

# Saskatchewan

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

## GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION CONVENTION—DISTRICT 11

A district convention of delegates from the various local associations included in District No. 11 was held in the "News Hall," at North Battleford, on November 24 and 25, at which there was a large gathering of delegates present, about fifty different local associations being represented. President Maharg and Secretary Green were also in attendance on the evening of the 24th and until the close of the convention.

The meeting was opened at ten o'clock on Monday by Thos. Sales, district director, with J. H. Wesson, of Maidstone, acting as secretary. Mr. Sales opened proceedings by welcoming the delegates to the first district convention, told them the reason for holding such, and pointed out to them the advantages to be obtained by having such local meetings, where items of purely local interest might be threshed out, and other work interesting to the association might also be discussed and thereby prepared for the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' association as a whole. He introduced several lines of discussion that he hoped they would take up, and then called for a committee of three to receive any resolutions that might have been received, or had been brought by the delegates from their locals for presentation for discussion. Messrs. Pense, Simpson and Smith were chosen for this purpose, and the meeting adjourned till 1 o'clock.

Upon re-assembling, the delegates were addressed by G. Penson and others with reference to tariff revision, followed by Messrs. G. Anderson and Bromley, G. Collins and Ebbi. An interesting discussion took place. Various resolutions were put up by the several delegates in connection with the sample market, railway rates, Dominion expenditure for military purposes, third party (political) and co-operative trading.

By this time F. W. Green and J. A. Maharg had arrived and the chairman requested Mr. Green to address the meeting. Mr. Green, who was received with applause, at once started in with a lengthy talk about the association and its work and then proceeded to introduce the matter of co-operative trading in connection with the G.G.A., saying that it had been of immense benefit to a bunch of farmers living at and near Moose Jaw. Although the work had been carried on for a number of years, they had never had to pay more than the first call of 15 per cent. of the amount of their shares, and were in good financial condition at present, having, during the time they had been working together co-operatively, saved themselves many hundreds of dollars. He suggested that the association go into trading as a Co-operative Association; first, of course, getting the charter increased or added to, to include trading co-operatively. Mr. Green was well received and his talk was followed intently. Others were then called upon for suggestions and A. J. Greensill, of Denholm, and T. Sales, of Langham, were requested to prepare a sheet and be ready to discuss co-operative work on the following morning. It being after 11 o'clock, the meeting then adjourned until 9.30 Tuesday morning.

Upon resumption of business, the chairman, after a few words, called upon Mr. Greensill to speak upon co-operative trading, and as an introduction to the subject he gave a detailed account of the cause for, the birth of, and the general working of the retail and wholesale co-operative societies of England. He advocated the establishment of retail co-operative societies at each and all local points which might be found to be suitably placed as market points, and where there were Grain Growers enough, to provide the necessary capital, but, as in contradistinction to the suggestion of Mr. Green, that these retail societies should not be branches of a big concern, but should each be run under an individual charter, with its own supporters and buying its own goods and dividing its profits amongst its own group of supporters. He was distinctly against interfering with the charter of the Grain Growers' association, saying that in the opinion of many, the force and power of the association

lay in its independent character. The association had done great work in the past, and had been the means of initiating many great improvements in the life of the farmer, through Dominion as well as provincial legislation, but to make a trading concern of it he considered would be to lose prestige and to start up a bigger lot of enemies than they had at the present time.

"If we as farmers can originate a company such as The Grain Growers Grain Co. Ltd. and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., with their rapid immense and successful growth," he said, "what is there to prevent us starting a system of co-operative societies all over the province, each one independent, but each one buying its supplies from a Grain Growers' Wholesale Co-operative Society, and holding shares in that wholesale and thereby sharing in the profits of that Wholesale Society?"

"The connecting link between the G.G.A. and the Co-operative Society should be that no person may be a member of any G.G. Co-operative Society unless he is a member of the G.G.A. This would help to swell the membership of the association, and besides this, I would suggest that every Retail Society should be a member of the Wholesale, holding say ten shares. There is no reason in the world why this latest suggested child of the Grain Growers' association should not be the equal of either of the others (G.G.G. Co. Ltd. and Sask. Co-op. Elev. Co.). In fact, if only pushed through properly, and supported in the way that the others have been, this one will not be an ordinary child, but rather a young giant."

