Amongst the well-managed and prosperous co-operative societies in the southeastern portion of the province is the Percy Co-operative Society, which has a list of 65 shareholders. This society was organized in the fall of 1914 and represents a group of locals in District No. 3, consisting of Kiseby, Percy, Warmley, Gap View and Kitchener. The headquarters are at Kiseby, which are under the capable management of J. W. Barker, who is in the fortunate position of being able to devote considerable time and attention to its conduct and operation. As a result of their united efforts they have warehouse accommodation, which is valued at \$1,000 and all paid for.

In addition to coal and cement sheds they have recently installed a weigh-scale at a cost of \$450. The scales are enclosed in a comfortable, windproof shed with a small office and stove adjoining, where farmers can have their grain weighed in shelter and comfort from the winter blasts. Last year the Percy Co-operative Society transacted a \$20,000 business, including 6,000 pounds of whitefish, which was imported from Edmonton and retailed at 12 cents per pound. For the present year they have already handled ten cars of coal and have six more cars ordered for summer delivery. According to the statement of Mr. Barker they expect to handle 40 cars of coal in all before the end of the present year.

Considerable business has also been transacted by the Percy Co-operative Society in apples, lumber, cement and other building material.

### Rose Plain Local Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Rose Plain local took place on Tuesday evening, August 6, in the church opposite the Briarcliffe schoolhouse, a noticeable feature being the large number of ladies present, many of whom, combining pleasure with business, had brought their knitting along. As the secretary of the local was unavoidably absent, the meeting had to begin without the usual reading of the minutes, and the chairman called on Mr. Broadley, of the Central office, to give an address. Mr. Broadley spoke at length on the educational policy of the Association. He pointed out how, through its educational work the Association had brought about better and improved conditions of living on the farm, and a better understanding by the farmers of their duties as citizens, how they had striven to enable the farmer to market his produce at a better price so as to be able to obtain a better return from his always hazardous work, and how the association finally had educated the farmer to be a better business man. But a great work along educational lines had still to be done, especially with regard to the administration of public affairs. One great thing that the association had helped to accomplish was the abolition of the bars. Through this achievement politics had become somewhat cleaner, as the sinister and unsavory influence of the liquor interests had been removed from our public life. But this was only the taking of the front line trenches, as other powerful interests were still having their influence on public events.

As a result of an appeal by Mr. Broadley a number of annual members and life members of the association were obtained. The rest of the evening was spent in a social manner, the national anthem bringing the proceedings to a close.

### An Overseas Life Member

At a supper held in connection with the Wheat Plains local recently, the result of the membership drive instituted after the last convention was announced, and proved to be most satisfactory. When the drive was initiated it was decided to choose sides, the side which obtained the least number of new members to pay for the supper. At the time fixed for the supper about 200 people assembled at the house of Mr. A. B. Grunerud, the president, and thoroughly enjoyed the good things provided. A cake had been provided, labelled S.G.G.A., and this was put up by auction, and knocked down for \$5.00. The winner again presented it for sale, and this occurred four times in succession, until \$26 all told had been realized. The total proceeds amounted to \$74.85, which was donated to the Red Cross. The number of members previous to the

drive was 27. As a result of the efforts of the members this has now been raised to 82, which includes 12 life members, and reflects great credit to the members as a whole, but especially to the energetic secretary, Vera Holm-lund, and the directors of the local.

A pleasing feature in connection with this local is the presentation of a life membership in the association to P. H. Bentley, a member who for the last three years has been serving overseas, from whom a letter of thanks and grateful appreciation was recently received. This is a kind of thing that many other locals might imitate, as it would certainly do much to help our men to "carry on" in the great task in which they are engaged. Thomas Sales, a member of the executive, being at Lorneburg, at the time, on business for the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., was incidentally able to be present at the supper, and he delivered an address in his well-known trenchant style which gave much pleasure to those present, and the effects of which will no doubt be seen in the greater enthusiasm of the members.

### Local Control of Feed and Seed

The following resolution has been received at the Central office from the secretary of the Anserley local, viz:—

Resolved that in view of crop failure in parts of the province, that Central be asked immediately to petition the Dominion Government to receive applications for feed and seed.

Further, that municipal councils be official agents for verifying claims, and also receiving claims, and be authorized on behalf of the Dominion Government to make necessary purchases locally of seed and feed grain when obtainable, thus avoiding the unnecessary shipping out and shipping back again which has been done in former years.

The proposal in the last paragraph of the above resolution is a most interesting one, and if it could be carried out would accomplish the object in view with a maximum of dispatch, and a minimum of cost and inconvenience, and it would be done, moreover, by those who are on the spot and who are thus fully acquainted with local conditions. The resolution will be submitted to the Dominion Government as requested.

### Livestock Sales Increasing

It is satisfactory to note that the government livestock sales are increasing considerably. During the week of the Regina Exhibition no less than 115 animals were sold or ordered through the livestock branch of the department of agriculture. It would appear from this that the farmers of the province are realizing the importance of having side lines in order to reduce the risk of failure through loss of crops. We quite recognize that there are two sides to this question, and that the loss of crop may in some cases create a difficulty in regard to stock, owing to the resulting shortage of feed. This has in fact occurred in many districts this year, as many of our people know to their cost. The Dominion government is, however, doing all that is possible to relieve the situation, and has made arrangements by which stock and feed may be shipped free of cost, the government bearing one-half of the charges, and the railways the other half, the same applying to haying outfits also. We have often been told that where there is a will there is always a way, and this is being exemplified in this case. The way the government is going about this matter should do much to eliminate any feeling of hesitation that farmers may have in regard to going into the livestock industry on account of such difficulties as we have mentioned. Shortage of water may, of course, present even a greater difficulty, but wherever it is possible we hope to see a great development of the livestock branch of agriculture in the near future.