

Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President, Culross, Man., to whom all communications for this page should be sent

ROARING RIVER BRANCH

John Livesey, secretary Roaring River Branch, in a letter enclosing the following breezy report of their August meeting, says: "I think our branch will double its membership this year, and we are looking for a bigger increase next year." This branch is a "live wire," largely because they hold monthly business meetings regularly.

Our August ordinary meeting was held on Friday, the 28th, and altho the members did not turn out in full force, on account of being busy harvesting, yet we had a lively meeting. Our intentions were to start some scheme of buying co-operatively our groceries and dry goods thru the Winnipeg Co-operative Society, but on account of the busy season it will have to stand over until the September meeting, when you will find us all there ready for business.

This year we got our binder twine thru the Grain Growers' Grain Co., Ltd., thereby saving our members a considerable sum of money, much to the discomfort of the local agent (for twine), as one of our members found out when he went to get a repair for his binder.

Glad to hear that the Grain Growers' Grain Company are forming an implement department. I would like to throw out the suggestion that each branch of the Association act as an agency for the sale of implements. It is sure to bring new members, as our membership has increased this year with this branch getting the binder twine. That is the aim of this branch— "Death to the middleman." All who got the twine are more than satisfied with it, not a single complaint was heard. The reply to all queries as to how they liked the twine, was, "The best I ever had."

Swan River, Aug. 29, 1914.

BANKS SHOULD HELP FARMERS

It is generally conceded that there is a large shrinkage in the cereal crops in the Prairie Provinces this year as compared to the average yields for the last ten years. No useful purpose can be served at the moment by a discussion of the causes that led to this unfortunate shrinkage. What concerns us most is that steps be taken to make the most out of what we have.

It is admitted that our methods of marketing the crop have resulted every year in depreciating its value. That Canada has lost millions in the past thru the necessity of producers forcing their grain on the market immediately upon its being harvested and threshed. The problem, therefore, confronting us is to devise some method that will enable farmers to distribute the selling of their grain over several months of the year. There are many factors that contribute to the undesirable conditions that now obtain in the marketing of our grain, the most outstanding one being the habit of having all liabilities fall due in October and November. The products of the farm practically being the only means of liquidating these liabilities necessitates the farmers selling their products in these months whether they desire to do so or not. It is a common saying among farmers that if they will not sell their grain, cattle and other products to meet these maturing obligations the "sheriff will sell for them." In addition to the fact that maturing obligations have to be met, the cost of production has also to be provided for as soon as the crop is secured. It, therefore, follows that unless the growers are able to secure advances on the security of the crop they will have to force it on the market.

Apart from the general situation arising from economic conditions of our own creation there are special reasons due to abnormal conditions created by the disturbance in Europe why manufacturers, wholesalers, loan companies and other financial institutions should exercise patience in collecting their accounts and permit farmers to dispose of

their grain in a way that will produce the best results.

Parliament has granted the Dominion Government power to issue Dominion notes to meet the contingency that has arisen. The Dominion Government authorized banks to issue an increased circulation to enable them to meet possible abnormal demands upon their resources. Press reports indicate that the government is coming to the assistance of the Canadian Northern Railway Company by granting them Dominion notes on the security of their bonds to enable them to meet large obligations already incurred and continue construction. There seem to be no indications that special efforts are being made to meet the necessities of the industry that forms the basis of Canadian prosperity. Authority has been given to banks by the last revision to the Bank Act to loan money to farmers on security of their grain on the farm. This power

was given to the banks by parliament to meet ordinary conditions arising in our farming operations. Now that extraordinary conditions have arisen and the government has come to the assistance of the banks, it is to be hoped that the banks and other financial institutions will come to the assistance of the grain growers and help them to carry over a portion of their crop so as to increase its value and benefit themselves and the general trade of Canada. In order to make the best of our grain crop the consuming market has to be supplied for twelve months in the year. A part of the crop has to be carried in store somewhere by someone in order to meet this demand. There is no place in which our grain can be carried as cheaply as in a granary on the farm. It is no heavier drain on the banks or the finances of the country to carry the grain in the farmers' granaries than to carry it in terminal or storage elevators. The banks have to carry the grain in either case. To the ordinary mind the risk involved in lending individual grain dealers in large amounts is much greater than lending to a large number of farmers in smaller amounts. True, this is an innovation in banking, but it may help bankers as well as farmers to get out of ruts.

There is another feature that is very important and should not be lost sight of. Compelling farmers to draw their grain to the market immediately it is threshed interferes with their fall plowing and prevents them from preparing the land for next year's crop.

The continued prosperity of Canada depends on increasing the production of farm wealth. Apart from that obvious fact due to economic conditions created in Great Britain and the continent of Europe thru the war, which will be vastly intensified if prolonged, make it incumbent on Canada to make special efforts to largely increase her output of foodstuffs for the coming year to supply the needs of Britain's artisans in the industrial field as well as that of her army in the battlefield. It is easily possible that we can help the Empire in this way as much, if not more, than by sending her men and money.

R. McKENZIE.

If I die, the world shall miss me but a little, because it hath such store of better men; I shall miss it less, because it hath so much ill, and I shall have so much happiness.—Joseph Hall.

Every man of us has all the centuries in him.—Lord Morley.

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