



SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

Typical Grain Growers' Meeting

A model club meeting was put on one evening at the Regina Agricultural Convention by the Grenfell Agricultural Society. But perhaps the Moose Jaw Agricultural Society is unique in being the only one affiliated with the Grain Growers' Association, as provided for by both the Agricultural Society Ordinance and the Grain Growers' Constitution. This society makes its members, members of the Grain Growers' Association also, by paying 50c. per member to the sister association, and uses the sub-association part of the Grain Growers' Constitution as an adjunct to the Agricultural Society Ordinance. The central headquarters of the Agricultural Society being in Moose Jaw, while the sub-associations meet in the school houses surrounding the city. An illustration of their work was given at the Agricultural Convention at Regina. The topic given them was, "How to keep the boy on the farm."

Six or eight boys took part, making speeches, reciting, singing songs and reading papers. Mr. Green said they were handicapped some because of the difficulty in getting their young people down from their country points to Regina, and that many of their young people were away at the Universities and Colleges and asked that the audience note as much what was done and who did it as the particular thing said.

No less than four young boys from Boharm branch alone were at the University in Toronto and the Agricultural Colleges, and these were brothers of those on the platform. The meeting was opened with a song, "A better day is dawning," and a recitation of Kipling's, "Recessional." Interest was kept up for two and a half hours, and nothing was introduced but what could easily be done by any local association, and much better by many. Give the boys a chance to practice the art of thinking, writing, speaking or singing. There is no better channel than our Grain Growers' Association, said the Chairman.

Extracts from what the Boys Said.

B. Thompson.—The farm offers a great many advantages for producing a high type of manhood. It was only on the farm that the skill at this work could be achieved and an insight into farm methods obtained. The farmer, by the very necessity of working alone during the greater part of his time, has the opportunity of thinking independently. The man on the farm is thrown on his own resources and learns how to deal with big problems. He lives in contact with nature, and nature forces, and becomes a better and truer man for it.

He surely has the opportunity to build up a strong, healthy body. He can be protected from evil associates, harmful books and the like. It is the boy of today that we look for the man of tomorrow, and unless attractions are made to retain the lads on the farm, it will not take long before the farmer of whom we are all so justly proud sinks into oblivion and forgetfulness. The only heritage that one generation leaves to the next that will be of much use is the skill, knowledge and the character and ideals that have been developed and implanted in the young people, who will succeed. Great buildings or industries or organizations or libraries will not do much to solve the problems of the future unless there is learned, skillful and energetic people to handle them.

B. Green.—It was his belief that every calling should have the best men obtainable. It had been said that anyone could farm, and that all other callings required brain. The years have proved this to be a fallacy and it has been recognized in no uncertain way that farming is a science and requires so much, if not more, brains and skill than any other calling under the sun. The speaker then traced the history of the tiller of the soil from the days of William the Conqueror up to the present age, showing that lack

of education had in a large measure been responsible for the so-called placing of the farmer in the "lower class." Education today was a vital adjunct to the farmer, and it was beyond dispute that their calling was one of the most important, as they supplied the means of sustenance for the world's population. The farmer was faced with many problems, not the least being the commercial. The right to have a word to say in the selling price of a commodity was inherent. At the present, however, that right is controlled by others. Trusts and organizations have done their part in the keeping down of the farmer and squeezing from him the last hard earned cent out of his hands. The only way to fight them was with their own weapons. Organization should be fought with organization, and, while it was a big task and required great skill, there should be no hesitancy. It is our duty. Evidently it is the men from the country in the past who have led in great problems, and he saw no reason why they should not stay on the farm and solve from that view-point.

R. J. Smith.—Said that one of the greatest needs of the day was that the farmer should be able to secure cheap money. At the present he has to pay from eight to twelve per cent on all money due for implements and other necessities. Until

F. W. GREEN, Editor

cities. Farm laborers working for wages were more apt to stay on the farm than a farmer's son, who worked merely for the interest he might some day gain in his father's farm and had no immediate money return for his labor. But possibly one of the greatest reasons that operated on the minds of the young was the amount of drudgery that has been necessary. When it was asked why so much drudgery was necessary, he replied it was to make both ends meet, because the farmer had to "make both ends meet" for so many other people. When he was surrounded on all sides by leeches and blood-suckers; their name was legion; one did not have to go far to find them. He thought the reason why these parasites were allowed to thrive on the labor of the farmer was the indifference shown by agriculturalists as a community to their own best interests. Governments did not seem to listen to farmers until they were compelled to, and the hand-writing on the wall was in sight as recent events had showed.

The recitation of Mrs. Gallagher, the singing of the Brookshank boys and the selections of their father, G. Paisley, C. Shepley and C. Elsom were all appreciated.

Well, what of it? We have found this plan of operating a branch association meeting regular every week with its succeeding variations in personnel, matter and method of conduct highly successful.

F. W. GREEN.



On Greendale Farm, Boharm, Sask., Owned by F. W. Green.

there was some remedy for this, the farmer would be always handicapped to a certain extent with his work. At the present time, a very small percentage of the country boys were in the position of attending high school or college. The system of public schooling as adopted today did little to educate a boy for the farm life. Some system ought to be adopted he thought, by which the country boy could be educated to become a model farmer. The lecturer, when he visited the cities, gave a long address on Shakespeare, and when he visited the country he spoke on cattle and horses. He advocated the use of the college lecturers in the country as well as in the city, so as to put the boy of the country on a level with the one in the city. He also made a plea for the establishment of libraries in the rural districts and so educate the country lad to a better understanding of all the great duties and responsibilities which must eventually devolve upon him.

