



# SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by Fred W. Green, Secretary, Moose Jaw, Sask.

## SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

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### TO THINK ABOUT

Everywhere our members seem to be tired of beating the air in co-operative trading as well as in politics. They seem to want to get doing something practical towards bettering conditions. Their earnest attempts at co-operation in the different local associations, the formation of the Grain Growers' Grain company, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company with its trading powers, the Farmers' Trading company, are all evidences of the growing feeling in this direction. Bringing out independent candidates in various sections shows the same feeling exists regarding politics. One thing seems quite clear, that there is a growing desire for a unified Farmers' Brotherhood, capable of acting as a collecting and distributing agency between all the local associations in the farmers' movement. A tremendous amount of commodities could be handled in car lots through our local associations and an enormous amount of money saved. Think of the amount of coal, lumber, implements, twine, coal oil, gasoline, nails, flour, fruit, fish, we buy with the grain we grow to sell. Why, Saskatchewan paid over one million dollars to Winnipeg commission men on grain alone on the crop of 1911, and what we paid to middle men on our purchases who can estimate?

In the political arena also there seems to be a desire to be free from the thralldom of our old parties. Farmers do not seem to have much say in them, and the question is being asked, "Is there no way by which farmers can focus their united voice into the political phonograph of the nation?" The answer of some is, "Direct Legislation," but will farmers be safer trusting to a floating city population than to a consolidation on their own part. If farmers cannot agree to elect a representative for themselves, will the labor men of the cities protect them? Of course farmers cannot be expected to get rid of an inherent Grit or Tory disease for a few years yet, but the question is, "Can they try?" In England they are not clamoring for Direct Legislation, but are using their representative form of government in a way that seeks nothing from American methods.

When at Ottawa recently we were asked, "How many members are in your organization? How much do they contribute towards its support? How much are they doing by way of self defence? How many farmers are in your province? What proportion of the whole do you represent? Why are the others not in with you? Do they not agree with you? How are we to know what they will say if we grant what you are asking for? What guarantee have we that your members will support us for so doing? You must be well aware that such legislation as you ask for will be resented. Whose support shall we win in lieu of that we surely lose? What is the binding element in your association? All the time we were at Ottawa others were there whose interests were different to ours, they have a powerful following which can be depended on to stick like glue to the party which, in their opinion, is most likely to provide more butter for their bread. When we told members of Parliament how noble it was to serve farmers, "that agriculture was the base of the nation's greatness, that without farmers the rest could not live," they gave a knowing wink and conveyed the idea that farmers could not be depended on in the politician's hour of need.

It takes money to win an election and we must pay attention to those who contribute, those who stick, not those who are shouting. It is not what you say, but how you stick. When will farmers learn to stick, learn to agree, learn to co-operate. Birds of a feather flock together. Can farmers get together to the extent of voting. How can it be done? Can we in a few more years do this? Could we at our annual convention nominate half a dozen men of our own choosing to represent farmers in the Dominion House, put up the campaign fund, select certain constituencies and run our own men and elect them to present our case on the floor of Parliament, responsible to our association? What do you think?

Could we do it and how should we go about it? Would such a thing wreck us altogether? Does safety and power depend on an absolute passiveness or in a powerful cohesion, in an heroic Titanic, disaster-facing, self-sacrificing spirit, or in a Mosaic Law-making, Jordan-crossing, Canaan-possessing spirit? What think ye, men of Saskatchewan? Why not a Farmers' Co-operative Brotherhood capable of controlling the forces necessary to put into practical operation the remedies we propose? What is the quality necessary amongst us to produce a fusion of idea and purpose in order to secure effective farmers' corporate action?

### CO-OPERATIVE TRAVEL

It is no new subject with many wise men from the East, and with careful buying, until they get a bumper crop, they have hopes of paying a visit to those scenes that are cherished in their memory, and who amongst us as "Grain Growers" (and others) have not some such spot we remember and never tire of extolling its virtues, but fares, rail or steam, are often beyond the pockets of those who crave for "Just one more look." In London, England, there is an Institution known as the Regent St. "Polytechnic," where amongst a multitude of objects they engage in, one is "Co-operative Travel," bed and board in good style to Norway, Switzerland and many other places of interest, at greatly reduced rates from railways and steamships that are selected. Now, sir, in the fall of each year, after marketing and getting the returns, many around here get on the move and travel Eastward and Westward to gratify their desires. It appears to me that many more would avail themselves of these opportunities if more reasonable fares could be secured. Is it possible for our Grain Growers' association to organize some such excursion to the Coast (East or West) and steamship to port desired, or can they suggest some agency who are strictly O.K. who could cater for a large party? Many around here come from the Old Country and hanker after spending Christmas there, then we have many from other lands who have read of Richmond Hill, Hamstead Heath, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament and the Tower of London, but unless accompanied by a known guide do not care to undertake that trip. I feel sure that if some start could be made, or opinion given, this movement would be a paying proposition, not only in cash, but adding members to the Grain Growers' association.

