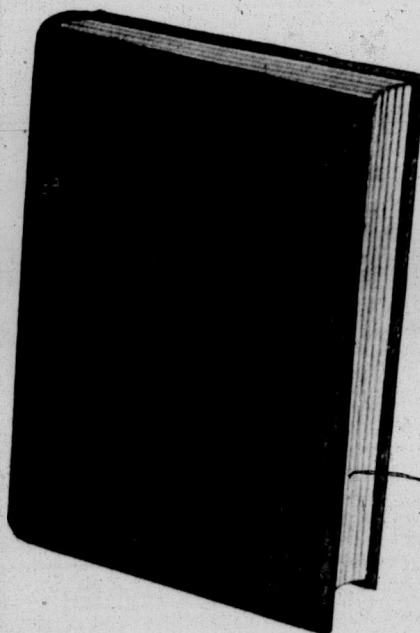


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# Saskatchewan

This section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association

Dear Mr. Green:

I have pleasure in reporting a fairly successful district convention for district 12, held in Prince Albert on the 5th and 6th. While the number of delegates present was not as large as was expected, it was quite evident that those who did attend were there for a purpose. The presence of President Maharg and his addresses on the Sample Market and Co-operation were greatly appreciated. The district director conducted the proceedings, while W. E. Hobson acted as secretary. Arrangements were made for resurrecting several dead associations. A number of important resolutions were put before the convention, copies of which I enclose for further action by the executive. A large number of local Grain Growers attended on Saturday afternoon. The following are the resolutions:—

1. Resolved: That this district convention endorse the action of the Canadian Council of Agriculture in asking that the tariff on wheat and wheat products imported from the United States be removed so that the wheat of the Western Grain Growers may be admitted under the provisions of the new American Tariff Act. Carried.

2. Resolved: That in the opinion of this district convention the executive should approach the Manufacturers' Association and endeavor to secure their consent to make all machine notes payable on December 15. Carried.

3. Resolved: That this district convention ask the Central executive to approach the provincial legislature or the Dominion Parliament, if necessary, urging that legislation be passed prohibiting manufacturers or salesmen of farm machinery from taking any security other than on the article sold.

4. Resolved: That in the opinion of this convention the Dominion government should enlarge the duties of the present Railway Commission so that they may have the power to settle all differences between private property owners and railways re right-of-way. Carried.

5. Resolved: That this district convention puts itself on record as dissatisfied with the present system of cattle guards on railways and hereby ask the Central executive to approach the Dominion government with a view to having legislation passed making it compulsory for all railway companies to put in efficient cattle guards, either in the shape of a deep trench or otherwise. Carried.

6. Resolved: That this district convention hereby approves of the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into ways and means of establishing agricultural credit, particularly that portion regarding co-operative trading. Carried.

7. Resolved: That whereas the work of organization in some districts is too large to be taken up by the district director owing to the extended areas and difficulty of travel.

Therefore be it resolved: That this convention of district 12 approves strongly of the idea that the Central executive should appoint a paid organizer to devote his time wholly to organization work throughout the province. Carried.

ANDREW KNOX,  
Director.

The following resolution has been received from Langenburg Association: That any sale of farm machinery by an agent in any city, town or village should be null and void if any intoxicating liquor is used to effect such sale. We have also a resolution from Lannigan Association advocating the provincial government being asked to give their support to the establishment of small milling industries in the province.

Our annual meeting has just been held and was fairly well attended. The new officers are: President, F. B. Coates; vice-president, N. Bethune; secretary-treasurer, H. Ducie; directors, R. M. Anderson, D. J. Whiting, J. Anderson, E. Hartz, C. Heimbecker, H. Ducie. In regard to resolutions sent to local, I brought them up with the following result: Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were approved. No. 4 was laid over for further discussion, the members not being well informed on the subject. Nos. 5 and 6 were heartily endorsed by the association. No. 7 was laid

over for discussion, it being considered too big a question for one meeting. In regard to your question, "What is the best way to increase membership in the local?" I will tell our experience. Although our local is not one year old, we have started the new year with seventeen paid up members. Last summer when we tried to obtain new members, one man said there was nothing in it for him. In that one sentence lies the keynote of local association increased membership. This fall we ordered a car load of flour and feed. That same man took twelve sacks of flour, saving at least about 70 cents per sack. We also bought two barrels of coal oil at 22½ cents per gallon; oil being retailed out in same town at 35 cents. The same man took ten gallons, a saving of \$1.20 on ten gallons. I do not think that we will have any trouble now in getting him to join our local. In ordering our flour and oil we allowed non-members to join in with us, thus giving them a chance to see what could be saved by uniting with us. Having given them the opportunity it remains for them to join our local before obtaining the same privilege again. Enclosed find 50 cents for membership cards for 1914. Could you tell me whether there will be a woman's congress at Moose Jaw like the one at Saskatoon last year?

HARRY DUCIE,

Sec'y, Coates G.G.A.

Yes, it is our intention to hold a woman's congress in connection with the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association to be held in Moose Jaw, February 11-13, 1914.