T. Sales continued the discussion of co-operative trading, giving suggestions for the by-laws and constitution that should govern both wholesale and retail societies, and after some enquiries, a copy of the suggestions were given to Mr. Green for presentation at the annual convention in the early part of 1914, together with a resolution passed by the convention of District 11 on same.

Mr. Maharg was then called upon and gave a talk on general lines of the G.G.A. entering into the benefits to be derived from the introduction of these district conventions, where local matters may be discussed and thus only present to the Central convention resolutions that had been more thoroughly discussed than was possible under the old system.

A resolution was then moved by Charles Davis, of North Battleford, strongly protesting about the manner in which the North Battleford Board of Trade had written re the farmers and the railway rates, so far as the North Battleford farmers were concerned.

The letter referred to in the resolution was read and Mr. Davis moving the adoption of same, said that the statements in the letter were uncalled for, unwarranted and without truth and showed an entire lack of knowledge as to the conditions of the farmer and apparently an entire lack of interest in his welfare. The resolution, which was passed unanimously, was as follows:

"Believing that the great agricultural industry of these Western provinces is the great basic industry of this country; and

"Whereas the farmers, merchants, boards of trade and other public bodies throughout the West have been practically a unit in demanding a reduction of railway rates in the West to conform with those existing in the East; and

"Whereas it has been brought to the notice of this convention that a resolution passed by the North Battleford Board of Trade, in which they declined to endorse the action of the above bodies and have expressed the opinion that it is unjust to ask the railways of the West to make the same rates as do the Eastern roads; furthermore, they stated that the richness of the soil of Western Canada, and of the North Battleford district especially, is so rich that it makes it quite easy for the farmers to make fine profits even when paying the existing freight rates."

"Be it therefore resolved that we farmers of District No. 11, Sask. G.G.A., assembled in convention, do hereby regret that the North Battleford Board of Trade

in its desire to create a railway centre in North Battleford should be so willing to sacrifice the interests of the farmers especially, and the community in general, and should so lower its dignity by pandering to the great railway interests;

"Furthermore, we do not consider the North Battleford Board of Trade a competent body to judge the ability of the farmers of the West to bear the heavy burden that the present freight rates impose."

A number of delegates who had been unable to get to North Battleford, for the first day of the convention put in an appearance during Tuesday, and altogether the number attending was seventy-two.

The whole of the proceedings were carried through in a fitting and proper manner and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The closing talk was given by Mr. Maharg, and then F. W. Green asked all present to join in "God Save the King," and thus our first district convention was brought to a close.

J. H. WESSON, Maidstone,  
Sec'y for District 11.

I have the pleasure of informing you that on Saturday, the 22nd inst we organized our Dinsmore Local Grain Growers' association. Twenty-four members joined, after which officers were elected as follows: President, W. M. Thrasher; vice-president, L. Jones; directors, H. Creswell, Peter Hansen, H. Clarke, J. M. Eastman, H. Taylor and A. E. Falk. A live and enthusiastic feeling prevailed throughout the entire meeting, evidently manifesting that more and more grain growers are realizing their thralldom wrought by the vested interests. A number of business matters were discussed. Several cars of coal were ordered on the co-operative plan. The ordering of other commodities will be considered later. Enclosed find \$12, membership fees due Central for twenty-four members, two of which are ladies. We expect to increase our membership at next meeting.

J. E. FALK,  
Sec.-Treas., Dinsmore Assn.

Your circular of November 13 was presented at a meeting of our association on December 3 and all the questions were discussed and voted on, and all the resolutions were carried almost unanimously. We are sending Ed. Anderson as a delegate to the Melville convention. I am forwarding a resolution similar to one sent in last winter, re small milling industries. We have too few members to ship in car loads of flour. You know we are selling our wheat at 1 cent a lb. and buying it back in the shape of flour at 3 1-3 cents a lb. That is not getting a square deal, and we think something ought to be done to cheapen the poor man's loaf by establishing small milling industries.

