

Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association
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all communications for this page should be sent.

BUREAU OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

To the Secretary:—For some years we have had a Conservation Commission, whose duty it is to study the problems connected with the preservation and development of our natural resources, such as forests, water powers, fisheries, livestock, soils and seeds. Now the governments of our prairie provinces are desirous of making a more definite study of the problems involved in the preservation and development of our human resources, and to this end have established a Bureau of Social Research.

The work of the bureau will be, first of all, to secure accurate and full information regarding social conditions. This will be done thru co-operation with public departments and private agencies and by special investigation. After the information has been secured, it will be disseminated by means of reports and bulletins and thru the public press, lectures, correspondence, etc. The hope is that the bureau may become a clearing house thru which information and assistance along the various lines of social welfare may be made available to all.

One of the most important fields of research is that of local community organization. In each community there are many agencies at work, but there has been little co-operation among these agencies. The churches, instead of being a unifying influence, are frequently a divisive force. A wide chasm almost invariably separates the English-speaking people from the "foreigners." Not infrequently there is not the best of feeling between the town and the country.

Evidence of Disunion

Perhaps no one is specially to blame for this condition. Development has been rapid. Many diverse elements have entered into the building up of the country. Each institution has endeavored to push its own work. There has been no central unifying community organization. That is what is now needed. Most people are not satisfied with the existing situation. Many organizations are feeling their way toward a greater measure of community co-operation. Now, then, is the time to carefully lay the plans for the building up of an efficient community life.

Think of some of the important community problems that are forcing themselves upon our attention. The bars will soon be closed in every community in the three prairie provinces. What shall we substitute for the barroom? What shall we do with the hotels? Can the regenerated hotel become a social centre? Could a rest room be provided in each hotel? Could the district nurse occupy one or two of the rooms? Why not a library and reading room and games room?

Church union has received a set-back. In any case, church union will not solve the outstanding community problems. How can we draw into helpful relationship the members of the various denominations? In a few districts community clubs have united in a common effort Protestants and Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox and Jews. Why not in your district? The non-English immigrant is found in most districts. He is here to stay. His children will marry our children. Is he contributing his part in the upbuilding of our national life? Does he understand our Canadian life and ideals? Have we given him a fair deal? Have we given him a chance to learn English? What opportunities are there for him to gain a knowledge of our political affairs?

A campaign for better schools is being carried on in some districts. Why not in every community on the prairies? Is the present curriculum suited to conditions in rural districts? Is it training our boys and girls for efficient citizenship? Is the school doing the broader educational work needed in your district? We say that the welfare of our children is our chief concern. Is the school teacher the biggest man or the most competent woman in

the community—the most honored—the best paid?

Great Improvement Possible

Our public life in Canada is notoriously corrupt and inefficient. Yet the people control. Surely the time has come for a change—not a change of government but a change in our attitude toward public affairs. Do the people of your district take an active interest—not in elections—but in our business as conducted by our municipal, provincial or federal representatives? Are there frequent opportunities for the discussion of public questions? People's forums are doing good work in some communities. Have you one?

In view of these and other problems, one of the first steps seems to be a careful study of existing condition and needs and of successful lines of work. One practical result of widespread interest in such a study should be the development of a "Social Centre Movement" that will lead to the unification of community life. A second practical result should be the training of an intelligent electorate which would ultimately mean intelligent legislators, intelligent legislation and intelligent local administration. The farmers' organizations have done much—perhaps more than any other agency—to break down partisan and sectarian walls and to encourage community enterprises. Representatives of the various farmers and women's organizations and of the agricultural colleges and agricultural papers have already offered to this bureau their heartiest co-operation.

We, therefore, appeal with confidence to you to assist in carrying out this preliminary investigation. Kindly bring this matter to the attention of your organization at the next meeting. Much depends on your help. If information comes in from each local association, we shall be able to present a strong case for the introduction of those measures that will unify and enrich the life of our prairie communities. "Do your bit."

J. S. WOODSWORTH,
Director, Bureau of Social Research.
R. C. HENDERS,
Chairman, Committee on Community Work.

RE-ORGANIZATION AT SILVERTON

A public meeting of the farmers of the Silver Creek district gathered at the school house on March 27, for the purpose of re-organizing a branch of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association. Owing to the weather being very disagreeable and the bad state of the roads, also short notice of the meeting being given, the attendance was not so large as might have been. However, there was a sufficient number present to make a good start, and on calling the meeting to order J. A. McDonald, a member of the Angerville G.G. Association, gave a short address on his experience as a delegate to the provincial convention held at Brandon, outlining the work done there and the matters discussed, and concluded by saying that it was well worth any farmer's time to attend the provincial convention.