F. W. G.

The following address from Thomas Conlon, director, was read at district 15 convention, held at Expanse on the 4th November.

To my fellow farmers:—

I am disappointed at not being with you today. A series of accidents coupled with bad weather delayed my threshing. As you have heard me on several occasions your disappointment should not be great and you will be amply recompensed by the splendid addresses I am sure Mr. Maharg and Mr. Green will deliver.

This meeting was called for the express purpose of getting the associations in the neighborhood together to elect or select a number of well known farmers as officers to take hold of the organizing work in their respective districts. As you are aware, the work of organizing the vast territory south of Moose Jaw to the United States boundary and west to Alberta is beyond the power of any one, two or three men, even if they could devote all their time to it.

Personally, I think these conventions have been called a little too soon as the threshing and marketing operations are not over yet, and time has not been given to advertise and make the individual members acquainted with the objects to be attained and the part they were expected to take. I know all local secretaries have had circulars, but the busy season has not been favorable to calling meetings and discussion. I think this meeting could be made into a preliminary meeting to pave the way for a regular district convention to be held in the near future, which would be representative of all the associations in the district on the same basis—one in ten—as at our annual convention, the delegates coming prepared to discuss the future policy of our association and return home determined to do their part toward organizing new associations, so as to have a monster delegation at the annual convention to be held in Moose Jaw this winter—large and influential enough to lay that policy intelligently before the assembled delegates to give it some chance of being endorsed by them.

As far back as we read history, one class has been making slaves of the other. The particular form of oppression peculiar to our time is "Capitalism" and started with the introduction of labor saving machinery on a large scale, in the years 1760 to 1840—known as the period in which the industrial revolution started and developed the factory system, which has displaced skilled workmen and individual effort and reduced man to the level of a machine. Working now by the new system as part of a huge machine

has increased the wealth of the world to an enormous extent. Unfortunately the laws of the people were not changed to meet changed conditions, until the wealth of the world has passed from the control of the people into the hands of a few, who are not responsible to anyone and they can create financial money stringency and cause all kinds of hardships at their pleasure and the law protects their vested interest at the expense of humanity, and we are confronted with the spectacle of people destitute and out of work because they have produced too much wealth.

Some of us thought we had left all this behind when we sought the freedom of the prairies, to make a home for ourselves and the women we had promised to love, cherish and protect. We thought we would be able to raise our sons and daughters free from the grinding oppression which was grinding our lives out. You know if you have escaped; I know I have not. There is a good deal for us to do before we bring about conditions as we want them. For this reason we must organize our fellow farmers so they can help.

Dr. Bland, in a very inspiring address delivered to the delegates at Saskatoon last winter, referred to the unrest all over the world, likening it to a volcano of smoldering discontent, injustice and the cry of vengeance. He is right about the unrest being world wide and the remedy will have to be universal. The trouble in the past is that we have been trying to apply local remedies instead of purging the whole system.

You are met together today to decide what part you are prepared to take in the coming evolution, or rather revolution, and you have also to decide what part this association of organized farmers shall take. Dr. Bland in his address held out an ideal—"Canada for the Common People." I cannot do better than quote his words. "The cause of the people calls for a new party born by the people, consecrated to the cause of the people. Such a party may seem feeble at first. It will experience defeats. It will not have the unscrupulous machines, the swollen campaign funds that have seemed such irresistible force in Canadian politics. But it will have what is far stronger, what neither of the other parties commands, it will have the immeasurable and resistless force of moral passion."

"Grain Growers of the West, the call comes first to you. By your own experience of intolerable wrongs, by your sense of justice, by your love of brotherhood, by your faith in Canada's high destiny, you are summoned to lead in this new crusade, this holy war, this uprising of a new and nobler Canada." Whether the doctor is right I leave to you. Something will have to be done and that soon. We cannot go on for ever raising wheat costing us from 70 to 80 cents per bushel and selling it for from 40 to 65 cents and paying more for everything we purchase than it is worth. The solution will have to come from you and the sooner you start to solve the problem the sooner conditions will change. Do you intend to follow the old groove of electing your bosses and the servants of your bosses to govern you and then begging as favors that which is your right? Or will you strike out for yourselves, seize the reins of government and legislate for the "Ideal?"

"Canada for the Common People." But first we have to organize and educate and be educated. To organize you need to appoint a committee today, lay out a plan, set a date for another convention to be held soon, to perfect the organization scheme, hold regular meetings of your local association, encourage discussion to find out that which is best for all, and after coming to a decision and being sure you are right, strike to win and keep at it until the victory is ours. Do not let petty jealousy interfere with your actions. The men who may be elected to carry on the work will not be the ones you would have chosen if the choice had rested entirely with you. Don't let that discourage you. There may be something in them that you can't see. Give them your loyal support and the work will prosper, which, after all is what counts.

THOMAS P. CONLON,  
Director, District 15.

Enclosed please find order for \$2. being membership fees for four ladies. Our branch now numbers fifteen male and seven lady members and the coming winter should see some spirited meetings.

SAM J. GREEN,

Sec'y, Hatherleigh Assn.