



# SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

This Section of the Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers Association

## PICNIC AT GRAND VIEW

A stranger passing by Grand View school house, about nine miles west of Tugaskie, on Friday, June 24, might well have wondered what was going on. The school house had taken on a holiday appearance, being decorated with flags, both Union Jack and Stars and Stripes, while the Tugaskie brass band dispensed sweet music to the crowd. Men and women, old and young, were enjoying themselves to their hearts' content. It was the occasion of a joint picnic between Tugaskie, Bridgeford, Lawson and Central Butte Grain Growers' Associations. Unfortunately, however, Central Butte was not represented.

These associations are situated in one of the most fertile and best wheat producing districts of the West. Six years ago, there was nothing but bare prairie land, while today it is thickly dotted with the homes of prosperous farmers. The day was somewhat windy, but otherwise was ideal for a picnic. The wind went down, however, early in the afternoon, when a large program of sports, consisting of foot races, hop step and jump, and horse races, was pulled off. Lawson and Central played a friendly game of baseball, in which Lawson came off victorious.

Following up the baseball match, Honorary Life President, E. N. Hopkins, of Moose Jaw, was introduced to the crowd by Mr. Robert Prebble, local secretary for Tugaskie. He gave an address on the aims and objects of the Association, dealing with the great need for organization, and showing clearly that it was only through organization that the farmers could ever hope to compete with the other organized interests in securing legislation for themselves as a class. He dealt with the Grain Growers' Guide as the official organ of the association, and demonstrated clearly that it was to the advantage of every farmer to have this paper in his home. He also dealt with the Grain Growers' Grain Co. and their relation to the Grain Growers' Association. He described in detail the working of the Life Membership Fund, and showed what could be accomplished when all the farmers of Saskatchewan were organized under this plan.

Mr. Brown of the central office was also present. He had with him a supply of Grain Growers' buttons, a neat little emblem, which he was selling at 25 cents each. A query elicited the information that he had sold one hundred of these buttons. He also took subscriptions to THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, which was referred to by Mr. Hopkins. Before leaving he secured seven yearly subscriptions and several trial subscriptions.

The refreshment booth, which was beautifully decorated with trees and flags, was run by a committee of the Grain Growers, and during the day took in \$155. Orders for twine were taken. Enough were taken to make up half a carload. Lawson took the other half, thus making up a full carload.

After tea was served, which by the way was an excellent one, a football match was played between Bridgeford and Littleville, which resulted in a draw. In the evening a dance took place, the school house being packed to the doors, where we tripped the light fantastic toe till the wee sma' hours of the morning. It was decided to hold another picnic next year about the 15th of July, and G. W. Dinsley and Wm. Chapman were appointed president and secretary for next year.

The school house certainly deserves the name "Grandview," and as you look out over the plains in the glowing sunset to where they kiss the sky, and turn again to the happy intermingling crowd, which is only one of many, you realize that Canada is only in the making, and that the Grain Growers' Association is doing a great social work; and taking into account the fact that only 12 per cent. of the arable land of Saskatchewan is under cultivation you can readily foresee what a future is in store for Saskatchewan, and what a power the Grain Growers' Association is going to be in the shaping of that future. It takes the people of every nation and blends them into one great common people, who will be a lasting

factor in the upbuilding of our Canadian citizenship. Taking into consideration the progressiveness of the Grain Growers' of the Tugaskie, Bridgeford, Lawson and Central Butte districts as shown by the handling of their booth and in their co-operation twine purchasing, it is quite safe to predict that they will take their full share in shaping the destiny of Greater Saskatchewan, and through it the Dominion and Empire we love so well.

## "A VISITOR"

### THE ELEVATOR COMMISSION

This week the Elevator Commission has held sittings at the most northerly centre of the wheat producing area yet visited. There Director Andrew Knox led the Grain Growers' forces. It was made clear that in so far as the difficulties of the present system are concerned, Prince Albert farmers have made a bold attempt at solving their own problem, having their own elevator and mill. But this system does not satisfy those outside their company, and all seem in favor of a system of weighing in some form under Government control for wagon load lots similar to that in vogue for car lots at the terminals.

Ex-Judge McGuire appeared here and strongly endorsed the Grain Growers' general stand, favoring government ownership and operation by an independent commission. Questioned by the chairman, the judge declared that he had not made a complete study of the matter as he was not the commission. But he saw no insurmountable obstacles in the

way of the government if they really wanted to work out a solution. They wanted a terminal of the new system at Prince Albert, it being one of the strategical centres for such a purpose.

At Kamsack, the most easterly point reached in the north country, Mr. Hawkes again appeared to give assistance to the Grain Growers. But not many appeared. Mr. James Tullock, of Wadena, came eighty miles and declared that Wadena Grain Growers wanted to see the elevator system in this province managed independently by the government so as to stop the everlasting nagging between the elevator men and the farmers; which, he declared, could never be so long as the warehousing was in the hands of men who could claim all overages as loot. Neither farmers nor grain dealers should control the warehouses.

