

OFFICERS:		
Honorary President:		
J. W. Scallion		Virden
President:		
R. C. Henders		Culross
Vice-President:		
J. S. Wood		Oakville
Secretary-Treasurer:		
R. McKenzie		Winnipeg

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE DISTRICT

Pine Creek branch held their annual meeting on Dec. 17 in the schoolhouse. President C. Stewart in the chair gave an interesting address, in which he said one of the great needs of the Association was to get more of the young men interested.

The following officers for 1913 were elected: President, C. Stewart; vice-president, Wm. Johnson; secretary-treasurer, W. A. Green; directors, J. Bennett, G. Manns, A. McCaig, D. McCaig, D. Brown and W. A. Burton. M. Watson and J. Bennett were appointed to attend Portage convention.

W. Johnson was appointed to represent the Pine Creek branch on the District Board.

C. H. Burnell addressed the meeting and then Jos. Bennett gave some interesting figures on the difference between the price to producer and that paid by the consumer of farm products. Two resolutions were passed and will appear in the minutes of the district convention. The meeting then adjourned to meet again on Friday, Jan. 17, when the report of Portage and Brandon conventions will be heard.

A meeting to reorganize Berton branch was held in the hall on Dec. 20, with Wesley Lobb in the chair. Jos. Bennett and C. H. Burnell represented the District Association, and the election of officers for 1913 resulted as follows: President, W. Lobb; vice-president, Bert Curtis; secretary-treasurer, Jno. M. Bruce; directors, D. J. McClellan, Thos. Perks, Wm. Tomenlock. It was arranged to hold a meeting on the first Friday in every month.

A meeting to organize will be held at Edrans at 2 o'clock on Jan. 15. All the farmers in the vicinity are urged to be present.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of delegates from the following branches in the district: Pine Creek, Mayfield, Salem, Oakville, Portage, Poplar Point, Oakland, Longburn, Gladstone, Arizona, Rose Hill, Rosendale, Springbrook, Golden Stream, Beaver, Bagot, Austin, MacGregor and Edwin, was called to order at 10.30 in the Municipal Hall, Portage, on Saturday, Dec. 21, by P. D. McArthur, president. The morning was occupied in discussing a draft constitution for the district and the following was passed: The name of this Association shall be the Portage la Prairie district, and shall be comprised of all the branch associations in the municipalities of North Norfolk, Westbourne and Portage la Prairie. Annual convention shall be composed of one delegate for every five members in the Branch Association. The officers shall be a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer, elected by the annual district convention. Each branch shall at its annual meeting appoint its secretary or other member to represent it on the advisory board of the district. The duties of the district officers shall be the same as in clauses 17, 18 and 19 of the constitution for branch officers. Objects of the District Association shall be to organize new branches wherever possible to strengthen weak ones and to promote the principles of organization and co-operation among the farmers. Wherever possible it is recommended that all resolutions to the central convention should be submitted to the annual district convention for consideration, which convention shall also have the power to initiate new resolutions. Each branch association shall contribute not less than 10 cents per member to the District Association, annually. All meetings shall be held at the call of the secretary not less than ten days prior to date of meeting.

FARMERS' FIGHTING FUND

Contributions to the Manitoba Grain Growers' Endowment Fund previously acknowledged		\$645.42
Dunrea Branch (per C. J. Watkins, Sec.)		15.00
Total		\$660.42

The president and secretary gave an account of the meetings of the eighteen branches visited during the last three weeks. Secretary's report showed Salem, Arizona and Oakville branches paid up and a balance on hand of \$44.25.

At noon the convention adjourned till 1.30 when about one hundred and fifty delegates were present. Thos. Lachary, Jos. Bennett and H. M. Smith, who were the resolution committee, reported and the following resolutions from the various branches were passed and will come up at Brandon for discussion on Jan. 8, 9, 10.

Moved by Jos. Bennett and Thos. Lachary, "That we are in favor of a sample market, provided the farmers' interests are safeguarded by differentiating between certificates granted to wheat shipped from terminal elevators in which mixing of grades is permitted and certificates of wheat from terminal elevators in which wheat is stored on grade." Carried.

Moved by W. F. Miller and Jas. Brydon, "That we recommend that the Central Executive approach the Grain Commission with a view to having a duplicate sample taken from each car of grain, one by the government inspector and one by the Winnipeg board of trade or some other semi-public institution. The latter sample to be open for inspection by any commission house or buyer of grain." Carried.

