

KEEPING THE FARMERS ILLITERATE

One of the most remarkable resolutions that it has ever been the lot of the writer to hear placed seriously before a public meeting was placed before the conference of fruit growers and consumers by a prominent British Columbia grower at Calgary a short time ago.

The resolution proposed that the conference should memorialize the various governments asking that free advanced education be done away with—meaning education beyond the ordinary public school—and that only such boys and girls as showed special brilliance at the public school should be assisted by scholarships to continue their studies and encouraged to go longer to school. It was not Rip Van Winkle who proposed the resolution, much as it might appear to have been.

The purpose which the mover affirmed that such restriction upon free advanced education would serve was the laudable one of keeping a larger percentage of the rising generation upon the land or in other productive labors. The statement was made that our boys and girls acquire habits of laziness at the high schools which "are breeding places of all our troubles," that ninety per cent. of those attending drift into clerkships and office work, finally to enter the great non-producing middlemen classes which are now very much too numerous. The speaker maintained that a high school education had no value to agriculturists, but was a serious detriment to the rising generation, stating that few young men with good academic training return from the school to the land.

A Novel but Effective Remedy

To keep the boys and girls upon the land keep them illiterate was practically the remedy proposed.

The novelty of the proposed remedy interested me greatly. I was sure that no Grain Grower could ever have thought out such a solution for this pressing problem, and I was rather pleased to note that the mover, who defended his resolution with an able address—able as to rhetoric, if not as to logic—gave evidence by his accent of having been born out of Canada. I am free to admit that the remedy really would serve its purpose. Keep the farmers as a class ignorant and uneducated and we can develop a farmer caste which cannot get away from the soil. That is what the serfs of old were, and what millions of toilers upon the land in the old world are today. They do not drift to the middlemen classes. They are anchored to the soil.

It will not surprise my readers that as the representative of the consumers of Saskatchewan the writer seized the first opportunity to show this proposition up in its true colors, nor that after his address there was found only the mover to vote for the motion. The surprising feature is that such a proposition could be seriously put before any meeting composed largely of agriculturists.

The incident points clearly to this fact, which is all too frequently lost sight of, namely, that it is not merely getting and keeping people on the land that will solve this problem, nor yet that making them efficient wealth producers will do so. The solution lies in creating conditions that will give the country a free, intelligent and prosperous people in our productive avocations.

Saskatchewan's Broad Policy

I could not help comparing this proposal with the broad policy of advanced educational facilities in our rural communities enunciated by Premier Scott a short time ago, and supported by all parties.

It were better that we should let our sons and our daughters drift away from the land than that we should anchor them there by their own ignorance and lack of mental development to be the tenants or married hired men of city dwelling landlords of the future.

The illiterate and unorganized toilers upon the land always have been and always will be the "easy mark" for those who "reap where they sowed not," for those who fatten on the labor of others. Education, organization and co-operation are absolutely essential for the creation of social and economic conditions upon the farm which

Saskatchewan

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will give at least as good opportunities to those who produce wealth from the land as to those who engage in trade. No movement for peopling the farming lands can ever succeed unless it creates conditions that promise surer and greater rewards for honest toil intelligently expended there.

J. B. MUSSELMAN.

PATRIOTIC ACRE FUND

Percy Still on Top

The following are the latest contributors of ten or more forms each to the Patriotic Acre Fund. It will be seen that Percy Association is still unbeaten with its contribution of fifty forms. Association, canvasser, forms and number of acres are shown respectively:

Log Valley, Peter Potts	15	15
Centre Hill, R. W. Sully	16	12
Centre Hill, T. M. Sloper	16	11
Kincaid, B. J. Frostad	16	10
Kincaid, J. Nelson Edwards	16	10

A Splendid Contribution

Chas. McCarthy, of the Prairie Star Local, has set the pace all right for the farmers of Saskatchewan. Up to the present Chas. E. Graig, of the Sunshine Valley Association, has held pride of place, with a contribution of three acres to the fund. This has now been surpassed by Chas. McCarthy, with a contribution of five acres. These are two splendid specimens of patriotism, and are an honor to Saskatchewan and the association.

