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FARMERS' PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES MANY ISSUES

E. N. Hopkins Re-elected President—Hail Insurance Discussed—Premiers' Reply a Straw Man—The Fight to Be Continued in the Three Provinces—Next Convention at Prince Albert.

Weyburn, Sask., Feb. 17.—The annual convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association opened here today, with close upon 300 delegates from all parts of the province in attendance.

The proceedings in the morning were largely formal. The delegates from Alberta and Manitoba were welcomed and unanimously extended the privileges of the convention.

Short addresses were given by each of these delegates, following which President Hopkins read his annual report as follows:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in submitting to you my third annual report, and the eighth annual report since the organization of this association.

The past season has been one of the most profitable in our history, although not as abundant as many of the preceding ones. With the increased acreage under cultivation we produced more grain than in any year in our previous history. The exact amount being one hundred and five million five hundred and eighty-three bushels. Of this amount fifty-million, five hundred thousand bushels was wheat, being an increase over last year of twenty-three million bushels. There has been in all the statistical districts some very heavy yields reported. This would lead us to believe, that improved methods of cultivation would greatly increase the average yield. The quality of the whole has been excellent and the price above the average, which leaves a good margin of profit to the producer.

Ideal Conditions

The financial depression of last year is a thing of the past. The summer and fall were ideal for preparing the land for seed for the coming year, and all are looking forward to the year before us with renewed confidence. The harvest being early and the weather favorable for moving the crop, the annual ear shortage was of short duration.

We are also pleased to notice that as time goes on our people are using more and more the leading platform. At the close of last convention a permanent interprovincial council of the Grain Growers was organized. Delegates were at once appointed from the different associations to lay before the Dominion government the resolutions you had passed, with respect to the changes desired in connection with the Manitoba Grain Act and Inspection Act. I think that you will agree with me that they presented our case in a masterly manner, and that they deserve the hearty thanks of the Grain Growers of this province. Their report will be laid before you at this convention. A committee was also appointed to lay before the local government the resolutions that should come under their jurisdiction. Their report will also be submitted to you for your consideration.

With regard to what seemed to be the larger question of the local government acquiring and operating the storage facilities at initial points. It was the consensus of opinion of all concerned that if such a system was to be evolved it must be a universal system in the three provinces. Consequently we approached the premiers as a council. I scarcely need point out to you the difficulty we had in arranging a meeting with such busy men as our premiers (especially in a year like 1908 when we had provincial and Dominion elections). The council finally got the opportunity to lay their scheme before the premiers and discuss same in all its details. Their reply has been received and printed in all the local papers.

insurance they have been carrying on for some years. As they have been carrying on this business under a monopoly clause, it suddenly leaves our people without any protection from this scourge. It has occurred to me that in the meantime a mutual company might be formed, and the government might be induced to do the clerical work from their offices. This would at least give us a measure of protection.

Milling Plants

We are pleased to notice that some of the larger milling concerns are turning their eyes towards the wheat fields of our province, with the object of establishing milling plants in our midst. During the past year the Saskatchewan Milling Company has been organized and have installed in the city of Moose Jaw one of the most up-to-date milling plants on this continent that will mill 1,000 barrels of flour and barrels of oat meal per day. This mill will require nearly two million bushels of grain each year. This company has sufficient experience and capital to make a success of this enterprise. We can scarcely estimate the benefit that would accrue to the province by having these mammoth mills erected in our midst. During the past year the Saskatchewan Milling Company has been organized and have installed in the city of Moose Jaw one of the most up-to-date milling plants on this continent that will mill 1,000 barrels of flour and barrels of oat meal per day. This mill will require nearly two million bushels of grain each year. This company has sufficient experience and capital to make a success of this enterprise. We can scarcely estimate the benefit that would accrue to the province by having these mammoth mills erected in our midst. During the past year the Saskatchewan Milling Company has been organized and have installed in the city of Moose Jaw one of the most up-to-date milling plants on this continent that will mill 1,000 barrels of flour and barrels of oat meal per day. This mill will require nearly two million bushels of grain each year. This company has sufficient experience and capital to make a success of this enterprise. We can scarcely estimate the benefit that would accrue to the province by having these mammoth mills erected in our midst.

It would save the grain growers of the west hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in the freight they now pay on their screenings to the lake front, besides losing any feeding value they might possess. It would also leave all the by-products in our own province, which would make cheap and profitable feed for our domestic animals. And last, but not least no other country would receive that manufacturing gain which rightfully belongs to us. What we particularly need at this stage of our history is discerning business men who have the necessary capital to help us develop the resources that have been bestowed upon us with such a lavish hand.

During the year I am sorry to say the ranks of our directorate have been broken by the death of R. S. Cooke, of Prince Albert. Our board has lost a useful member, his city a loyal citizen, and the province an old timer, whose place will be hard to fill. I am sure the entire family have the sympathy of this entire convention in their sad bereavement.