Moved by C. H. Burnell and Jos. Bennett, "That we reaffirm our farmers' platform as laid down in our memorials presented to the Parliament of Canada, in Ottawa on Dec. 16, 1910." Carried by a standing vote.

Moved by Jas. McKenzie and W. F. Miller, "That we ask for an immediate increase of the British preference to 50% and a gradual increase to free trade with Great Britain in five years." Carried.

Moved by W. Miller and Thos. Lachary, "That we are in favor of a farmers' co-operative system of buying." Carried.

Salem branch reported co-operative buying of beef, binder twine and flour, amounting to \$1,345.09 with a saving of \$460.72. Bagot saved 40 cents per sack on flour and from 50 to 75 cents per barrel on apples. Oakville saved \$350.00 on three cars of flour. Beaver saved from 40 to 60 cents per sack on flour, while Longburn, with a membership of about twelve, saved \$120.00 on binder twine. R. C. Henders and R. McKenzie were asked to address the meeting on co-operative buying and selling.

Moved by J. H. Gray and S. Thompson, "That this meeting recommend that the Grain Growers' Grain Co. enter into negotiations with dealers in gasoline and coal oil with a view to supplying members of this Association with oils at a reduced rate on a cash basis." Carried.

Moved by Lachary and Bennett, "That this Association go on record against the practice of the railways in charging the full rates to the lake front on grain unloaded at local points." Carried.

Moved by Bennett and Bousfield, "That we are in favor of an improvement in our loading platforms." Carried.

Moved by Wright and Miller, "That the Central Executive take up the matter of reciprocal demurrage and ascertain whether the order of the railway commission for an increase in demurrage rates applies to shippers of grain or not." Carried.

Moved by Bennett and Smith, "That we ask for an investigation of the system of weighing our grain at the terminal elevators, as we are thoroughly convinced there is something wrong somewhere, because out of over 40 cars of wheat loaded at Pine Creek siding not one has held out in weight at the other end and we are not alone, because the same complaint comes from all over the province of short weight at the terminals. It appears to us, as grain growers, that there is a plot on foot to put the farmers out of faith with loading their own cars, as we know of cases where all grain has been carefully weighed in and then the cars have gone over one hundred bushels short." Carried.

Moved by Bennett and Lachary, "That whereas we have heard that the weigh masters, although appointed by the gov-

ernment, are recommended by the owners of the terminal, we urge the Central Executive to investigate this matter before the convention in Brandon." Carried.

Moved by M. McCaig and J. Bousfield, "That the Central Executive investigate the claims of Messrs. Smith and Lamont, of Beaver, and if possible obtain from the C.N.R. value for the stock killed by its railway." Carried.

Officers for 1913 were re-elected as follows: President, P. D. McArthur, Longburn; vice-president, Jos. Bennett, Pine Creek; secretary-treasurer, C. H. Burnell, Oakville; auditors, Thos. Lachary, Austin; and Ben Richardson, Beaver. The secretaries of the different branches constitute the directorate.

At an open meeting in the evening Mr. R. C. Henders, Mr. R. McKenzie and Mr. J. S. Wood were the speakers.

Salem branch held their annual meeting on Dec. 17 and elected their officers as follows: President, Wm. Strachan; vice-president, R. A. Thompson; secretary-treasurer, B. W. Thomas; directors, A. Rennie, A. Walker, R. Morgan, Thos. Maxwell, Jr., L. J. Scofield, C. Fust; auditors, F. Dunn, A. W. Moffatt.

COLIN H. BURNELL, District Sec'y.

FROM PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE DISTRICT

Dear Mr. Henders:—I have arrived home after visiting the different branches of the Grain Growers' association along the C.N.R. and the main line of the C.P.R. The branches that I held meetings at are: Edwin, Rosendale, Arizona, Austin, Springbrook, McGregor, Bagot, Oakville and Salem. The above named branches held their annual meetings, appointed their officers, appointed delegates to the district association to be held in Portage, on Dec. 21, and delegates to the Brandon Convention. They also drafted resolutions to be discussed at the district meeting at Portage, which will be forwarded to the Brandon Convention. I found the above branches very much interested in the Grain Growers' movement, and we are hoping that the movement towards co-operative buying is going to help the farmers and will be a means of increasing our membership very much. I noticed that all the branches that have been buying co-operatively are all very active associations. The Oakville Branch held a business meeting in the afternoon and had a banquet in the evening which was a success.