Mr. Parker, of Togo, made a strong plea for government ownership and that provision should be made for the small man who shipped less than car lots, saying that mixed farming was a likely contingency; and a condition which permitted or tolerated a spread of five or six cents per bushel between street and track should not be permitted to continue longer. It did not look like a large sum. Still, taken out of the farmer's profit it cut a wide swath. He said that the difficulties presented had not been discussed by his association. He knew a land tax and grain tax had been mentioned, and while he thought these unnecessary,



Low's Farm near Delisle, Sask.

he believed that sooner than submit to the present condition of things they would submit to anything likely to be put upon them by government control. Having to choose between evils, he would sooner fall into the hands of the government than private monopoly.

## "BLUEFIELD."

### QUITE A COMPARISON

"Sir:—I should like to know how long since you have had the power to strike members from the list as you suggest in your letter of June 9th."

Crosswoods. J. CLEVERLY.

"Dear Sir:—Enclosed find list of needless questions answered, or if not needless they ought to be. No. 1. You evidently know the answer. Nos. 2 and 3. I sent the names to you in January last. No. 4. You ought to know the answer. No. 5. You do know. No. 6. Not very explicit. No. 7. Your books should supply you the answer. The latter portion of the last paragraph of your circular letter, to say the least, is not courteous to your sub-associations."

"Also in your other circular you say, 'Our income is getting less all the time.' An explanation of this will be appreciated, as we cannot understand such a statement. On June 18th you wrote that a sitting of the Elevator Commission will be held at Kamsack on June 22, which I received the notification on June 19 (the earliest possible date), and you expect me to get my executive together and send a delegation to Kamsack in time for the sitting."

R. D. KIRKHAM, Sec. Saltcoats, Sask.

## SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

### HONORARY PRESIDENT:

E. N. HOPKINS - - - MOOSE JAW

### PRESIDENT:

F. M. GATES - - - FILLMORE

### VICE-PRESIDENT:

J. A. MURRAY - - - WAPWILLA

### SECRETARY-TREASURER:

FRED. W. GREEN - - - MOOSE JAW

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

E. A. Partridge, Sintaluta; George Langley, Maymont; F. W. Green, Moose Jaw; F. C. Tate, Grand Coulee; A. G. Hawkes, Percival; Wm. Noble, Oxbow.

### DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

James Robinson, Walpole; J. A. Maharg, Moose Jaw; Charles Dunning, Beaverdale; John Evans, Nutana, Dr. T. Hill, Kinley; Thos. Cochran, Melfort; Andrew Knox, Colleton; George Boerma, North Battleford.

To Mr. Kirkham's letter we replied as follows:—

"Dear Sir:—Your favor of the 27th inst. to hand, giving us the names of the men who were already subscribers to THE GUIDE. We thank you for this. We are certainly astonished at the attitude you take in reference to our list of 'needless questions,' as you term them. The answers to some of the questions we might have secured by going all over our books and hunting up old correspondence files. We wish to say that we have our hands full of work here, and we certainly are not going to take a week to hunt up part of the information we want when the local secretary can give it to us off-hand. Besides, we want to find out the condition of all our associations."

"In reference to the latter portion of the last paragraph of the circular, we must admit that if we had said, 'Kindly return answers to these questions at your earliest convenience,' it would have been more courteous, but we know from experience that it would have been fall or next year or probably never, when we received an answer from some associations that were the first to reply. We have got to get promptness into our work. We received an answer from one association that has not even written us or sent us a cent of fees since we opened up in Moose Jaw. The other morning one association sent in fees for 1909 and 1910. This looks to us like good results. Our circular may not have been called for as far as your particular association is concerned, but you must remember that there are others who are not so wide-awake as yourselves, and we have not got time to work through all our correspondence files and books to find who are living and who are not."

"Now in reference to our statement that our income is getting less and less all the time, we cannot understand how any reasonable man can fail to understand it. For instance, during January we received about \$900 as fees, while for June we received about \$200. (Not certain as to this. Figures not computed yet. Will appear next week). Is it hard to understand?"

"Re the Elevator Commission sitting at Kamsack, I will give you the exact particulars. I was called to Regina for an executive meeting the week of the 13th. The notice of the sittings was issued by the Elevator Commission on Tuesday. I only learned of them when I reached Regina, Tuesday morning, the 14th inst. I did not get home until Thursday, and immediately sent out notices. Am I to blame or am I not?"

"On the answers to our questions, (the last one), you state:—Good in every respect if we get our share of attention from headquarters. Now, we would refer you to the copy of the Scott correspondence, which we sent you in confidence and asked you to return to this office. It is dated Mar. 15. This is June 29. Probably the central's prospects would be better if it got its share of attention from the local associations."

## SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN

## GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Per R. J. Brown, Asst.-Secretary.