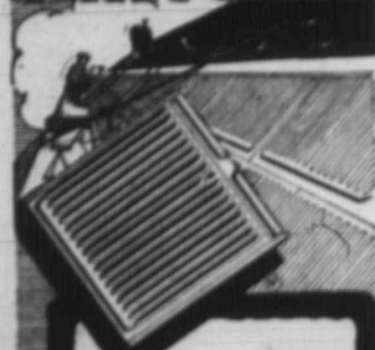


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Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by J. B. Musselman, Secretary, Regina, Sask., to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

RETAILERS AND CO-OPERATION

At the convention of retail merchants held recently at Moose Jaw, an address was given by a well-known member of that body on "The Value of Co-operation in Business to the Retailer." While in the course of his address this gentleman said some exceedingly good things, which apply equally well to the business relations both of co-operators and retail dealers, it is necessary to say at the outset that his idea of co-operation is not ours. Co-operation as he defined it, in effect, if not specifically, is merely a working together. This is a good thing in itself, and even a necessary thing to any body which desires success, but it does not in his mind extend to the division of profits on business, which is the essence of the Rochdale plan of co-operation in which we are particularly interested; nor does it include in their entirety the ethical principles which are also essential to the co-operative movement. In a word, co-operation as understood by this body is directed simply to the end of increasing the profits of the retailer by means of greater efficiency in business; a worthy object no doubt, but still one that is designed to benefit the retailer rather than the consumer.

Co-operation Already Here

How very far the speaker in question is separated from the real co-operative spirit he himself showed in the course of his address, when, in speaking of co-operative trading he said, "this may find its way into the country in spite of all that can be done to prevent it, unless we are careful." It is possible then, that this gentleman, live man of business as he is, is unaware of the fact that co-operation has already arrived. And is he so blind to the signs of the times that, supposing that he is aware of the fact of its arrival, he does not realize that it has come to stay? Judging from the spirit he displays it is evident that if he could have had his way he would have strangled the co-operative child at its birth, but it is now too late. It is daily growing in strength, "in spite of all that can be done." Had he read anything of co-operative history in England he would have known that every effort made in the past to strangle co-operation has only resulted in its greater extension; and so it will be in Canada if co-operators stand firm. As a well educated man, he must surely know that there is no more certain way to bring about the extension of a movement such as this, which is founded upon economic justice, than to attempt its repression. All history proves that this is true.

But the speaker went on to show his ignorance, or, if not his ignorance, then his wilful perversion of facts relating to the co-operative movement as it exists in Britain. "The success of co-operative trading in the Old Country," he says, "is due to the fact that the concern does not have to pay taxes. By some means or other they flim-flammed the government into the belief that they should not have to pay taxes, and they did not have to do so." As already stated, this shows either inexcusable ignorance on the part of a public man who has no business to speak publicly on a question he does not understand, or deliberate and wilful misrepresentation. Of the two he can take his choice. The co-operative movement of Britain does not owe its success to non-payment of taxes, since it pays every tax demanded of it by the government, but to the eternal principle of justice on which it is founded, which shows itself in part in a more equal distribution of wealth, and in a recognition of the just claims of all whom it calls into its service.

English Co-operators and Income Tax

The only tax on business concerns which the co-operative movement in England does not pay is income tax, and this not because it has flim-flammed the government, but because all governments, Liberal and Tory alike, have recognized that it would be an unjustifiable waste of time, money and energy to attempt to collect this tax at the source. As a matter of fact, every individual co-operator, whose income is such as to bring him within the limits of this tax is assessed to

the tax directly,—the Inland Revenue Commissioners see to that,—and his income from co-operative sources is included. Investigation has proved that only about 3 per cent. of British co-operators come within the taxable limit,—this of course was in the pre-war period,—and whatever was paid out as income tax on the total so-called profits of a society would have to be repaid by the government on account of those members not liable to income tax. Nor would this be so simple a matter as it seems, as the society would have to deduct the amount of the tax from the account of every individual member, and on obtaining the refund would again have to credit the account of every member concerned; or, if the government were to refund the amounts individually, it would necessitate direct communication with 97 per cent. of all the three or four millions of members of co-operative societies in the country, with all that it involved in the way of salaries, stationery, postage, etc., in order that the government might get what it now gets direct from the 3 per cent. who are liable. Because the government refused to adopt this extremely wasteful method of doing business, the private trading interests of Great Britain have never ceased to agitate for taxation at the source. As a matter of fact all the flim-flamming has been on the side of private traders. It is they who have been constantly at the heels of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whilst co-operators have been just as constantly on the defence. The real reason that lies behind the action of the private traders in England, as with the retailers' associations of Canada, is their hatred of co-operation, and not their concern for the public exchequer. It would be well for these people to make themselves more familiar with co-operative history and principles before attacking the movement in public.

S. W. Y.

HANDLING COAL AND FLOUR

The book you sent me some days ago regarding the amalgamation of the S.G.G.A. and the S.C.E.Co. was read at our last meeting. I presented the enclosed resolution for the members and it was carried by all votes and all members present. We have held meetings all through the winter the second last Wednesday of each month. All the resolutions from the convention have been read and explained to the members and the result is that we have increased our membership over 100 per cent. since I came back from the convention held in Moose Jaw.

