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WANT INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

I am instructed by the Douglas branch to write you again re names and addresses of secretaries of locals in this district and to advise you why we require them.

There is a decided feeling in this district that the time has arrived when the farmers should be represented in the Federal House at Ottawa. Our idea was to write all branches concerned inquiring if they would support and vote for a farmers' candidate at the next general election, also if they would contribute towards his election expenses. If a favorable reply was received it was intended to call a convention at North Battleford or some other suitable place, nominate a man and run him in the farmers' interests. The said candidate to be independent of either Grit or Tory or in other words not to be tied to the donkey's tail, as per the issue of The Guide of April 7.

I may add this branch pledges itself to support and contribute towards election expenses.

W. PHILLIPS,
Sec. Douglas Local.

KEATLEY'S RESOLUTION

Below is a copy of a circular sent to locals by Keatley Association:

The following resolution was passed at our monthly meeting held on March 27 at the Lakeview school.

"That the secretary write to the Mail Bag portion of The Guide stating that this Association would be delighted to see an effort made to put a genuine Grain Growers' candidate in the field of Dominion politics for the Battleford constituency. That for this purpose this local will be willing to contribute the sum of ten dollars for a properly accredited man. We make this offer on the following conditions:

"1—That the total of the sums promised by all the locals in the constituency shall be an amount suitable to meet the candidate's election expenses.

"2—That a proper nomination convention be called in Battleford.

"3—That none but credentialed delegates be allowed to be present at this convention.

"4—That the man chosen for our candidate shall sign his resignation from parliament and place it in the hands of the secretary at that nomination meeting, in case at any time the majority of Grain Growers in his constituency need to recall him."

This resolution has been sent to The Guide and we are now sending copies to all the secretaries in the district. This matter merits our earnest and immediate attention, especially as the election is said to come off in June, and we understand that owing to a split in the two parties at Battleford we have a unique chance. Call a special meeting of your members if necessary and push this matter ahead.

LIONEL G. SIMMONDS,
Sec. Keatley Ass'n.

UNITED ACTION NECESSARY

I notice that there is a growing feeling of bringing out independent candidates at the coming general election. I hardly feel that they should be independent, but should be pledged to work in the interest of the organized farmers and if the G. G. A. purposes taking any action along political lines, which I feel they should, they ought to formulate a political platform setting forth the nature of the legislation they feel is required by the G. G. A. Care must be exercised along these lines so as not to allow party politicians taking advantage of our organization to advance their own interests by false misrepresentation, etc.

If we purpose taking any independent action in politics we must be prepared to throw away our party allegiance and stand firm and true to the interests of our organization. Otherwise we will be snuffed out and the party politicians will have won the day. However, if, after careful deliberation, we find that the time has arrived for independent action by the farmers, who, I think, have been hoodwinked and bluffed by Grits and Tories long enough, then let us up and at them and show that we mean business and I have no fear as to results.

An old saying of Sir John A. Macdonald's was that the farmers were the most contented people that he had; they were satisfied; they never wanted anything and they never got anything. But such is not the case now. We want many things, but do not get them as fast as we would like. The blame rests with ourselves, for we are welded so much to "party" that we lose our personality by dividing our forces, accomplishing the desires of the two great political parties. This should be well threshed out and if we take any action, let it be united action, the same as the British Empire has done and success will crown our efforts.

R. D. GRANT,
President Turvin Local.

PASWEGIN'S PLAN

John L. Rooke,
Togo.

Dear Sir:—Received your letter of the 25th ult., with list of names of Associations asked for, for which accept my thanks.

On the other side of this sheet you will see a copy of the letter we are sending to the different locals. The sending of these letters is due to our disgust at the wasteful system of patronage that seems to permeate everything governmental and at the further burdening of the farmer and the discrimination against the British manufacturer as evidenced in the recent increases in the tariff. Our government is a farce of representation of the people.

Our Association, tho not numerically strong, is progressing favorably and I believe bids fair to live and accomplish to a fair extent at least, its purpose.

Sincerely yours,
A. F. McDONALD,
Sec. Paswegin Ass'n.

ATTEND PARTY CONVENTIONS

The following is copy of letter above referred to:

Dear Sir:—At a meeting of the Paswegin and Quill City Grain Growers' Associations held recently, the universal opinion was that we, as farmers, are not receiving the fair consideration or treatment to which we are justly entitled from our legislative bodies. That this is clearly a result of neglect on the part of the farmers as a whole in not taking an active interest in the nomination of candidates to represent them, cannot be disputed. As most men have their political affiliations more or less strong, it was felt that it is not expedient to elect farmers on independent tickets and that the only way open is to organize as Grain Growers all over each constituency and then see that the delegates of both political parties from each polling subdivision be instructed to support a farmer at the nominating conventions of their respective parties, and thus at the election whichever side wins out will give us a true representative.