Tugaske, Sask. F. GREENFIELD.

The above is a good idea. A company of farmers with their wives and perhaps part of their family could well afford to take such a trip. We would like to hear how many could or would care to take advantage of such a trip if suitable arrangements could be made. F.W.G.

"Whereas, there are many miles of railroad graded in N.W. Canada are as yet without steel, and

"Whereas, the railroad companies say that the Canadian Rolling Mills are unable to supply them with steel rails fast enough to keep their construction work completed, and

"Whereas, the completion of the Grand Trunk R.R. Battleford-Cut Knife branch and other branch lines, which will be needed this year to handle the wheat crop, is uncertain, owing to the lack of steel rails, and

"Whereas, there are many other places in N.W. Canada are handicapped in a like manner.

"Be it resolved, that the East Cut Knife G.G.A. do recommend and petition the government to give this matter their immediate attention and, if necessary, to remove the duty on steel rails so that the present shortage may be made up from other sources."

HARRY R. GERTS,  
Sec'y., East Cut Knife G. G. A.

### AMONG THE LOCALS

Yours of the 13th. inst to hand and reply I am forwarding you \$16.50

membership fees collected to date. We have not yet arranged the date of our next meeting or where we will meet. We are all busy seeding at present. As soon as we make arrangements we will let you know. I am going to trouble you with a little story re a car of grain. One of our members loaded on C.N.R. car No. 53464 on January 8, 1912, but up to date has not received any grade of car or the location of same. He has been after the railway company and commission firm but without success. We would like the G.G.A. to look into the matter. The commission firm say the car was burned up and the agent of the railway company says they don't know where the car is. I will yet write the Warehouse Commissioner in regard to same.

JACOB HOFFMAN,  
Sec. Odessa G.G.A.

We herewith enclose receipt for \$16.50 as per yours of the 25th. inst. We thank you for this and trust you will receive many more members as numbers count. We note what you say regarding a car of grain in C.N.R. car No. 53464 shipped Jan. 8, 1912, and that no grade certificate has yet been received. Evidently this car has not reached Winnipeg. We note you are writing the Warehouse Commissioner. This is right, and we also advise you to write D. D. Campbell, Shipper's Agent, Winnipeg. He will look the matter up for you. Should you not be successful write us again.

F. W. G.

I was at Sunset last week meeting the Grain Growers there. They would like some literature sent them if you have any. Send something that will enable them to keep up the interest in the Association. Did you consider the matter of coal and how to secure it a little cheaper? Anything along the lines you have been working on will be of interest to them. I promised to write to you on the matter.

Wascana, Sask. F. C. TATE.

Yours of the 27th. inst to hand for which we thank you. We herewith enclose you a copy of a letter sent to the Secretary of Sunset G.G.A. in answer to your request.

F. W. G.

J. J. Brown Esq.,  
Sec. Sunset G.G.A.

Under request from F. C. Tate we herewith enclose you samples of Literature that we have on hand in our office. We would ask you to call a Directors' meeting and study these carefully, particularly "The Association and Its Work." Mr. Tate asked us to state what we were doing in the matter of trying to secure cheaper coal. The President and myself are making strenuous efforts in this matter. We have been on a visit to one of the best coal mining propositions in the West and we have been in conferences with the owners and our Government, endeavoring to make suitable arrangements, but at present are not in a position to make public negotiations, as we have not, so far, been able to complete satisfactory arrangements, but rest assured, the officers at the Central feel keenly everything that touches the farmers, knowing from practical experience all about fuel difficulties, scarcity of water and car shortage, and are working at everything they can which may result in making conditions better for the people who live on our farms and face pioneering difficulties.

F.W.G.

