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Hon. President—E. N. Hopkins	Moose Jaw
Hon. Vice President—C. A. Dunning	Regina
President—J. A. Maharg	Moose Jaw
Vice President—A. G. Hawkes	Percival
Sec. Treasurer—J. B. Musselman	Moose Jaw
Fred W. Green	Moose Jaw
Thos. Sales	Langham
J. F. Reid	Orcadia
DIRECTORS AT LARGE:	
Fred W. Green	Moose Jaw
George Langley	Maymont
C. E. Platt	Tankerton
W. J. Thompson	Warman
J. B. Musselman	Moose Jaw

PRESIDENT ADDRESSES METHODIST CONFERENCE

"Preach less about the torments of the hereafter and pay more attention to present suffering and injustice," was the concluding advice which President Maharg of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association gave to the ministers and delegates at the Methodist Conference on the occasion of his address to that body in the Metropolitan Church, Regina, on the evening of June 14, when by special invitation the president presented to the Methodist Conference the organized farmers' views on the subject allotted to him, "The church and its relation to the rural problem."

The high position which the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association has won for itself, as well as the high esteem in which our president is held in the opinion of the very best classes of the people of this province, is well demonstrated by the attitude which the churches have assumed toward this great body of organized farmers.

President Maharg was warmly received by the conference upon being introduced by the Rev. Dr. McMillan, who in his introductory remarks spoke in eulogistic terms of the splendid work of the Association, concluding with the statement, "If I ever decide to quit the Methodist Church and join something better I shall join the Grain Growers." Greatly to the amusement of the doctor's clerical brethren, Mr. Maharg was ready with the witty rejoinder that in order to be worthy of membership in the Grain Growers' Association the Rev. Doctor would have to live up to the very best teachings of the church.

The president dealt in a comprehensive manner with the rural problem from the standpoint of the farmers themselves and stated that there could be no real remedy without a fuller and deeper recognition by society of the importance of agriculture. He spoke convincingly of the handicaps under which the rural church as well as the rural pastor is working because of competition, duplication of machinery and lack of co-operation on the part of the churches themselves, affirming that the churches differ not so much on basic moral questions as on insignificant details of doctrine and practice. He appealed for a more practical, religious teaching, stating that the church lays too much stress on so-called moral, ethical or sentimental phases of life to the neglect of the practical and showed that the business of life could not be divorced from the ethics of life without serious detriment to both. Mr. Maharg advised the preachers to take a more active interest in politics and the great economic problems of the day and admonished them to pay more attention to the injustice and the consequent torments of the present and preach a little less of the torments of the hereafter in which he for one had little faith.

Speaking of the great growth of temperance sentiment thruout the province and the strong stand which the Association has taken on the question of abolishing the retail sale of liquor in Saskatchewan, Mr. Maharg stated that he did not consider that the fight would have been won when the legislation promised had been enacted, but that the real fight was still ahead of us and that for its successful working out, Premier Scott's policy both merited and required the fullest co-operation on the part of both the church and the Association.

Mr. Maharg's remarks were very well received by the conference and it developed that quite a number of the preachers are active members in various locals of the Grain Growers' Association.

J. B. M.

MISFORTUNE RE-UNITES

We have held our re-organization meeting and it has been successful beyond my expectations. We are again alive at Tessier, with an enrolled strength of twenty members and many more promised, and considering the discouragements we have had for the last three years, the

optimism and enthusiasm of those present was very encouraging.

We have suffered more thru poor crops than the districts where their crops were totally burned out, and our creditors have been busy in squeezing the last cent, in many cases succeeding and leaving families in pretty hard circumstances. Those who joined realize that it is necessary for the farmers to do something to help themselves and have turned to the only organization in Saskatchewan that will enable them to do it. Our meetings are to be held in the schoolhouse, monthly, the Saturday before full moon. The officers elected were as follows: President, Ed. Smiling; Vice-President, Wm. McBeth; Secretary-Treasurer, Alex. Cumming; Directors: Messrs. Black, Smith, Yellowlees, Hanson, Nesbitt, Leonard.

ALEX. CUMMING,

Sec. Tessier G. G. A.

HARD TIMES

Altho we have 18 members on our roll, we have only 10 paid up members. I have delayed sending in fees hoping to get some more to pay up, but owing to the complete failure of crops in our district last year and also conditions caused by the war, money is very scarce.

We have a few very enthusiastic Grain Growers who are deeply interested in the welfare of the Association. We had a very interesting meeting last month. Our members always bring their wives and families to the meetings and lunch is served and literary programs given along with the business of the Association, which is a great help to the community.

I am enclosing \$5.00 fees for 10 paid up members for 1914.

JOHN T. PICKETT,

Sec. Motherwell G.G.A.

KILLING THE TOWN

A bank manager in the West wrote us a short time ago asking for information as to procedure in establishing a co-operative store in his town, in the proposed organization of which he was interested. He intimated it was argued locally that as it would have a tendency to displace the retail merchants its effect would be "to kill the town," and he wished to know our views on the subject.

This argument—foolish as it may appear—is as old as the co-operative movement itself, and will persist as long as we have private traders to advance it. The merchant produces nothing so it cannot be argued that he adds one cent to the sum total of the wealth of the community. If he happens to serve a necessary purpose, contributing by his capital, skill and energy to the general advantage and convenience of the neighborhood, he has a right to adequate reward therefor. If such services are in excess of what are found to be necessary in the interests of the community, in-so-far as they are in excess the reward for his services is a tax upon the labor of his neighbors, impoverishing them to the extent of the same. If, for example, the fact that four merchants in a small agricultural community are competing with each other to supply local producers of wealth with goods in exchange, must in itself be regarded as contributing to the general prosperity, by a parity of reasoning the advantage they contribute would be doubled by inducing four other merchants to establish there also, and so on ad infinitum. It is obvious that if four merchants satisfy the needs of a locality, the increase to eight must either impoverish the former or be a source of loss to the consumers. In the last analysis it would be found the latter would be the case, as the law of self preservation would cause all the merchants, in consequence of the increase in their number, proportionately to increase the profits on merchandise to insure to each a reasonable livelihood. If one co-operative store can satisfy the needs of a district formerly served by four competing merchants, there must, in consequence, be a great saving to the consumers in the cost of distribution.

Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by J. B. Musselman, Secretary, Moose Jaw, Sask., to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:	
Dist. No. 1—W. H. Bekley	Balbeek
" 2—M. P. Roddy	Rouleau
" 3—G. E. Noggle	Lampman
" 4—R. M. Johnston	Eastview
" 5—J. W. Easton	Mooseomin
" 6—F. W. Redman	Greenell
" 7—C. A. Travis	Gowan
" 8—Thorn M. Eddy	Bethune
" 9—John F. Reid	Orcadia
" 10—J. L. Rooke	Togo
" 11—T. Sales	Langham
" 12—Andrew Knox	Prince Albert
" 13—W. H. Lilwall	Wilkie
" 14—T. M. Morgan	Aquadeil
" 15—Frank Burton	Vanguard
" 16—W. T. Hall	Surbiton

for any salary. I realize of what value the Association is to the farmers and I want to know every other farmer realizes it and for that reason I am willing to give the time necessary in respect to the secretary's work.

I am pleased to say the people in this locality seem to be growing more enthusiastic in the movement right along and I hope to see our membership increase for 1915.

I expect the principal topic at our next meeting to be the organizing of a co-operative association.

WM. F. MERCER,

Sec. New Bank G. G. A.

IN HEALTHY CONDITION

The annual meeting of the Oakdale G. G. A. was held at Eureka schoolhouse. A full report of the past year's business was given which showed the Association was in a good healthy condition. The meetings of the past year have been well attended and the utmost harmony has prevailed.

The officers for the ensuing year are as follows: President, Fred Hogarth; Vice-President, Mrs. Geo. Wilson; Secretary-Treasurer, M. E. Cole. Directors: Mrs. E. Jacklin, D. O'Neill, E. E. Cole, P. Hagarty, W. Maltby and A. Kincaid. Under the guidance of the above named officers and directors, we bespeak for the Association a large increase in membership and a season of profit and pleasure to all.

E. JACKLIN,

Sec. Beaufield G. G. A.

HANLEY OFFICERS

We held our annual meeting yesterday afternoon, with over 30 members present. The executive officers elected for the current year are as follows: President, N. L. Sangland; Vice-President, Duncan McNeil, and the undersigned is Secretary-Treasurer. J. W. Clancey, our retiring president was appointed an honorary president in honor of the services rendered this local.

JNO. AMES,

Sec. Hanley G. G. A.

KELFIELD OFFICERS

Please find enclosed the annual report of the Kelfield Grain Growers' Association. Our meeting opened at 2.30 and Jas. Vaughan, President, took the chair. All the directors were present and a good turn-out of members.