P. D. McARTHUR, President. Longburn, Man.

SALEM BRANCH ANNUAL

Salem Branch of Grain Growers held their annual meeting in the school on Tuesday night, Dec. 17. There was a good attendance. Secretary's and auditor's reports were read. Then came election of officers for ensuing year: President, Wm. Strachan; vice-president, R. A. Thompson; secretary-treas., B. N. Thomas; directors, A. Rennie, C. Fust, A. Walker, R. Morgan, Thos. Maxwell, jr., L. J. Scofield; auditors, F. Dunn, auditor for association, A. W. Moffat for directors; committee man for Portage District association, R. Morgan.

P. D. McArthur, Pres. District Assn., addressed us on the work of the Grain Growers' association, what they had accomplished since its organization. Also on sample market, duplicate grading, British preferential tariff, co-operative marketing and improving the loading platform. It was listened to with great interest and discussed at some length.

The Salem Branch moved the following resolutions: That they were in favor of the sample market; That they are in favor of duplicate grading; That they are in favor of British preferential tariff; That they are in favor of wider markets, also of co-operative marketing.

Then came the appointing of delegates to Portage District association meeting. Business being all done a vote

Directors:	
Peter Wright, Myrtle;	R. M. Wilson
Marringhurst;	D. D. McArthur, Lauder;
Frank Simpson, Shoal Lake;	W. H. Bewell,
Rosser;	R. J. Avison, Gilbert Plains.

of thanks was tendered Mr. McArthur for the pleasant evening he had given us, all being well pleased. At our next meeting arrangements will be made for social evenings in connection with our meetings during the winter months. All are made welcome at our meetings, and we look forward to have good attendances. I remain, yours truly,

B. N. THOMAS.

Portage la Prairie.

Silverwood Branch

Secretary A. H. McDonald, of the Silverwood Branch sends the following interesting items:

We held our annual meeting on the 5th inst. After completing the regular business the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. McCouch; vice-president, Mr. Head, and secretary-treasurer, A. H. McDonald.

R. McKenzie then gave a very instructive address which was very much appreciated by all who were present. Songs, recitations and dialogues then followed in quick succession, after which supper was announced. When all had done justice to the very bounteous repast so tastefully set out by the ladies, a program of dancing was proceeded with. The general opinion expressed was that this was one of the most enjoyable and profitable evenings Silverwood Branch has yet held.

A full house, eight renewals and three new members added to the roll makes the prospect look good for next year. Nothing less than one hundred members in our branch will be satisfactory for the coming winter.

As far as we have tried co-operative buying it has been highly satisfactory and we hope to arrange to handle a car of flour at an early date.

Killarney Branch

D. N. Finlay reports Killarney Grain Growers held their annual meeting in the town hall on Saturday, Dec. 14. The general business of the annual meeting was carefully gone through and the following are the officers for the ensuing year: President, D. N. Finlay; vice-president, G. Bridges; secretary-treas., Wm. Johnson; directors, J. R. Hodson, S. Forster, S. Smith, S. Rigby, R. Mitchell and H. Jones; district representatives, S. M. Haydens, J. W. Stone, D. N. Finlay.

Our association is in good working order and we are looking forward to a prosperous year.

McGregor local branch at their annual meeting manifested considerable enthusiasm and are expecting a successful year.

Officers: President, W. G. Colyer; secretary, C. Durrant; directors, D. Shaw, N. Young, N. Chant, W. Hay, P. H. Cairns, jun., Jas Bousfield; committee man, W. G. Colyer.

A little fuller report next time, Mr. Secretary, if you please.

WOLODIMIR ANNUAL

A farmers' meeting was held in Wolodimir school on December 23, for the purpose of electing officers for the Grain Growers' association, Wolodimir. The officers elected were: President, Antony Talpash; vice-president, Alex. Drozdowitch; secretary-treasurer, William Zaporzan. The meeting was adjourned until 4 p.m., December 31.

WILLIAM ZAPORZAN, Sec.

BAGOT BRANCH ANNUAL

The secretary's financial report showed the number of members for the year to be 43 and the receipts, with the balance from last year to be \$146.10, the expenditure for 1912, \$78.40, leaving a balance on hand \$67.70. During the year the Branch has contributed to the Central Association the sum of \$61.50. This report was adopted.

The following officers were elected: President, James Barrett; vice-president, Arthur Smith; secretary-treasurer,