John Maharg on "Why boys leave the farm."

He gave as some of the reasons, that they did so when there was no possibility of them becoming owners of a farm. Another reason was indisposition to soil their hands, while others thought they could not reach any great heights along the line of intellectual and social development. Some others thought that the farm did not offer any great inducements financially. Lack of leisure was also a powerful incentive for young men to leave the farm and gravitate to the

FRENCH GRAIN GROWERS

They Wish for Literature in Their Own Language

We are holding a series of meetings in school houses around Manor, and thus far are having fair success. We lead off with the organization and follow with a debate on some subject. On January 28, we held a meeting and the audience was composed of nearly all French speaking people. Their children are attending English schools, and they themselves cannot as yet read English. We had a good interpreter to translate and these men have formed an association at Cantal. At our last night's meeting, the appended resolution was passed. If these men get what they want (and there are thousands of French speaking people in the West like them) they will all subscribe for THE GUIDE, and when they get to know the exact condition of affairs they will, no doubt, become a valuable addition to the association. You will notice that the Telegram of Winnipeg prints a page in German and one in French. Are we to allow this paper to supplant our GUIDE. I think if this resolution was brought up at the coming convention, that it would find favor with the majority.

Resolution

WHEREAS, we believe that the G.G.A. is working in the best interests of the agricultural classes of Canada,

AND

WHEREAS, there is an official organ known as "The Grain Growers' Guide,"

AND

WHEREAS, we, the French speaking people of this large district are unable to understand the language of the G. G. GUIDE,

BE IT RESOLVED

THAT we are willing to assist the G.G.A. by membership and THE GUIDE by subscription, and earnestly request that two or three pages of the said GUIDE be printed in the French language; also the constitutions and by-laws, and the various other literature; and that we would gladly embrace an opportunity to hear a speaker, in our own language, discuss the G. G. questions.

C. A. BURR.

WHEN WE WERE BORN

First Meeting of the Moose Jaw Agricultural Society

I note an article in a farm paper on the birth of our society. This is our first record.

A meeting of farmers and others interested in forming an agricultural society was held this date, July 26, 1884, in Floriday and McIntosh's Hall. When the meeting was called to order, H. C. Battell, was appointed chairman and W. Goodman acted as secretary pro tem.

Moved by Mr. Coulton, seconded by Wm. Watson, "That in the opinion of this meeting it is advisable to form an association known as 'The Moose Jaw Agricultural Society' for the purpose of advancing the interests of the farmers in the Moose Jaw district, and of agriculture in general." After considerable discussion this motion was carried unanimously. Moved by J. E. Ross, seconded by Mr. McIntosh, that Mr. H. C. Battell be the president of the society. Moved by J. E. Ross, seconded by Mr. Coulton, that Mr. Wm. Watson be vice-president. Moved by Mr. Gagen, seconded by Mr. Nichol, that Mr. Jas. Watson be secretary. Moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Cline, that the following be a committee of directors to carry on the business of the society:—Messrs. McIntosh, Cline, J. E. Ross, Grayson, Gagen, McDougall, J. H. Ross, David Ross, Morrison, McCarroole, Cudmore, Ivor, Duston, King, Bowden, Godwin, Gilmore, Nichol and Wm. Pitblado.

Moved by W. Watson, seconded by Mr. Cline, that we have our first show in the month of October next, and that the president on behalf of the association apply to the Lieutenant Governor and North West Council for a grant of money to assist the association. Moved by Mr. Goodwin, seconded by Mm. Grayson, that the first director's meeting take place two weeks from today, Saturday, August 9, at 3 p.m. in Floriday and McIntosh's Hall. Moved by Wm. Grayson, seconded by Mr. Watson, that all the directors be notified of the above meeting by post card. Meeting then adjourned.

F. W. GREEN.

A. E. FLACK,

Secretary.

WEST EAGLE HILLS ASSOCIATION

The West Eagle Hills Grain Growers' Association held its annual meeting Friday night, January 21, and the following officers were elected: President, Chas. Truscott; vice-president, J. R. Boleur; sec'y.-treas., A. E. Flack. Executive: F. S. Palmer, Geo. Hennessy, R. W. Waters, Harry Nelson, Neil Larson, John Nelson. Delegate to the convention, R. W. Waters.

Last year there was but ten paid-up members, and but two meetings were held, which were but very poorly attended. However, this year there is a complete change of officers and a number of us have been making an effort to push the work, and had the gratification of seeing over thirty at the annual meeting held Friday night last. Four members paid their arrears, while two new names were added to the roll, and am expecting quite a few more. At present, there are twenty-six on the roll, including a number in arrears, but hope to have all these in by next meeting. A special meeting is called for February 2, to discuss the measures coming before the convention. We are endeavoring to extend our field and have decided to hold meetings alternately in the two schools in our district, as a great many people complain of the distance they have to travel, and quite a number signified their intention of joining if we would do so.