Owing to the life membership scheme introduced at our last convention our executive deemed it advisable to apply for incorporation. This has been done, and we are now empowered to carry out our scheme in a safe and legal manner.

The report of the secretary treasurer will be submitted to you and the expenditure will seem small when you consider the enormous interests we are striving to protect. We are compelled to govern our operations by the amount of money at our command. We are in hopes, however, that our life membership plan will receive many members at this convention, and ere long your executive will be insured of a permanent income for permanent progressive work.

I believe the field is ripe for the harvest and all we require is men and money to complete the greatest agricultural organization the world has seen.

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We show eight or ten styles in pretty Oxford Shoes that will give excellent wear and service

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We have a splendid assortment of Kid and Patent Leather Slippers, with one, two or three straps.

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THE GLASGOW HOUSE

PROGRESSIVE POLICY

Outlined by Alberta Conservatives—Want Initiative Referendum and Recall—Favor Government Ownership and Hail Insurance.

For some time the politics of Alberta will loom large in the eyes of the Dominion. The Conservatives of that province have adopted a series of resolutions which because of the new issues they introduce into the arena of Canadian political discussion are sure to attract widespread attention. No provincial party during recent years has adopted so many proposals which form part of that body of advanced legislation, for which New Zealand and some of the Australian states are noted. One is safe in predicting that the platform will mark a new epoch in Canadian politics.

Summarized the principal resolutions are as follows:
The immediate construction of railways is a necessity, and while endorsing the principle of government ownership it is expedient under the present circumstances to guarantee the bonds of government, securing in return control of rates and power to acquire the roads when the province may so desire.

That the province should administer for the people the lands, timber, minerals and fishing properties.
The adoption of the principle of the initiative referendum and recall.
The administration of the school lands by the province.
To guarantee the bonds of municipalities and school districts.
To submit a plebiscite on Prohibition, a prohibitory law to be enacted on a majority of 60 per cent of the vote polled.

The appointment of a commission to enquire into the development of electrical power.
The operation of the telephone system by a commission, free exchanges to be granted to farmers.
To provide adequate government hail insurance.
Loans to settlers after the system adopted in Australia and New Zealand.
Government erection of initial elevators.
Government ownership of railways, government guarantee of municipal bonds, loans to settlers, operation of the telephone system by a commission are very advanced steps; while the adoption of the initiative referendum and recall has no parallel in our political history. It will give the Solons something new to talk about. Certainly it will impart a new trend to the Alberta campaign.

After all, while the platform is progressive, even bold, it is not so advanced to be dangerous. Where those reforms have been tried they have proved beneficial; and in adopting them the Alberta Conservatives have merely acted upon the principle that what is good for other well governed communities must be good for theirs.

What does the principle of initiative referendum and recall mean? The referendum means the referring of a law, or ordinance or any specific question to the people for decision of the people at the polls; it means also the right of the people to demand the submission of an act to the voters for decision. The initiative means the right of a certain percentage of voters to propose law for action by the legislature or decision at the polls. The recall means that a representative who has opposed the will of his constituents shall on a petition of sixty per cent of them resign his position.
Loans to settlers is a new departure in Canada, though precedent for it may be found in Australia and New Zealand. At certain times the government has come to the aid of such persons; but the loaning of money has not become a settled policy. Those familiar with conditions in this province and Alberta know that the needs of settlers are very

THURSDAY'S SESSION

Weyburn, Sask., Feb. 18.—At the morning session of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' convention today the chief interest centered around the resolution moved by A. E. Partridge and seconded by Mr. Simpson regarding the reply of the provincial premiers in the matter of government ownership of elevators. The resolution set forth mainly the opinion of the meeting that in view of the unsatisfactory reply the members should

otherwise would have received. Let no one imagine that the day will ever come when we can afford to neglect the watch tower. Let us always be prepared to meet the ever changing conditions, and ever remembering the old adage, "To be forewarned is to be forearmed."

OTHER REPORTS

A committee on credentials was then appointed and the report of G. Langley, M.L.A., one of the delegates who represented the association at Ottawa on the question of terminal elevators was heard. Mr. Langley in a humorous manner pointed out that while they had not got as much as they wanted they would not have got even that much if they had not been organized.

They had to fight all sorts of interests. The C.P.R. had the local agents, the C.N.R., the Grain Exchange, the banks, all these were here and they were not silent. If they discovered one objection to the grain growers' proposition, they discovered a thousand and he was almost did not dream that the farmers were such a wicked crowd as these corporations made them out to be.

Mr. Gates, vice president, related the result of their efforts to further their resolutions with the local government, some improvements have been made in connection with the Hudson Bay route has received the endorsement of both local and federal governments, and the latter had promised to build the line, the local government's action regarding the ownership of coal mines had pleased them, and they hoped to see this extended.

(Continued on page 7.)

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