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PICNIC SEASON COMING

Yours to hand re picnic. Our association decided at a meeting on March 6 that our picnic should be held annually and the date was fixed for the 20th of June and according to your program I do not see that it will interfere with either our program or yours. We held one last year on Coronation Day, which was a huge success in every way except that our speaker, Mr. George Langley, through a misunderstanding, arrived the day after, and we were disappointed not to have him, but he promised us to be with us this time, so please don't go and try to send him to some other place that day.

One of our ideas is to get all the schools to give the children a holiday on that day, get the teachers to train them in drills and a few national patriotic songs, a little song or drill by each school and then a few songs all together. We are arranging for sports for everybody, young and old, male and female, sack race, wheelbarrow race for boys, boot and shoe race, egg and spoon race, thread the needle, knocking nails in for the women, obstacle race, three-legged race, fat man's race, etc., for the men, and so on; bouquets of wild flowers and garden flowers for the girls. We will try to give everybody a good time and lots of fun sandwiched with education, organization and co-operation. If we get the children anxious to go to our picnic, looking forward to the day, talking about it when they get home from school, we are absolutely sure of getting the fathers and mothers, besides we are planting the seeds in the minds of the youngsters, and who knows what the harvest will be. We are aiming at making our picnic the Red Letter day of the year, something to be talked about, something to be remembered and something to be looked forward to as the years roll by.

We have Dominion Day, Labor Day, etc., why not Farmers' Day? A special day set aside every year as a public holiday, a celebration day for the oldest industry in the world. Picnics could be held all over, the railways could give reduced rates, associations could exchange speakers and so on. Personally I don't favor the big Central picnic idea, it is too far for the wives and children, and starting early on a long drive, and getting home late with a lot of sleepy youngsters and a tired wife is apt to mar the pleasure of the day, and a picnic without the wife and children is not worthy of the name. (Hear, hear—F.W.G.) After a few years of co-operation when we can all afford motor cars, things may be different, but some of our members still own oxen, and although they are slow, there is one advantage about them, when I meet a team of bulls I can stay on the road, but when I see a motor car coming or hear the toot, toot behind, I have to take to the prairie or the wheat fields or anywhere else and leave the road I helped to make for the man with the motor car. (Train the cattle to stay on the road.—F. W. G.)

Your circular, "To Think About," is certainly all right. Listening at Convention to all the resolutions, one could not help thinking we had far too many points just touched upon, far too much beating the air, that if we could only concentrate our efforts on a few things, if we could only learn our strength, and find how to use it most effectively, we would be better off. If we could once deliver the vote of our people and show the politicians that we did control that vote, (hear, hear) they would take far more notice of us. You quote the Old Country, so will I. The Labor party for years tried depositions, lobbying, etc., but they had no real power until they put their hands in their pockets and contributed a few cents a week from each man belonging to their unions and elected their own men to represent them inside. Then there was something

doing, and I don't believe there will be very much doing for us until we do likewise. (What! one of ourselves!—F. W. G.)

Re Commodities.—If all our locals buying twine and other things could be banded together, so that the Central body could ask for tenders for say 300 or 400 cars of twine, coal or apples, or any other commodity, there is no doubt better terms could be got for these articles than by each local securing its own car. I have thought that business on these lines would be done through the Co-operative Elevator Co.

Why should not the farmers of the East sell their apples by the cars or hundreds of cars direct to the farmers of the West and eliminate the middle man completely? Why should not the Co-operative Elevator Co. at the present time be prepared to receive and fill orders for carloads of lumber where enough men can be got together to order such lumber.

While many of our members have high ideals and are content to keep on working faithfully, believing that some day, maybe centuries hence, that their work will receive its reward, we have others, and many of them too, who want to be doing, want to be seeing



The Farmers' Platform at a Grain Growers' Picnic

something accomplished for themselves, and many outside our associations all together who are from Missouri, and want to be shown the direct advantage of membership, and we must do something along that line so that we may grow and develop our full strength.

THOMAS SALES,

Sec'y Park G.G.A.

P.S.—We will continue to think about.

Results of Hustling

Enclosed please find \$7.50 membership fees from Lewvan association and \$1.00 for membership tickets. Mr. Hawkes was at Lewvan April 20 finishing the organizing of an Elevator Co., and organized a branch of the G. G.A., enrolling fifteen members. Officers were elected as follows: President, Alex. Johnston; vice-president, J. M. Bailey; secretary-treasurer, C. C. Downs; directors, Ed. Harp, L. S. Har-

ker, L. W. Van Nostrand, Albert Harrop, Harry Winder, Charles Eckstrand. Kindly forward us literature and information as how to proceed with our meetings.

