

RE WOMEN'S OWN FUNDS

Central Secretary:—A difficult position has arisen regarding the relation of the Women's Branch of this association to the main association, and I have been instructed to write and have a pronouncement from the Executive on the subject.

The Women's Branch is constituted under section 14 of the Constitution, and, under sub-section 4 of that section, has elected a complete set of officials, including a treasurer. They have their own separate funds, except that they pay the membership fees to the treasurer of the association. The difficulty has arisen over this matter of separate funds. The Women's Branch hold that the position is constitutional and founded on a letter to that effect from Miss Irma Stocking.

I submit that the position is not constitutional for two reasons: (1) There is no specific mention of the right to have separate funds in the section dealing with the Women's Branches, and if the existence of separate funds had been contemplated, definite mention would have been made.

(2) If the Women's Branch were to incur liabilities greater than their funds permitted (as might easily occur in the case of weather ruining a picnic), then, inasmuch as the women are members of the association and acting under the name of the association, the funds of the association would be liable for the debts incurred, and vice versa. Here there would be two practically distinct societies administering separate funds, but under the same name, and either liable for the financial transactions of the other, altho neither controls the funds of the other.

If Miss Irma Stocking is right in her interpretation of the constitution, then I maintain that the position is illegal. Further, this association is an incorporated association and the laws under which we are incorporated do not recognize for an instant the existence of two branches of one association, each administering its own funds, uncontrolled by the other. The funds of both are funds of the association and would be attachable for any debts incurred. The position is anomalous and the only remedy seems to be that there should be one fund and one fund only, or there must be two associations.

I might explain that there has been no friction, but merely a desire on the part of both sections to arrive at a regular position. An early answer will oblige.

J. JULIAN CAMERON,
Sec. Treas., Mountain Chase G.G.A.

I have before me your favor of Feb. 24, dealing with the problems arising in connection with your Women's Section. I am sorry to have to state that I cannot agree with the premises which you build your conclusions upon, but I will answer your questions seriatim.

1. It is true that there is no specific mention in the Constitution of separate funds for the Women's Section, but the mere fact that such a section may be created makes it possible for that section to raise funds for the use of the section and any funds which the Women's Section may raise outside of membership fees, and which it may raise for the purposes of the Women's Section, are entirely at the disposal of that section.

2. It is not the case that the Women's Section can incur liabilities for which the general funds of the association could be held responsible. In the first place, neither the Women's Section nor the Local itself can incur liabilities which can be recovered by any legal process; that can be done only by the Central of association, which is incorporated, or by incorporated locals. But even if your local were incorporated, the Women's Section cannot in any way pledge the funds of the association. That can be done only by your board of directors or the officers authorized by it to do so.

Where you are wrong is this. You think of the Women's Section as a separate body. It is not; it is just like a committee within the local and such committee always has charge over the funds of the committee. They are not at all a distinct organization and any incorporated local can have separate committees to carry on separate branches of its work without interference whatever with the law under which you are incorporated. The funds

of the committee are not funds of the association; they are special trust funds gathered for the use of the work which that committee is created to do and may not be spent for any other purpose. If this is not fair to you kindly write me again, as I am anxious to have this matter fully understood.

CENTRAL SECRETARY.

HANDLING AUSTRALIAN WHEAT

Central Secretary:—In the Saskatchewan page of The Guide for October 4, 1916, there is a letter from G. W. Matheson on "Gambling in Wheat," and in your reply you ask for correspondence on the subject. Now I am not very much up on the system of buying and selling options, but I think the speculators are a curse to the grain trade, and that if a law was passed prohibiting any firm or person selling grain for future delivery, unless they (or him) are the actual owners of the grain they offer, would prevent a lot of speculators, but I would like to see a good discussion on the plan on which the Australian government are now handling the wheat trade in that country, which stops all gambling in wheat and secures to the producer, whether of many thousands of bushels or only a few hundred, the full market value of his grain, less expense of handling same, which, for the 1915-16 crop, was about one-twelfth of one cent per bush. Briefly the system is that the Australian government took possession of all the wheat after the harvest of 1915, appointed the regular grain men as their agents for purchasing the wheat, and when the wheat was delivered at the shipping point the farmer was paid at the rate of 90 cents per bushel for all wheat grown on new land, and 72 cents for all raised on old land. When the government had sold the wheat and had paid all expenses there was a further payment made to the farmers, making the total received by the Australian farmers for their 1916 crop \$1.40 per bushel.

