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ADVANCED LEGISLATION

The annual meeting of the Oakville branch was held on November 23 last, with a good attendance. The officers elected decided to hold meetings regularly throughout the winter. They recognized the necessity of making these meetings helpful, interesting and practical, which with the help of the members they have consistently endeavored to do. The result is that the season as a whole has been a very successful one. The assembly room was filled to capacity at nearly every meeting, and more meetings were held than were at first decided upon.

The present membership is sixty-four, which is an increase over the three years immediately preceding, but somewhat under the figure of 1912-13. There is reason, however, to hope that it will prove much more permanent. To date there has been no special appeal personally for membership, nearly all having joined voluntarily and thru the public appeal of the meetings held. There are still a number in the district who should be found in our ranks, and if they can be induced to join without being personally urged so much the better. But the membership should be increased and the branch is looking forward to being more aggressive along that line in future. The Ladies' Auxiliary has a membership of nearly forty and is doing good work educationally and also in patriotic and philanthropic service.

During the season a number of outside speakers addressed the branch, among whom were Hon. Edward Brown, Messrs. Smith and Scott of The Grain Growers' Grain Company, Principal Reynolds of the Agricultural College and Reeve Muir of the Portage municipality. One of the objects of the association is to develop local speakers and workers, and this it is gratifying to note is being successfully accomplished both in the Ladies' Auxiliary and among the men. The spirit of good-fellowship and co-operation has been in evidence in all the meetings held, and the success attained has in no small degree been attributable to the initiative and unflinching energy of the president, C. H. Bursell and the vice-president, W. V. Anderson. The activities of the past winter have certainly given the association better standing in the community and made it more of a power for good than ever before.

The meeting of March 24 was one of special significance and importance. It was the feeling of the members generally that a membership fee of \$1.50 would be necessary to carry on the work properly, but the matter will be further discussed at a later meeting. A resolution was passed asking the rural council to control traffic on the roads to the full extent of its power, and to make anyone who puts an excessively heavy load on an ordinary farm wagon liable for damages to roads. There was considerable discussion as to placing a candidate in the field if necessary for the next federal election, the argument being that we have been working for certain reforms for a long time, we have now a national political platform and if our work is not to be in vain we must have a representative who will endeavor to put that platform into effect.

The following resolution was passed and directed to be sent to Premier Norris and our local member, E. A. McPherson:

"Resolved that whereas the Grain Growers' Association having placed itself on record as being strongly in favor of the right of recall, and whereas the present local government refused to pass this bill at the last session, and whereas the initiative and referendum which was a prominent plank in the platform of this government when it last sought office has been found unconstitutional, and whereas Mr. Norris pledged that in the event of such finding he would avail himself of means to have the necessary amendments made which would make it constitutional, and whereas the government has made no apparent effort to have this pledge fulfilled; we, the members of the Oakville branch of the Grain Growers' Association strongly condemn this government, believing that in its attitude toward these reforms it is failing to serve the best interests of the people."

HENDERS AT STRATHCLAIR

The Strathclair Branch of the Grain Growers' Association held a very successful entertainment on Tuesday evening, March 20. In spite of very bad roads the hall was filled to its full capacity. President Henders was present and gave a very able address on the general work and aims of the movement. He touched on the rapid growth of the farmers' associations throughout the western provinces and on the greater independence of thought and action which has resulted. He gave a summary of the meetings held by the Canadian Council of Agriculture in connection with the proposal to fix the price of the wheat crop for 1917, giving reasons for their action and showing the earnest and serious consideration which had characterized their dealing with the matter.

Touching the international world crisis with which our nation and the Empire have important relationships he earnestly advised the young men who are still in Canada to weigh carefully their reasons for decision as to their individual action. If they feel they can help the Empire as well by serving in the production of food he said "stay here." If not, his advice was to respond to the urgent call for men to serve in the stern field of conflict. The address was listened to with marked interest throughout.