C. C. DOWNS,

Sec'y Lewvan G.G.A.

A Libel on the Name Unity

After much discussion the following resolution was adopted without a dissenting voice:—

"Whereas great injury has been done to Western agricultural interests through the defeat of Reciprocity by the Eastern provinces, therefore be it resolved that we favor separation of as many Western provinces as possible from Confederation with the East and the establishment of a separate self-governing Dominion."

The association instructed me to send the resolution to you and a request that it be published in The Guide. We are a little behind financially, but expect to be able to donate some money to you soon.

WILLIAM SIERRS,

Sec'y Unity G.G.A.

At a recent meeting of Beatty G.G.A. a petition was framed and signed by

Directors:

At Large:—E. A. Partridge, Sisseton; F. W. Green, Moose Jaw; George Langley, Maymont; A. G. Hawkes, Pelly; J. B. Musselman, Cupar; James Robinson, Wapato.

District:—No. 1, O. R. Gould, Manor; No. 2, Thomas Allcock, Belle Plaine; No. 3, Frank Burton, Harbert; No. 4, J. P. Reid, Oreadia; No. 5, W. H. Lilwall, Colonsay; No. 6, G. H. McKee, Fertile Valley; No. 7, C. W. Hawkins, Valparaiso; No. 8, A. Knox, Prince Albert; No. 9, A. J. Greenhill, Denholm.

We note you have been very busy and unable to canvass for members. It is a great pity your members could not be aroused to the importance of more members in our association and regular meetings for study of the questions of the day. Rest assured, if your representatives were not at work continually there would not be so much legislation passed in favor of the farmers as there is. The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator act would not have been enacted, and the proposed recent obnoxious clauses in the Grain Act would certainly have become law if your representatives had not been on the ground at Ottawa and the question invariably asked is: "How many members have you in your association, how many do you represent, and are they unanimous on this question?"

We note you have petitioned the Superintendent of the C.N.R. for the installation of an agent at Beatty. The law in this matter is fixed by the amount of freight incoming and outgoing. The business offered at a station must be fifteen thousand dollars per annum incoming freight and thirteen thousand dollars outgoing freight. Whenever the business exceeds this amount the railway is bound to appoint an agent. Secure the data and present your case to the railway company, and failing response, apply to the Railway Commission.

Yours truly,

F. W. G.

Yours to congratulate. Last Saturday, April 16 the farmers of Ernfold formed ourselves into a local branch of the G.G.A. The committee have instructed me to obtain all the information necessary to start us going, so kindly forward all the information you can that will help us as beginners. The following officers were elected: President, T. Stott; vice-president, John Barrows; secretary-treasurer, S. F. Cosser; executive, S. Adamson, Harry Robinson, J. T. Byce.

SIDNEY F. COSSER,

Sec'y Ernfold G.G.A.

I am enclosing \$2.00, being half of membership fees for four more new members. This brings our membership up to forty-one.

A meeting was held at Lindgreen's Hall, Edam, on April 27, when it was decided to hold meetings monthly, the last Saturday in each month till harvest, at the above named hall. The following resolution was moved by J. Stegehuis, seconded by E. Agema, and carried unanimously:—

"That we endorse the actions of the Grain Growers' representatives at Ottawa in getting the evil clause struck out of the amended Grain Act re car distribution, also it is urged that the Government be urged to get free trade in implements, cheaper money for the farmers, to push the construction of the Hudson Bay railroad and to operate as well as own the road."

A. W. WINDO,

Sec'y Edam G.G.A.

A branch of the G.G.A. was formed here on Saturday evening, April 6, and twenty-five members were enrolled. Mr. James Maxwell gave a short talk on the benefits and aims of the association, which was greatly appreciated. The following officers were appointed: President, E. A. Craddock; vice-president, A. Maxwell; secretary-treasurer, R. C. Gothier; auditor, D. Maxwell; executive, W. Lawrence, E. Hind, K. Broeder, C. Vick, D. Maincaster, F. Foss. It was decided to hold monthly meetings in the school house. Keen interest is shown by all and it is anticipated that the membership will double within a short time. Enclosed please find \$12.50 membership fees.

ROY C. GOTHIER,
Sec'y Stonehenge G.G.A.

W. T. PALMER, Esq.:—

We herewith enclose our receipt for \$7.00, membership fees from Beatty association as per yours of the 2nd inst.

W. T. PALMER,

Sec'y Beatty G.G.A.

Enclosed please find money order for \$7.00, being membership fees from Beatty G.G.A. We have at present fourteen paid up members, and hope to be able to secure more. My time has been taken up so much with other things I have not had time to make a canvass, but hope to do so soon.