The following officers were appointed: President, Jas. Vaughan; Vice-President, A. L. Miller; Secretary-Treasurer, Jas. Kerr; Directors: Geo. Irwin, Geo. Kirby, Ed. McInnis, H. M. Gowan, G. W. Weese, R. Bulby.

JAS. KERR,

Sec. Kelfield G. G. A.

CANA'S SATISFACTORY YEAR

The second annual meeting of the Cana G. G. A. was held in the schoolhouse for the purpose of transacting general business. President A. C. Lycett was chairman.

In the absence of Thos. Ridley, E. E. Verlee reported re the coal question. The secretary-treasurer gave the financial report for the past year, which was very favorable. The auditor's report was then given, which showed a balance on hand of \$21.10, and outstanding accounts \$16.10, making a total of \$40.20.

The president reported on the work of the Association for the past year, saying that \$795.00 was saved thru co-operation.

The following officers were elected: President, R. M. Robertson; Vice-President, Mike Kurucy; Second Vice-President, R. Boor; Secretary-Treasurer, F. A. Hancock; Directors: E. E. Parlee, E. F. Lane, J. Vedres, P. Peel, D. Abel, D. R. MacDougall. Auditors, N. D. MacDougall and J. T. Burrill.

The secretary was voted \$25.00 for his services for the past year. On motion of C. Auckland, seconded by N. D. MacDougall, a vote of thanks was tendered the retiring president, A. C. Lycett, who responded in a very suitable manner.

F. A. HANCOCK, Sec. Cana G.G.A.

The saving in the expenses of distribution being returned to the consumers in cash dividends in proportion to the extent they had contributed thereto by their purchases, would increase the deposits in the banks, would provide much needed capital for the improvement of the farm dwellings, land and barns, and the purchase of livestock and implements by pioneer farmers, which in their turn would enable the agricultural consumers to increase the ratio of wealth productivity of the farms of the neighborhood. Such surplus of wealth, accruing from employment of increased farm capital, would be available as capital for local industrial and civic developments, providing a demand for many classes of employment, and giving to the community a prosperity, in fact as well as in appearance, impossible under the unnecessary system of wasteful, profit-seeking and competitive distribution.

In the Canadian West many towns and villages are coming into existence every year. That fact affords the farmers an opportunity of avoiding entirely at their inception the out-of-date and unsound competitive system of trading for private profit. It is a source of regret to co-operators that Western farmers do not take full advantage of the circumstances and forestall private traders by immediately organizing co-operative stores for the common welfare.

—The Canadian Co-operator.

A PLOT THAT FAILED

J. B. Musselman,
Moose Jaw, Sask.

Dear Sir:—I noticed in a recent issue of the Grain Growers' Guide reference to an appeal by a farmers' co-operative association in your province against the decision of a police magistrate fining them as transient traders. It may interest you to know that some years ago, owing to the activity of the local branch of the Retail Merchants' Association, a by-law was enacted by the town council, under the provisions of which it was possible for the police magistrate to inflict a fine upon the Preston Co-operative Association as "transient traders." An appeal therefrom was undertaken on behalf of the Association by Guthrie and Guthrie, solicitors of Guelph, to the Ontario High Court, and the decision was promptly quashed, on the ground that it was against public policy. The town council was mulcted in the costs.

While a decision of the Ontario High Court has no authority over courts of a similar status in your province, nevertheless it is the practice of courts to pay respect to the judgment of courts of a similar status.

In the authorities your solicitors are looking up in the matter, it will no doubt be worth their while to have regard to this case.

GEO. KEEN,

Hon. Sec. the Co-operative Union
of Canada, Brantford, Ont.

SECRETARY REWARDED

At the annual meeting of the New Bank local, the following officers were elected: President, A. S. Wright, re-elected; Vice-President, H. Keeler, re-elected; Directors: W. Barrett, G. Garbut, S. Martin, W. Woodstock, E. Wright, T. Pinwell.

The meeting, in recognition of my services as secretary, voted me a life membership in the Association and I herewith enclose \$12.00 and shall be pleased to receive my membership card and button at your earliest convenience. I might say that I think quite a lot of this gift, more so by it coming from our members than if I paid for it myself, and I feel proud to become a life member of this splendid organization of Saskatchewan farmers. At a subsequent meeting of the executive I was asked and I consented to continue to give the Association my services as secretary gratis, for the coming year. I explained that there was getting to be quite a little work attached to the secretaryship, but until we got stronger I should not look