Mr. R. Dalgaard, president of the Marquette District Association gave a short address on the work of the Grain Growers' Association. He emphasized the importance of the women's vote in the next election and expressed the conviction that none of them would be bought by a bottle of whiskey. Rev. J. Reid likened the work of the Grain Growers to that of the minister in that they both sowed seed, and that both must be careful that it is good seed which they sow. When the seed is sown the sowers must wait in patience the coming of the harvest.

A good program of songs, instrumental, etc., was rendered, and a five act play handled by local talent was remarkably well rendered and highly appreciated. Following the program, lunch was served by the wives of the Grain Growers and the national anthem brought to a close a very pleasant and profitable evening. The monetary proceeds of the gathering amounted to \$55, and after defraying expenses \$42 was handed over to the Red Cross Society.

PROTEST AGAINST PRICE FIXING

At a special meeting of the Carleton Place Grain Growers' Association, held on March 31, the following resolution proposed by J. J. Anderson and seconded by Wm. Stobbie was unanimously carried:

"That this association protests against the proposal to have a spread price or flat price put upon the export wheat from the 1917 crop. For the government to attempt to put a comparatively low price upon this wheat, and allow manufacturers to increase from time to time the prices of all those commodities which are absolutely necessary to the farmer in the production of the crop is, in our opinion, nothing more or less than a travesty of justice, and would put the farmer in the unhappy position of growing grain at a loss. We think nearly all farmers would be quite willing to take chances on the prices for the 1917 crop in the then accessible markets of the world with the assurance of ample returns as evidently wheat at present prices cannot be considered above its relative value.

"Farmers' associations should not be slow to recognize this proposed action as another attempt to boost the cause of the manufacturers at the expense of the farmers, a policy which has hitherto unfortunately been too often pursued. At present, manufacturers are allowed almost any latitude in the matter of profits and why farmers should be singled out is probably best understood by the originators of the scheme. The

government would best show a desire to reduce the cost of living by first controlling the prices of necessary articles such as farm machinery, etc., which are at present too high, and also fixing a minimum and maximum scale of wages for farm help, as they would then have some reasonable argument in favor of the proposal to control wheat prices."

BRANCH ORGANIZED AT DECKER

At a meeting of the farmers of the Decker district held on March 15, on the motion of Chas. Brooks and F. Wyatt, a branch of the Grain Growers' Association was formed at Decker. Chas. Brooks was appointed president for 1917 and Jno. Whyte, vice-president. F. N. Davidson was appointed secretary-treasurer. J. Norton, J. Johnston, H. Rosenberger, E. Law, F. Wyatt and Wm. Whyte will act as a Board of Directors.

At the above meeting F. Simpson (central board of directors) and Mr. Smith of Shoal Lake were present and rendered good service in the organization of this branch. We hope in the near future to hear of a strong organization at this point. They start out with 16 new members and four who have transferred, and will no doubt add to this number at each meeting. Many of the farmers are now realizing that they must be linked up with the farmers' movement if they are to come into their own. Organization is in the air and farmers require this concerted action as much, if not more than any other business carried on by intelligent men. Our good wishes are extended to this new branch.—R.C.H.

FIVE CARLOADS STOCK SHIPPED

The Vidir Branch held its annual meeting in Vidir Hall, on February 27. There was a very good attendance and a very successful and satisfactory year's work was reviewed. The spirit of co-operation and neighborliness is abroad in the community in a marked degree and the twenty-five members of the association have worked together loyally. Opportunity was taken of the large attendance to discuss a number of topics of general and association interest. During the year five carloads of livestock were shipped by the members leaving in each case very satisfactorily. Binder twine, wire and other commodities were purchased, effecting considerable saving. The association is looking forward to a still better year in 1917 and to an enlargement of the scope of its operations both in selling and in purchasing. John Sigurdson was re-elected president; Gunnar Einarson, vice-president and Rowley Fredericksen, secretary. The 1916 board of directors was also re-elected. Thus with an official staff of tried worth and sustained by the confidence of the membership, the branch looks forward to taking a worthy place among the supporters of the movement in this new year.