J. W. HACKWARD,  
Sec'y, Lanigan Assn.

J. W. Hackward, Esq.—  
We have yours of recent date enclosing resolution re small mills, which has been placed on file.

"We quite appreciate your statement re flour—selling wheat at 1 cent and buying it back at 3 1-3 cents per lb. But that even is not so bad as buying turkey at 30 cents a lb., butter at 40 cents a lb., eggs at 35 cents to 50 cents per doz., or beef at 25 cents, or pork and mutton at 16 and 18 cents by the carcass. Do you know, lots of farmers are doing these things. Yes, and some buying horses at \$600 per pair. Nevertheless, let us get the mills and feed the offal. Grow everything possible on the farm that we have to use there. Co-operate in selling and buying. Sell more and buy less, or do more and hire less." F. W. G.

Please find enclosed \$1 for one copy of Cushing's Manual, two dozen membership cards and one dozen copies of the constitution. Mr. Redman of district 6 organized this local branch of the association and we will be known as "Sunny South Branch." Twelve members joined and the following officers were elected: President, Wm. Liggett; vice-president, R. H. Mason; secretary-treasurer, F. O. Burrill; directors, G. E. Crawford, Louis Arnold, Jacob Miller, Randal Donnelly, J. W. Wilkinson and Neil McDougall. We will hold our next meeting on December 5, when we expect to get at least fifteen more members and will send in the fees after that meeting. We will also elect delegates to the Grenfell convention, to be held on the 18th December,

and also delegates to the annual convention.

FRANK O. BURRILL,  
Sec'y, Sunny South Assn.

Enclosed find \$40, being fees for eighty members for 1913. This does not represent our true strength here, but is the proceeds from an "At Home." Co-operation in buying and selling is the only thing that will keep our association alive at this point.

THOS. REED,  
Sec'y, Redver G.G.A.

Please find enclosed order for \$25.50, membership fees from Antler Association.

A. G. DAVEY,  
Secretary.

Enclosed find \$7, membership fees from this branch for 1913. The following is a resolution passed at our last meeting:—

Resolved: That this association does not approve of the actions of the Central executive regarding the sample market, and would put this association on record as being in favor of a sample market being established.

WILLIAM NOBLE,  
Sec'y, Oxbow Assn.

Enclosed please find \$10.50 for twenty-one members for 1913. At the annual meeting the following directors were appointed for 1914: President, W. Bromley; vice-president, J. Johnson; secretary-treasurer, E. C. Staley; directors, A. McKerricher, F. Geig, G. C. Denton, L. Jones, Ed. Guernsey, Sey West.

Kindly inform us when it will be necessary to send in name of delegate and any propositions likely to be put forward.

Although we do not seem to be very progressive in regard to the amount of subscriptions, this does not mean to say we are lacking in members, but the cause of the small amount is largely due to the fact that it is a new country and the farmers generally are just beginning to get ahead of their difficulties, and I feel sure that another year you will find they will co-operate more and will take advantage of making their purchases through the association. Kindly send me a supply of membership cards, also a price list of supplies.

E. C. STALEY,  
Sec'y, Thorndyke Assn.

Enclosed find \$39, membership fees due Central from seventy-eight members of the Nary Association. Our local organization is progressing very nicely, and, as you will see, already has a large number of members, and all of them are very enthusiastic and good workers.

We held our annual meeting on the 6th and elected the following officers: President, H. M. Hendrickson; vice-president, I. Dierdal; secretary-treasurer, Odin Berg; directors, H. C. Larson, K. A. Boe, Ole Jacobson, Guy Dierdal, Lars Anholt and C. J. Dahl.

ODIN BERG,  
Sec'y Nary Assn.

Enclosed find \$8.50, membership fees. This, with our twenty-three life members, brings our total to forty for 1913.

We held our annual meeting on the 17th and elected the following officers: President, W. N. Catley; vice-president, Wm. Busby; secretary, I. W. Sulton; directors, W. V. Conlin, J. F. Middlemiss, George Catley, W. J. Orchard, F. Fruthy, W. Clark. Delegates to convention, I. W. Sulton and George Brown.

Our association meets on Wednesday every two weeks during the winter months and we propose having a social and literary meeting once a month. The resolutions contained in circular are being taken up as time permits, and when list is completed I will report results to you.

I. W. SULTON,  
Sec'y Tregarva Assn.

## PHOTOS WANTED

We are anxious to secure some choice photographs of poultry of various kinds, as well as fields of standing grain of different kinds. We will pay from 50 cents to \$1.50 for those we accept, and will return all others promptly. The photos must be in The Guide office not later than February 10.

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE.