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# Manitoba Grain Growers

## The Rallying Point

AUGUST rallies the farmers to the harvest fields and they respond to the call and from early daylight till late dark they do their bit. The approach of November

rallies them again to the work of their organization and in spite of handicaps they will respond.

What is the rallying point? It is not the wonderfulness of the organization for the organization is simple and entirely unspectacular. It is not the superlative genius or magnetism of their leaders for the leaders are very ordinary mortals of like abilities and passions with the rank and file.

The rallying point is the justice of their claims and the worth of their ideal. It is soundness of principle that cements our union. And in spite of all menacing conditions and tendencies we rally round the ideals that united the founders of the movement in the early years of the century. The abolition of those elements in our economic and political fabric through which the farmer is exploited and the building up of a rural life in Western Canada which shall be intelligent, alert, morally sound and democratically alive to its duties and responsibilities. Today as never before we are called to stand by our principles. They will be severely tested in coming months. There are those who would rejoice to see us broken or divided. Loyalty to our principles will save the day. Let that ever be our rallying point.

## The New Secretary

It is the pleasant duty of the secretary of the provincial association to introduce to the readers of the Manitoba page the recently appointed secretary of the Woman's Section, Miss Mabel E. Finch. Some weeks ago Miss Roe, to whose devoted advocacy the Woman's Section owes a very great deal, was offered an attractive permanent position on the staff of The Guide, which, after consultation, she decided to accept. The Women's organization is glad to feel assured that they will still have Miss Roe's cordial sympathy and so far as possible her co-operation in the extension of the movement. Miss Finch, of Carman, who has been engaged as her successor, comes highly recommended. Like Miss Roe, she has been a teacher and has a wide knowledge of rural life. She will be located at the Central office, 306 Bank of Hamilton Building, where she will welcome any women workers who may from time to time be in the city. To this address all correspondence should be sent. After spending a little time becoming acquainted with the details of the office work she will take part in the fall campaign for which preparations are now being made, and will endeavor at the earliest possible moment to become personally acquainted with the local workers throughout the province. We are confident she will have the cordial and sympathetic co-operation of the women membership generally in her endeavors to serve their cause.—W.R.W.

Conducted Officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by the Secretary

W. R. Wood

306 Bank of Hamilton Bldg., Winnipeg

## How Do We Stand?

This is a call to you. Sometimes you are asked how many members the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association has. How do you answer? Do you say off-hand and optimistically, "Oh, about 10,000." Or do you aim to err, if at all, on the side of modesty and say "Between six and seven thousand." Perhaps you promise to look it up in the Year Book when you go home. A very good idea—but you will not find it there. The truth is—and it is better to know the truth, no one in Manitoba for at least three years past has known within a thousand of how many members there are in the association. The truth is, further, that there are 140 local associations whose names appear on our lists from whom the Central office has not heard by correspondence or remittance since 1917. Does that give you a jolt? Do you begin to imagine there is a screw loose somewhere?

That is right. This article is written because the secretary needs your assistance in tightening up the screw that is loose. If you are an officer—or a member—of one of those 140 local associations, you are urged to get things moving so that within the month, every one of them will have reported to Central its membership and its officers, and remitted the proportion of membership fees required by constitution. If the association is going to make good during 1919, we must get the 1918 business cleared up, not after the year ends, but before. The secretary is writing every one of these branches this month, sending a stamped and addressed envelope for a statement of the local situation. Will you help him by seeing that the statement comes through, and thus prepare the way for a genuine balance of accounts and a full report of the association at the end of the year.

It would not be surprising if you decided that something more might be needed than correspondence—that these branches ought to be every one visited by a representative of the association within the next three months, in order to see whether they cannot be strengthened and quickened into greater activity. The secretary believes so. That will be the problem facing the board when it meets on November 1st. But in the meantime, if every reader will do his duty, a large proportion might have their reports sent in, and be classed as in good standing.

May I say further that the ideal which Central holds regarding this is one which should appeal to every Grain Grower. It is, that at any time and every time, the Central should be able to say when ever inquiry is made how many members are in good standing, how many locals are paid up, and thus know accurately what the strength of the association is. For this we must hear from every branch at least quarterly. On our part we hope to inaugurate more effective communication from the office, and we think we can rightfully expect every branch to keep us informed, at least quarterly, of their standing and activities. And by way of a beginning—especially if you are one of the 140—write us in time to allow us to make an A1 clean up, financially and statistically before the end of the year.