WANT AN ELEVATOR

The deterrent influence of a stormy day and an auction sale in the neighborhood were unable to prevent the meeting of the Elm Bank branch on March 17 from being an unqualified success. There was a good attendance and an A1 meeting was held.

G. Anderson, C. H. Jarvis and Oscar Qually were appointed a committee to visit Elm, Man., in the hope of organizing there a branch association. By request F. J. Dixon, M.L.A. was present and delivered a telling address on Free Trade. He made it abundantly clear that the farmers and the common people would benefit immensely by the abolition of the present tariff. A petition asking The Grain Growers' Grain Company to erect an elevator at Dacotah (the shipping point for the district) is being circulated in the vicinity and is being largely signed.

The officers of the Elm Bank branch

for the current year are as follows: president, C. A. Fossay; vice-president, J. Monkhouse; secretary-treasurer, A. Nentwig; directors, Messrs. Qually, Anderson, Shanks, Kelly, Flodden and Shirliff.

The branch is alive and alert and looking forward to a successful year's work in the various activities of the movement.

LABORERS FOR FARMS

Since the one cent per mile fare for farm laborers was inaugurated on March 1, the Dominion and Provincial immigration officers have sent 1,403 laborers to Manitoba farms. According to the statistics sent from the St. Paul office 143 men were sent from there for Manitoba work while another 79 were sent from Duluth. Of these men 94 actually went to Manitoba farms, the remainder going further west. 75 Americans were sent to Manitoba destinations by the provincial office and 19 by the Dominion office. The majority of the Americans handled at immigration hall by Dominion officials chose destinations in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Virden branch had an unusually interesting meeting on March 31. The attendance was above the average and discussion of farmers' problems was unusually interesting and helpful. The spirit of democracy and interest in community affairs is unquestionably growing. The seed grain and farm help problems were threshed out at considerable length. A resolution was passed endorsing the Farmers' Platform issued by the Canadian Council, and another endorsing the action of the council in regard to the fixing of a price for the 1917 wheat crop. The Virden branch is alive and alert and is looking forward to a good year's work.

At a recent meeting of the Cameron branch association the following motion was presented by J. R. Gugin, seconded by J. W. Halpenny and carried with the direction that a copy be forwarded to the Minister of Trade and Commerce: "Whereas no action has been taken by the government to control the wages of farm laborers, nor the prices of any of the branches of manufactures which influence the cost of production of wheat nor to limit the cost of transportation therefore we protest against any set price for wheat unless such price is at least as high as that recommended by the Canadian Council of Agriculture."

The Springhill branch gave an evening to the discussion of the Farmers' Platform recently and after free expression of opinion gave it unanimous endorsement. At the same meeting a resolution was passed objecting on general principles to the government setting a price on the 1917 wheat crop.

Secretary Denoon of the Birnie G.G.A. forwards a money order of \$15.75 and states they have a total membership (paid up) of 67 at the present time. They are to be congratulated on having such a live organization which speaks well for their energetic officers.

The Bala St. Paul Grain Growers' Association is losing their capable secretary, Fred Neff, who has been the secretary since the branch was organized and done excellent work. Mr. Chris Sealife has been appointed to the position and this week has remitted the sum of \$25.50 for membership dues for this year. Bala St. Paul is in the Eustache district.

A branch of the Grain Growers' Association was recently formed in the Swan River district and named Egilson. Their secretary writes for literature this week as they wish to take up the educational side of the work as well as the economic benefits. This is a step in the right direction and augurs well for the future of the movement in the Egilson association.

Secretary Hugh J. Wallace of the Goodlands Association reports that they have a paid up membership of 51 members. They have still time to add to their numbers thru the balance of the year and may prove a rival to some of our branches who have heretofore headed the list in large membership roll.