In order to secure farmers of the proper mental and moral calibre, it will be necessary to develop and bring them to light. In order to do this it is essential that each local keep alive, meet regularly and by an intelligent system of study and discussion of matters pertaining to the economic side of farming to make each man thoroughly conversant with the needs of agriculture. From these men so developed we should have a good range of choice. The sooner we begin this system of development and selection, the sooner we will be able to accomplish the purpose outlined.

Would you please take this up with your organization and do your best to extend this work by having all adjacent unorganized territory brought into line and everybody working for this common purpose and thus bettering our position.

Sincerely yours,
A. F. McDONALD,
Paswegin, Sask.

A SUGGESTED PLATFORM

In reply to your letter of a few days ago, I would state that my reasons for asking for a list of locals in District 13 are as follows:

I was appointed secretary of an Association organized for the purpose of pledging candidates for parliament to certain things beneficial to Grain Growers, and for this purpose we wish to get all the locals from District 13 to send a delegate to a convention to find out just what we want to pledge our candidates so that it will carry some weight, as we may want a thing that some other people do not want. The following are some of the things we want and we propose to have papers prepared and read on each at the convention:

Prison reforms, total prohibition, Direct Legislation, universal suffrage, Free Trade within the Empire, government to regulate farm machinery without the assistance from outsiders, and a few other things.

THOS. R. GRANT,
Dinsmore.

THE ASSOCIATION AND POLITICS

The correspondence herewith published shows that many of our members are of the opinion that the farmers as a class are not properly represented in parliament and that their interests are not given due consideration by the members thereof elected by either of the existing parties. It is evident that many believe that the farmers should organize as a class for the election of representatives to parliament. The general opinion seems to be that such candidates, not obligated to either of the existing parties, would be independent.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS:	
Dist. No. 1—W. H. Beasley	Balbeek
" 2—M. P. Roddy	Rouleau
" 3—G. E. Noddle	Lampman
" 4—R. M. Johnston	Eastview
" 5—J. W. Easton	Mosomin
" 6—F. W. Redman	Grenfell
" 7—C. O. A. Travis	Govan
" 8—Thorn M. Eddy	Bethune
" 9—John F. Reid	Orcadia
" 10—J. L. Rooke	Togo
" 11—T. Sales	Langham
" 12—Andrew Knox	Prince Albert
" 13—W. H. Lilwall	Wilkie
" 14—T. M. Morgan	Aqueduct
" 15—Frank Burton	Vanguard
" 16—W. T. Hall	Surbiton

Members Can't Act Independently

No man can be elected to such a position without organization on the part of his supporters. Such organization means a new party. If a number of such candidates should be elected it is altogether likely that they would adopt a common platform and endeavor to act in unison and thus a new party in the House would be created. It is scarcely possible for any man to act independently in these days of organization. It is certainly not possible in the House of Commons. A member has the choice of only two sides when voting on any question and voting yea or nay he sides either with the government or the opposition. It is quite possible, however, that by the organization of the farmers into a political party and the election of representatives of themselves pledged to the farmers' platform, some of the weaknesses of party government might, to say the least, become exceedingly conspicuous and this in itself should be of real value.

Organized Along Non-Party Lines

Successful parties have nearly always come into existence in support of some great social or economic issue. Such parties have drawn for their membership upon many classes of citizens. The farmers of the West organized as they are along strictly non-party lines have had a very great influence upon legislation. Our Western Associations have drawn to themselves men and women of all kinds of political opinion and affiliation. In our demand for legislation necessary to agricultural interests we have had the support of Liberals, Conservatives, Independents, Socialists and others and we have had with governing bodies an influence of very great importance to Western agricultural interests. This influence would be greatly impaired were the Association to become the machine of Liberals or Conservatives or of any new party to be created. Half the members would at once become the political opponents of the other half or, what is more likely, only those of the new party would remain in the Association.

The Association in recognition of its educational work receives a yearly grant from the Provincial Government, from the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, and from The Grain Growers' Grain Company. None of these could very well make grants which might be used in an election campaign.

Must Remain Non-Partizan

It is evident from some of the correspondence received that an effort is being made in some quarters to use the Association either in forwarding the interests of one or the other of the existing parties or in creating a new party. Any attempt to make such use of the Association, if successful, would be fatal to the organization as it now stands—an organization of all the farmers, irrespective of party affiliations. It would be palpably unfair to those of the Association's members who are attached to any of the existing parties to use for the creation of a new party or in support of the opposing party the organization which they have helped to build up. Members everywhere should bear this in mind and should nip in the bud any attempt on the part of any one to use the Association in support of any kind of partizan political campaign. The convention, as a body, has always taken a strictly non-partizan stand and in our last convention at Regina it set forth this position very clearly in the revised constitution, section 21, sub-section 3, which reads as follows:

"No officer of the Association or of any division thereof may use his title as an officer while engaged in any partizan political campaign, in electioneering, in working for or in support of any candidate for office, or while engaged in any business or commercial undertaking outside of the Association unless authorized by the Central Board."

J. B. M.

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Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association

J. B. MUSSELMAN, Sec. MOOSE JAW, Sask.