

The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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THE PRINCE ALBERT CONVENTION

In the line of hospitality, it would be hard to outdo the civic authorities and citizens of Prince Albert. This was the consensus of opinion among the Grain Growers at the close of their three days stay in the beautiful city of the north. Nothing was left undone that would tend to make the Grain Growers' visit more pleasant. From every aspect the convention was a success. The business brought before the convention was of a most important character and was dealt with in a business-like way. The convention was very fortunate in securing the large church with accommodation in comfort the entire 6000 in attendance. These men were drawn from every part of the province and it was also a most pleasing feature to note that several of the delegates brought their wives. This action was so highly approved of by all the speakers at the convention, that there is no doubt but that a larger number of ladies will be present next year. In proportion to the membership in Saskatchewan, of the Grain Growers Association, the Prince Albert convention was by far the largest ever held in Canada. The enthusiasm during the whole course of the convention was very marked. There was a very keen desire expressed on all sides to have organization work pushed. Life-membership is becoming a very fashionable feature of the Saskatchewan work and the farmers are taking hold of it in the right way.

The Saskatchewan Grain Growers were determined to conduct their own business as they deemed wise and fitting, without any interference from other sources. There was very little time wasted at the convention in addresses of welcome and speeches foreign to the spirit and aims of the Grain Growers.

There was but one mind among all the delegates on the elevator question. The farmers of Saskatchewan have been held up properly and thoroughly during the past ten or fifteen years by the iniquitous system that has prevailed. There were many old-timers present at the convention whose experience did not lead them to expect any reforms without drastic action being taken. They were determined on having the grain storage system of the province taken out of the hands of private parties. Hopes were entertained that the government would be prepared to make some definite announcement to the convention on the appointment of the elevator commission which was authorized by the legislature last December. When Mr. Motherwell was introduced to address the convention, it was expected that an announce-

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ment would be forthcoming but the convention was doomed to receive a disappointment. The government had not deemed it wise to authorize Mr. Motherwell to make any definite statement, other than that no time would be lost in pushing the matter to a completion.

Plans were made during the convention to have a thorough organization campaign instituted throughout the province and it was determined before another convention was held, to have the membership of the association doubled. The Grain Growers felt their strength, but realized that it was limited by numbers, and in order that they might do what they wished for the progress of their fair province, they must bring more farmers into their organization. There is no doubt but what they will do it. The Saskatchewan farmers are determined. They are an intelligent, earnest and broad-minded class of men, and they see before them, in the future history of their province, something not to be surpassed in the history of Anglo-Saxon races. They realize that if Saskatchewan is to reach the place for which nature planned it, the chief agents must be the tillers of the soil. The eyes of many nations are turned to the province of Saskatchewan, and it behooves the Grain Growers of that province to choose well their steps as they advance. Again, they should not lose sight of the fact that there is also a great province down east that deserves attention. This was brought out during the banquet in an address delivered by E. C. Drury, master of the Dominion Grange. The first speakers had spoken at considerable length in patriotic statements upon their own province. Mr. Drury opened his remarks by stating that he came from "a little old place they called Ontario." The earnest and well-meaning statements of enthusiastic westerners sound strange to the ears of easterners. It is only when our eastern friends come out among us for the first time that they detect extravagances occasionally. But if they stay with us, they soon catch the spirit and become as enthusiastic, as hopeful, and as optimistic as any of us. We all believe in the future of our country, may more, we know that it cannot be equalled, let alone surpassed by any other part of Canada. Our friends in the east are coming to recognize this, but on our part, we must not forget that there is a great country peopled by our brothers east of the Great Lakes.

There were decisions reached at the Prince Albert convention which will change the course of history for that province and will have a far-reaching influence upon its business and commercial life. Undoubtedly the men that attended this convention went home far better for the experience. They met and exchanged thoughts with many who had been thinking for the past year upon big subjects. When it comes to the big problems, there is no person so vitally interested in them as the farmer. The farmer may not have an opportunity to study them as carefully as other classes in the province, but he is coming to deal with them more and more each year as he sees the necessity of taking his share in the development of the province.

The farmers of Saskatchewan are thoroughly aroused, and are dipping into problems that vitally affect the welfare, not only of their own province, but all Canada. The star of hope shines brightly over the greatest wheat growing province of Canada, and plans are being laid which will work to the improvement of conditions, not only for the farmers themselves, but for mankind in general.

SASKATCHEWAN ELEVATOR PROBLEM

The Saskatchewan Government announced, at the Prince Albert convention, that a commission of five men would be appointed by the government, very shortly to inquire into the elevator situation and recommend improvements in the interest of the farmer.

Of these five men, two are to be nominated by the Grain Growers' executive, one is to be an independent farmer, outside of the Grain Growers Association, one a practical elevator man and the fifth an economic expert.

This looks alright on the face of it, but, as the investigation is being carried out because of the demands of the Grain Growers, it should certainly be in their interest. There should be a majority of Grain Growers on the commission. It was announced at the convention, by the secretary of the association, that he had the positive assurance of Premier Scott, that there would be three representatives of the Grain Growers' Association on the commission. Despite this, however, there was no announcement to this effect carried from the government to the convention. The convention showed its feeling on the matter very plainly and passed a resolution demanding three representatives of the Grain Growers' Association as members of the commission. This should be adhered to strictly. It is absolutely necessary that the majority of the commission be favorable to the demands of the Grain Growers, and this cannot be assured unless the Grain Growers nominate three members of the commission, or approve of their nomination. The elevator man, and the economic expert, as the other two members of the commission, will be able to supply the technical knowledge. Such a commission of five men should be able to present a most valuable report. No time can be lost. The government is already acting, and if the Grain Growers show any sign of weakness, the commission will not be appointed according to their demands. Let every Grain Grower who is interested in the matter take hold of it in earnest, and back up the executive in the terms of the resolution passed at the convention. The executive will no doubt take the matter up with the government and demand that three members of the commission be Grain Growers. Such a demand, if backed up by resolutions from all the local branches in the province, would carry immense weight, and would receive the earnest consideration of the government. Victory is in sight for the Grain Growers of Saskatchewan, and they must be careful not to slip from their grasp. The government has received a direct mandate by the unanimous vote of the legislature, and will take action immediately. Probably the commission will be appointed in the course of a few weeks and will enter upon its duties. Let every individual Grain Grower take it up by letter to Premier Scott, and demand three Grain Growers on the commission. Then it should be discussed by every local branch and if the feeling is the same resolutions should be passed to that effect and forwarded to the premier. The convention elected strong men as directors and executive for the ensuing year. It also outlined the duties of these men on the elevator question. The duties of the Grain Growers do not stop there, however. When they go to their homes they must still continue, and see that their executive is properly supported in this great matter which is of vital interest to every farmer in the great province of Saskatchewan.

MR. HOPKINS' SERVICES APPRECIATED

The Grain Growers of Saskatchewan, at the Prince Albert convention, tendered their retiring president, Mr. E. N. Hopkins, a distinct token of their appreciation of his services during the past few years, by electing him honorary president for life. Mr. Hopkins has devoted a great deal of time and energy to the work of the association, and has brought to bear upon the work, the cool and calm judgment of years of experience. The highest honor which the Grain Growers could bestow upon him was that which they gave freely and heartily. Mr. Hopkins will still be with them, and his experience and knowledge will still be at their disposal, though he has been relieved of the arduous duties of