Your kind letter to hand. It was much appreciated. As to this Western Farmers' Parliamentary Party—I fully realize the difficulty facing the Executive in this, they have the wreck of the old Patrons before them always. I think that we should have two Departments in our organization with distinctly separate accounts. The present one which I would call our "Board of Trade Dept." and the other "The Western Farmers' Parliamentary Dept." each under its own Secretary and that we should have "Provincial District Associations" for each Provincial Constituency and "Dominion District Associations" for

each Dominion Constituency. These last would be the more important as it is chiefly at Ottawa we wish our strength to be felt. If proceeded with now these latter would follow the lines of the present Dominion Constituencies and having educated the farmers in this matter and I do not think it would be very hard, we might lose a few members but after passing through the fire we would emerge Phoenix-like stronger than ever, and when the redistribution bill goes through it would be a small matter I believe to re-adjust the boundaries of the Dominion District Associations to their new areas. Also our present preposterously low membership fees should be adjusted to our larger needs. Trusting from this meagre outline you may evolve something better, I am, yours very truly,

WALTER SIMPSON.

Brownlee, Sask.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

The following membership fees have been received during March and April:

Herron, \$1.00; Parkbeg, 2.00; Mildren, 16.75; Creelman, 16.00; Cantal, 1.00; Fertile Valley, 7.00; Lawson, 4.50; Allan, 11.00; Startosaks, 9.50; Wheatfields, 4.00; Bangor, 9.00; Mt. View, 4.00; Hillsley, 6.00; Findlater, 8.00; Star City, 20.00; Ohlen, 12.00; Broadacres, 7.00; Ruddell, 15.00; Belmae, 10.00; Fleming, 2.00; Luseland, 3.50; Holar Birch Creek, 18.00; Elmore, 2.00; Punnichy, 3.00; Nolin, 3.00; Drummond Creek, 1.25; Tenold, 2.00; Uren, 20.00; Dundurn, 12.00; Wilcox, 4.00; Spruce Lake, 7.00; Dana, 6.50; Ryerson, 6.00; Glenrose, 6.50; Wallace, 5.50; Goodwin, 8.50; Laura, 2.50; Strongfield, 8.50; Oban, 2.00; Starview, 6.50; Bradwell, 2.00; Phippen, 6.00; Vanguard, 6.00; Dinsmore, 30.50; Hazelcliff, 1.50; Warnock, 1.00; Heron, 1.50; Allan, 2.50; Idaleen, 4.00; Floradale, 5.50; Nottingham 3.00; Marion, 5.50; Gibbs, 1.50; Edgehill, 6.50; Dundurn, 2.50; Hutton, 2.50; Marquis, 2.50; Kronan, 12.00; Indian Head, 8.00; Colfax, 13.00; Clair, 7.50; Chellwood, 3.50; View Hill, 2.00; Findlater, 10.00; Marchwell, 16.50; Etonia, 8.00; Skalholt, 7.00; Freedholme, .50; St. Dennis, 12.00; Cooper Creek, 3.50; West Eagle Hills, 10.00; Drummond Creek, 5.75; Stockholm 1911, 2.00; Sunny Hill, 4.00; Macklin, 3.00; Long Valley, 9.00; Cando, 5.50; Glenbryan, 15.50; Chamberlain, 5.00; Riverside, 6.00; Leslie, 11.50; Spring Valley, 6.00; Thorndyke, 7.50; Harris, 18.50; Spy Hill, 9.00; Cairnsview, 11.00; Meota, 16.50; Parry, 6.00; New Ottawa, 6.00; Rozilee, 5.50; Edam, 18.50; Moosomin, 9.00; Lilac, 4.50; Spruce Bluff, .50; Empire Builders, 9.50; Milestone, 7.50; Odessa, 16.50; Tugaske, 8.50; Findlater, .50; Waldron, 26.00; Burnham, 4.50; Semans, 25.00; Wapella, 20.00; Ernfold, 3.00; Ethmuir, 7.00; Waldron, 4.50; Palmer, 8.50; Beaverdale, .50; Tupper, 15.50; Mt. Green, 2.00; Allan, 1.50; Walter, 4.50; Mosten, 1.00; St. Helens, 11.00; Fern Glen, 11.50; Keatly, 11.00; Antler, 11.00; Herron, .50; Willow Heights, 10.00; Kempton, 5.00; N. Tisdale, 7.50; Long Valley, 1.50; Mt. Chase, 8.50; Springside, 8.50; Wood River, 11.50; Haglof, 9.00; Ladstock, 7.00; Birch Hills, 5.00; Lilac, 1.50; Lewvan, 7.50; Chellwood, 2.50; Creelman, 1911 fees, 10.00.

During March and April 132 associations have responded by sending in fees. During the same period forty-five new associations have been formed, eight of which are in organization District No. 11, add to these the number already reported in our March 28. issue and will be seen we have organized sixty-eight since the commencement of the New Year.

F.W.G.