Now, how many Canadian farmers received that sum per bushel for their 1916 crop? As far as this district is concerned, the majority of the farmers sold for between 75 cents and \$1.00 per bushel. Surely the Canadian farmer, being nearer to the European market, and with a better system of handling the grain, should have been enabled to realize as much as the Australian farmer, if not more. Who got the difference? But whilst the Australian government increased the returns to the farmer on his wheat, it also kept the price of bread as far as September, 1916, at the low price of five cents for the 2 lb. loaf of 32 ounces, whilst at Winnipeg, according to The Guide of October 4, 1916, bread was sold at seven cents per 20 ounce loaf, with talk of increase to eight cents.

No pleased were the Australian farmers with the result of the first year's trial of the new system of marketing their grain that the government is again handling the 1916-17 crop and it is extremely doubtful if they will ever go back to the old system of handling grain.

ARTHUR O. STRATTON,
Clearfield, Sask.

CO-OPERATION AT SURREITON

Central Secretary:—We have passed the third milestone since the epoch of our career as the Surreiton Grain Growers' association, and halted long enough to hold our third annual meeting, which was well-attended—last year we had to report many ups and downs but I am pleased to say that we have apparently discovered our latitude and are steadily soaring to our zenith.

We have done considerable trading during the past year; in fact we have purchased co-operatively practically all of our bulk commodities, such as flour, wood, coal, binder twine, etc., and attribute our success largely to the courtesy of our Central, and also to our local merchant, Mr. Bryce, who has distributed our goods for us in a most satisfactory manner, and we most heartily

tend our appreciation to our Central and Mr. Bryce.

We do not, however, consider our trading activities of paramount importance, but they do, by saving us many dollars, place us in a better position to go on with our greater work of education. It would be very difficult for me to tell you how much good our organization has done our community; but if you wish to know just suggest disorganization to any one of our members.

But to get to the purpose of this letter, that is to report our third annual meeting, I beg to submit the names of our officers for the coming year: President, W. T. Hall; vice-president, Mrs. George Abrook; directors, A. E. Mann, Wm. Butcher, T. Grieve, A. T. Seymour, E. Hagerman, J. R. Mann, A. G. Hopkins, W. G. Sadler and Mrs. H. T. Hall. Entertainment committee as a whole, press committee as a whole. Secretary, Edgar Hagerman. The association will have no King but Caesar, and W. T. Hall was re-elected president by acclamation amid great enthusiasm.

A hearty vote of thanks was voted the secretary for his past work, for which he was very thankful, since anything he had accomplished was thru the hearty co-operation of all the members. At the solicitation of our president, two members immediately signed up for life membership and there is good prospect for more at an early date.

You will be pleased to note that two of our lady members hold office in our association. The ladies are coming more and more to realize they are essential to the efficiency of our association.

I enclose herewith \$3.50, being balance due you of membership fees from 1916, also \$7.50 on 1917 fees. Find enclosed also our membership list to date.
EDGAR HAGERMAN,
Sec. Treas., Surreiton Local.

WOMEN AS FARM LABORERS

Dear Sir:—With the present shortage of farm labor in the West and the possibility of it being a great deal shorter in the near future, is there any reason why women shouldn't take the place of men in the harvest field? I think a great many farmers would employ female labor if available, most of them taking two or more. As to the work being somewhat hard, if a farmer knew he would have to employ women to help with the harvest, etc., he could do a whole lot towards making it within their limits, such as tying his sheaves small enough to enable them to handle same easily. At threshing they could certainly do equally as well as the men and in many cases a whole lot better, at the same time doing away with the labor shortage, releasing a number of able-bodied men for making munitions or enlisting, and incidentally do a great deal towards developing the West. I should like to see this discussed in The Grain Growers' Guide, as something will have to be done, and done soon.

BERNARD SMITH,
Biggar, Sask.