Getting in the Swim

Among recent applications for Patriotic Acre forms is that of Cupar Co-operative association, which received 60 forms, making a total of 120 taken by this local association; also Loreburn association, which has applied for 70 forms, and numerous others who have received 30 each. Yes! it is going along all right. How soon are YOU going to get into the swim?

THINKS FARMERS INDIFFERENT

I mailed a letter on the 21st inst., asking for prompt quotations, and am very pleased to say that a reply was received on the 24th inst., in time for a large meeting. Little things like this help, and I wish you to please accept my congratulations upon the very efficient organization you have helped to found. From my small knowledge of local work, and the disheartening indifference of those who would be benefited by co-operation, I can and always have appreciated the manner in which you have handled big problems and steadily forged ahead. May I, then, be excused for wishing you the best you could wish for yourself and continued success.

CHAS. A. HOMBURG,
Sec., Golden Prairie Assn.

WANT MARKETING ORGANIZATION

I am in receipt of your letter re the flags and charts. Have expressed these to you and I trust you will have received them in time. Permit me, in connection with this letter, to express my thanks to you for your assistance in carrying out our program on the 7th and 8th of July. This work has been very beneficial and many people are still talking about the information they obtained at the meeting.

The committee of representatives will meet today to consider the advisability of organizing an exchange for marketing purposes. I will let you know the outcome of this undertaking.

Convey my thanks to our president, Mr. Mahara. He has helped us in the undertaking very much. They admit out here that the G.G.A. has some good men at the head of their affairs.

J. G. DALKE,
Rush Lake Agric. Sec.

GREENROSE ORGANIZED

We have succeeded in organizing a branch of the S.G.G.A., with the following officers: President, J. J. Lewos; vice-president, C. Nickel; secretary, G. P. Seimens; directors, Benjamin Rede-

kopp, Alex. Neubaner, Wm. J. Klassen. Enclosed find \$5.00 membership fees. We have booked orders for 5,000 lbs. binder twine so far.

G. P. SEIMENS,
Sec., Greenrose Local.

THE ASSOCIATION EMBLEM

What would be the cost per hundred of the Association stickers, which we got at the convention? The women of our section would like to get them to stick on their 1-lb. prints of butter.

MRS. J. LUDLOW,
Sec., Wynyard W.G.G.A.

Sec., Wynyard W.G.G.A.:—Replying to your inquiry of the 21st inst., I have to state with regard to the use of the Association's emblem in sticker form, that we could not permit the use of this for creamery purposes on the part of any of our members. This emblem has been copyrighted and is the absolute property of the Association under the direct control of the Central Executive. You can easily understand that if we permitted the use of this emblem by members on goods which they have for sale such as prints of butter, that some members would use it on a very inferior quality of goods and that would bring the whole Association into disrepute.

CENTRAL SECRETARY.

'SOMETHING DOING' AT STUART'S

Enclosed find money order to the amount of \$5.00, membership fees for ten members. This brings our membership to forty. Our local held a picnic on the 22nd inst., at the Lake View Farm, and a very enjoyable time was spent in various sports. The evening was spent in dancing. Needless to say there was a large crowd, for it only has to be mentioned that there is "something doing" at C. H. Stuart's and everybody will be there.

Our local is beginning to take hold of co-operative purchasing, having bought some machinery, and we have our order made up for twine. We expect to have our own scales soon at the station, when we will be able to handle our own coal and other necessities.

Wishing the farmers' movement success.

C. H. STUART,
Sec., Clearfield Local

POWERS OF DIRECTORS

The men's and women's sections of the S.G.G.A. here held their first annual picnic at V. Flenler's dam on the 25th and it was a decided success. The day was rather cool, but a large crowd gathered to witness the sports, which included baseball, horse racing, foot races, ladies' drying contest, swimming races, diving, etc. Liberal prizes were given for each. The Pleasant Butte band was in attendance and helped materially to enliven the picnic.