The following is a copy of the resolution passed at our last meeting: Resolved that the Sagathus local of the S.G.G.A. with all members present, favor the amalgamation of the S.G.G.A. and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company as far as the handling of flour and coal is concerned, provided that the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company do not sell flour or coal to any but members of the S.G.G.A.

L. H. HJELMLAND, Sec. Sagathus G.G.A.

Answer

Your favor, with a copy of resolution has come duly to hand. Permit me to explain in response to the last clause of your resolution that we do not contemplate that it will be possible for those in charge of the local warehouses, which we hope the elevator company will have in the near future, to make discrimination as between members and non-members. They will have to sell to all comers at one price, but what we have in mind is to assure the members of the association of a very real advantage of making a substantial rebate through the association on a patronage basis upon all the business of the members of the locals done with the local warehouse. This would involve that purchase tickets be issued to all purchasers and that the members of the local association at that point periodically turn in the purchase tickets to their local secretary who in turn will forward them to the central office and

receive a cash rebate for distribution to his members. Something along this line will be worked out. The spirit of your resolution will be carried out in that we mean to make it a very real advantage for all farmers to maintain membership in the association.

CENTRAL SECRETARY.

CHURCHES' SPLENDID RESPONSE

The officers of the Saskatchewan G.G.A. are highly gratified at the splendid response of the churches on Grain Growers' Sunday. From reports already received it is evident that there was a general observance of the day in nearly all the community centres of the province.

Not only were the farmers out in very large numbers, but the people of the towns and cities listened with great interest to the presentation of the farmers' program and the general discussion of the farmers' movement. The sermons of the various ministers indicate a sympathetic interest in the association and a great desire that the future of the organization may be wisely guided and properly safeguarded. They expressed the feeling that since the movement is growing so rapidly in numbers and influence, it has now reached a very important stage and its course is fraught with tremendous possibilities.

Large Meeting at Moose Jaw

President J. A. Maharg presided at a large and enthusiastic mass meeting in the Y.M.C.A. auditorium at Moose Jaw, where Rev. E. J. Chegwain gave the principal address. The central secretary, J. B. Musselman, spoke to a full house composed of interested farmers at the Brora Union church at 11 a.m. also to another large audience of farmers at Wascana church in the afternoon. Both of these points are near Regina. While Mr. Musselman dealt with many matters of much interest to the farmers, his particular theme was "The message of the Grain Growers to the church." This will be published in full in a later edition.—Regina Post.

PROCEEDS TO RED CROSS

Sixty dollars was raised by collection for the Red Cross Fund at the meeting which was held at Victoria school house yesterday. Rev. B. W. Pullinger was present and delivered an address in which he recounted some of his experiences at the front and touched on the economic importance of the work which the Grain Growers were doing, not only for western Canada, but in helping to win the war as well.

The school house was packed, a number of people having to remain standing during the service. J. H. Jarrett, secretary of the Victoria G.G.A., stated that the attendance would have been even larger, except for the fact that many of the farmers had been busy seeding and their horses were tired so they had to give them a rest over Sunday.—Saskatoon Star.

At one of the recent meetings of the Girvin G.G.A. the local secretary of the Patriotic Fund was invited to deliver an address on "The Needs of the Patriotic Fund," and as the result of his address a committee was formed to receive subscriptions and donations to the fund. The total amount donated in the name of the association was \$330.

FRANK SWAIN.

Sec. Girvin G.G.A.

Please find enclosed cheque for \$37 being amount of collection taken on Grain Growers' Sunday, which is to be given to the Red Cross society and credited to our local. We had a fine crowd at our service and our minister gave an excellent sermon.

JAMES GIFFORD.

Sec. Treas. Glenside G.G.A.

Very liberal collections were taken at most of the services for the Red Cross work. From reports received, it seems that the total of these collections taken on May 27 will amount to at least \$1,000.

Enclosed find \$10.00 to go to the Emergency Fund.

W. J. LEE, Sec. Treas.
Wolverton G.G.A., Wardenburg

AFFIL

Enclos members W.G.G. 26 memb direct to auxiliary Economic affiliate as meeting ness meet by an op of women and lunch open meet Societies Home E.S while the legislative work ened of both a be thorough and if sat nitely. By day which poses. We make a st on the eve the Stonev annual pi serve tea, cream, and the compl part of t W.G.G.A. I have could not b there are benefit to should alig which stand of bettering

SEND

Recently c Wieneke, a Section of t to their inc way we hope as to our d not know b there are, strength is. plex. May I ly respond to will be suff each auxilia of members, name of the woman presid ing by signi inform us of I make this to know our with each s get more cor formation in held. The lea teresting to t of our efforts Our secretary at the end of the 1917 organ just adding th they are our y

Note:—The publication by women's sect should meet from all brand section or so their local. hearty and pr association wh ilary. It may the first reques notice of our a hope that this with a better n address is Hton

SHOAL LA

A convention nominating a e quette federal e stand for the the Farmers' adopted by the Agriculture will Hall, Shoal La 28, at 3 p.m. Al