## Bungled Thinking

A recent writer, referring to the methods by which Canadian railroads have been built, and by which at the same time vast areas of Canadian soil were transferred to the ownership of the big corporations, makes use of the following statement:—

"There were, of course, weak points in the generous bargain these Empire builders received, but when we look back nearly 40 years, no one regrets what happened. The wealth of the individual railroad builder sinks into significance when you look at the broad results."

The writer of that kind of stuff is a bungler or worse. "No one regrets what happened!" Are we to believe that no one regrets that the financing of the Dominion for two generations has been blighted by wholesale alienation of public resources, that no one regrets that Canadian politics during all these years have been dominated by corporation influence, that no one regrets that through such conditions the public life of the Dominion has come to be regarded the world over as rotten to the core. If no one regrets such "broad results" then there is all the more need for a movement that will help our people to see clearly, and to estimate wisely and to judge rightly. May we not count on every grain grower continuing to live and labor that our Canadian people may come—every man and woman of them—to regret such results.

## An Ideal Fall Rally

A week or two ago the president of our local association met the secretary on his way home from town and broached the subject of a directors' meeting. Several of the members

of the board had already been inquiring when it would be held. So it was arranged for Friday evening at Benson Jacobs'. Telephone notification brought a full turn out of president, vice-president, secretary and the six directors. Plans for the winter's work were taken up and it was decided to undertake fortnightly meetings, taking up the monthly topics to be announced by the provincial association at the first meeting of every month, the second meeting of every month to have as its chief feature a debate. A committee of three was appointed to draw up a series of topics for debate and to work out the list of contestants. The proposal to inaugurate a library was discussed and endorsed by a unanimous vote. A committee of three was appointed to canvass the neighborhood with a view to securing membership fees. The amount was set at one dollar but it was agreed that the proposition to be put up to each individual would be the contribution of a book and a dollar. Another committee was appointed to secure a location, and arrange details of management. Provision was made for three carloads to attend the district convention.

But the chief business of the evening was the planning of a rally meeting to open the series for the fall and winter. This meeting, held on the 23rd of October, was a splendid success and augurs well for the success of those to follow. The hall was crowded to the doors. The president opened with an address on "The Social Ideal of the Grain Growers' Movement" and was followed by the secretary, who gave an inspiring statement of the results of the summer campaign, the membership having been increased by 45 and the number of subscribers to The Guide by nearly 60. A Women's Section with an initial membership of 17, increased later to 23, was reported, and a brief address from the secretary of the section presented the objects and the plans of the women's organization. Mr. Ellison, the president of the Lincolnville local, was then introduced and gave a most inspiring address on "Making Over a Community." He dealt with the origin and progress of the community organization formed in their neighborhood, and so impressively presented its advantages that at the close of his address the meeting unanimously decided to enter upon a similar enterprise. It involves an executive committee representing five local organizations, plans for a reading room and recreation centre, an interchange of half a dozen standard magazines subscribed for on behalf of the club, an oratory and musical contest to be prepared for during the winter and held in March or April, a community singing class under a competent instructor. Committees were appointed and are now at work on these projects. The community has decided to take some interest in it.

self and to get full progressive movement winter program of under consideration winter of 1918-19. have ever had. We we have now got a more perfectly the Grain Growers' p delighted to find on ing up its work as committee of the s N.R. The above ideal. Geographic would be very diff there is no reason v not realize it if you t especially if you t genuinely desirous "public welfare neighborhood."

## District C

The officers of a got together last complete and thus their fall conven feature in these p part taken by loca trier district will gress of the or director of the W present a statement their organization retary will present each district there cussion of local o definite effort is l active participatio of the locals and promise specially who attend.

What is your the various item being provided f association has su unteered one speal success of the con the district work and securing the all arrangements presidents and secr

## Meeting

At the executi week it was deci of the directors. Section and of th to be held in th Bank of Hamilton on Friday, Novem

This will be th boards till the c will concern itself the annual conve ing matters of vi ing the future p tion of the move should plan to c pared to give a t investigation of may best do in co its ideals and t Every worker in branch, who has posal or contribu may assist that all that is possib the hands of the one of the direct taken up. If th ing some phase c calling attention new avenue or, utilized, bring Let the director then there will satisfaction and make the direct fruitful that ev that will do so where and mar "what we've ge

Loyal Grain mind as they 1919 that the m for the coming y had been in co It was made w unanimity. Ev the field and a tended operation work demanded body makes a h association's ex economically as pagating of the of efficiency is and with the s fidently hoped v ice than ever association and new minimum o the opening o December 1, 19