TO BUILD AN ELEVATOR

Central Secretary:—Meeting held at Dollard, January 24. D. Menzies, president in chair. A good gathering of members were present to meet A. G. Hawkes, organizer for the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company. The required number of shares were soon forthcoming and many are yet to come. Mr. Hawkes gave an interesting speech on the aims and objects of our association and kindred organizations. It was much appreciated by those present.

Also on the 26th, our District Director, A. Graigen, made a long stay with us and had a good attendance in the afternoon when he gave one of his usual healthy talks on the principles of The Grain Growers' Association and no doubt sowed good seed that will soon blossom into a stronger local and co-operative trading association.

I have not said all I should like re-

garding Mr. Hawkes' visit, but his presence and manner has all that is good and sound, his influence carries far. Of course I have a liking for him, coming from the same beauty spot in the Old Country (Kent). So had to curb my expressions.

H. CRESSY,
Secy. Dollard Local.

WANT DOCTOR IN MUNICIPALITY

Central Secretary:—The annual meeting of the Kermaria local was held in the hall on Saturday, January 20, 1917. The meeting was called to order by the president, H. Hall, at 8 p.m.

Moved by E. L. Klock, seconded by Geo. A. McIntyre, that minutes of previous meeting be accepted.—Carried.

Moved by E. L. Klock, seconded by Geo. A. McIntyre, that balance sheet for 1916 be passed.—Carried.

Moved by H. Hall, seconded by W. Archibald, that Secretary be allowed five dollars as salary for 1916.—Carried.

Moved by E. L. Klock, seconded by Geo. A. McIntyre that secretary write to the councillors urging them to take the necessary steps to get a doctor for the municipality.—Carried.

The election of officers for 1917 then took place. The following members being elected to the various offices:—H. Hall, president, nominated by A. Butler and W. Wheelock; W. Wheelock, vice-president, nominated by A. Butler and W. Archibald. Geo. Griffen, Geo. A. McIntyre, Paul Jestin, E. L. Klock, directors; Alan Butler, secretary, nominated by Geo. A. McIntyre and P. Jestin.

Moved by T. Gardner, seconded by E. L. Klock that secretary write to council re seed grain for the municipality.—Carried.

Moved by H. Hall, seconded by A. Butler to carry question of twine to next meeting.—Carried.

Moved by W. Archibald, seconded by G. Griffen to adjourn.

ALAN BUTLER,
Secy. Kermaria Local.

LYDDEN ANNUAL MEETING

Central Secretary:—I beg to submit the minutes of our annual meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read. The books were audited and certified correct by T. Driscoll. P. W. Hall, one of the delegates to the district convention, held in Saskatoon, gave his report. Reading of correspondence.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, E. L. Hoir, proposed by P. W. Hall, seconded by J. Maconochie. Vice-president, T. Driscoll, proposed by W. Stempel, seconded by E. L. Hoir. Secretary-treasurer, P. W. Hall, proposed by A. Henderson, seconded by T. Driscoll. The following directors were then elected: W. J. Cleland, W. Stempel, A. Henderson, J. Maconochie, F. G. Wright, A. Wright.

Moved that the railway fares of the three delegates to the district convention be paid.

Moved that the secretary-treasurer be instructed to induce former members to become subscribers to this local.

Moved by A. Henderson that E. L. Hoir go as delegate to the annual convention to be held in Moose Jaw.

Moved by W. Stempel that the meeting adjourn.

Our delegate is E. L. Hoir, Lydden P.O.

Enclosed please find postal notes for \$4.50 (membership fees).

F. W. HALL,
Secy. Lydden Assn.

NEW LOCAL AT DAVIS

Central Secretary:—Enclosed please find \$6.00 covering Central office fees for twelve members of newly formed local at Davis, Sask.

At a meeting of those interested held at Davis, on Dec. 6, and which was addressed by Andrew Knox, district director, it was decided to organize. The matter of forming an incorporated local is now being considered. Will you please forward literature giving information regarding this. I should also like information regarding educational scheme or course of study for locals if anything is being done in this line.

FRANK WHITE,
Sec., Davis G.G.A.