All accounts not being in yet it is not possible to ascertain the exact profit but a tidy little sum was netted for the two associations. We expected to have our district director present but he was called west at that time. We look forward to another picnic next year and hope it will be as large a success as this year's.

Some difference of opinion exists in our local as to the handling of funds. I would like to know if the directors have the power to vote the money, or has the spending of it to be sanctioned by the members?

W. R. AFFLECK,
Sec., Demaine Local.

Sec., Demaine Local:—With regard to your question, "Have the directors the power to vote money or has this to be sanctioned by the members?" I wish to state as follows:

A board of directors is elected for the purpose of managing the business of the Local and has the power to do anything which all the members in

meeting may do with the exception of a few restrictions imposed in the constitution. The board has full power to spend the monies of the association for the legitimate business of the association. Of course a shareholders' meeting is superior to the directors and may give instructions to the directors which they must follow, but the shareholders would have no power to annul any contract or business transaction to which the directors had already committed the Local without the consent of the other interested party or parties.

CENTRAL SECRETARY.

THIS WILL HELP

If you will mail me about 300 pamphlets, "Romance of the Grain Growers of Saskatchewan," I will send them out with the tax notices to ratepayers in the rural municipality of Pittville, No. 169, which I shall be mailing around Sept. 1, 1915. I have just read this with much interest in your new price list.

THOS. J. DERMAN,
Sec., Rural Municipality.

A NEW BRANCH

On Wednesday a branch of the G.G.A. was formed here by Mr. Johnston, who was accompanied by Mr. Downes, of Lewvan. The following is a list of officers: President, H. Clark; vice-president, Wm. Gilchrist; directors, George Sproat, W. W. Young, Harry Martin, W. A. Sproat, Otto Carlson and James Smith.

FRED McNEIL,
Sec., Rainton Local.

A START AT CHATHAM

Find enclosed \$7.50 membership fees. We completed our organization on the 4th, and elected the following officers: President, D. J. Christie; vice-president, J. P. Barkaloo; secretary, K. J. Urquhart; directors, G. Rogers, D. A. Ross, J. McJanet, H. Doyle and Jas. Shrimpton. We expect to add more members next meeting.

R. URQUHART,
Sec., Chatham Local.

A LAKESIDE PICNIC

Spruce Lake Local fixed on June 25 for their first picnic. It was a glorious summer day. This, together with the splendid site on the bank of the lake, the loan of Mr. Marshall's house for refreshment purposes, and the hearty co-operation of all the members, made the picnic a great success. Water sports, general athletic sports and baseball were engaged in.

The chief interest to many of us was the visit of Thos. Sales, of Langham, our district director, who gave us a stirring address, emphasizing the necessity of the Grain Growers helping themselves by co-operation, as all the big interests were already doing. Many of the farmers in this district would do well to consider this aspect of the situation.

ONE INTERESTED.

LACKING CASH BUT LOYAL

I beg to acknowledge receipt of sample twine which in our judgment is very good. I was instructed, at our last meeting to forward to you the meeting's sincere regret in our inability to order our twine needed from the Central this year. The Central's most untiring effort to help its members as well as non-members in every way, which we undoubtedly could not do ourselves, are not underestimated. We hope that the financial difficulties which we are now in will not oblige us to patronize others than the Central in the near future. We hope to do our part in supporting this great movement.

Sec., _____ Local.

A successful gopher contest was held between the G.G.A. of Daisy Hill and Glenellen, with the result that 5,210 gophers were extinguished. Glenellen was the successful association, winning the prize of \$10.00. The individual prizes were won by Master Harvey Cookman, who came first, 1,935 tails, \$5.00, and Master C. Bergess, second, 1,697 tails, \$2.50.

J. J. SEYMOUR,
Sec., Glenellen Local.