The chairman then called on Mr. McCuish, organizer for the association, to address the meeting, which he did in a very able manner, outlining the work that has been accomplished since the first organization of the Manitoba G.G. Association down to the present time. He also touched briefly on what has been gained by the local associations by way of selling and buying co-operatively, and concluded by asking those present to try and form a branch. It was then moved, seconded and carried unanimously that a branch be formed to be known as the Silverton branch of the Manitoba G.G. Association. The following officers were elected: John McIntosh, president; R. J. Coulter, vice-president; Jos. A. Callin, secretary-treasurer, and Messrs. Jackson, Garnett, Cochrane, Cregar, Rutherford and Peddie, directors.

Note.—With this good start made the Silverton Association should become a strong branch and do much good work in their district.

CRAMNER BRANCH ORGANIZED

Secretary:—A few farmers of this district gathered at Addington school house to discuss co-operation, and after discussing it from all sides, it was moved by John Robertson, seconded by John Howden, that we organize a Grain Growers' Association at this point, called the Cramner Association. We then appointed a chairman and the following officers were elected: President, Thos. Perrin; vice-president, John Robinson; secretary-treasurer, F. H. Griffith; directors, Messrs. Lang, More, Howden, Whenham, and it was decided to elect the balance of our directors at some future meeting, as we hope to increase our membership to at least fifty in the near future. I was instructed to forward the membership dues handed in at this meeting to you, and to ask for a speaker to come and address a meeting in the near future—before seeding, if possible—to speak on co-operation. Also, will you kindly forward a few copies of the by-laws with fifty membership cards and any other literature that you think would be of use to us.—Contributed by Sec. F. H. Griffith.

TENBY PATRIOTIC CONTRIBUTION

Secretary:—Enclosed please find \$23.30, the proceeds from a dance held here by the Tenby Grain Growers' Association, and I was instructed to forward this sum to you for the Red Cross work. I am,

JAS. GRIFFITHS,
Secretary.

Longburn's Contribution

Secretary G. G. McArthur, of the Longburn G. G. Association, has remitted us the handsome sum of \$359 for the Patriotic Fund of the association. The following are the names of those contributing to this sum: R. J. Caskey, \$25; Alex. Dow, \$20; Thos. McArtney, \$25; R. J. McMillan, \$10; T. E. Gibson, \$25; J. W. James, \$25; Mrs. Emily Bray, \$10; K. McLeod, \$30; Thos. Wallace, \$20; Robert McCartney, \$5; D. McGillivray, \$5; W. Fleming, \$2; Jas. Irvine, \$5; H. Gardiner, \$2; P. D. McArthur, \$30; S. Ferguson, \$20; W. A. Caskey, \$15; John Irvine, \$10; D. G. McArthur, \$15; E. S. McArthur, \$15; McCuish Bros., \$30; Milton James, \$10. Total, \$359.

PATRIOTIC ACRE RECEIPTS

Previously reported	\$16,953.54
P. North, Minnedosa P.O.	20.00
Longburn Association	359.00
Tenby Association	23.30
Dugald Association	7.75
Minto Association	51.00
Miami Association	20.00
Carberry Association	450.00
Deloraine Association	1,550.00

Total..... \$19,434.59

ORGANIZING NEW BRANCHES

The new branch of the G.G. Association at Brookdale held their second meeting on Monday evening, March 20, in the D.O.F. Hall in Brookdale. Owing to the night being stormy there were only about twenty-five ladies and gentlemen present. Mr. McCuish, organizer, was present and addressed the meeting on social and economic questions of interest to farmers, after which six directors were elected. The ladies served lunch to all in attendance, and now that Brookdale has made a start we hope to hear good reports from them with an increasing membership as the year advances.

Solegirth was the next point, and a meeting was held there on March 23, and as at Brookdale the bad weather kept many from getting out that intended to be present. The time was spent in a round table conference. Solegirth Association held no meetings in 1915, but the secretary and others present assured me that at the next convention Solegirth would have representatives there. From Solegirth I went to Russell, and held a re-organization meeting on Saturday, March 25. What we lacked in numbers was made up for by the enthusiasm of those who were present. After addressing the gathering on the various activities of the

Grain Growers along social, economic and co-operative lines, on a motion of Messrs. Setter and Shaw-Russell, the branch was re-organized with officers duly appointed. Ten of the number present paid their dues for the year in to the new secretary, J. Grey. The Russell branch do not purpose holding all their meetings in town, as they have arranged to hold their meetings as near as possible to the farmers, and purpose using the school houses in the country surrounding Russell for their meetings, thus permitting all the farmers to benefit from their organization. A few years ago Russell had one of the most active associations in Manitoba, but as the Russell district of recent years has had a period of exceptional prosperity, their interest in the Grain Growers' movement decreased till the officers ceased calling meetings, but if the enthusiasm and determination of the new officers continues Russell in a short time will again be near the head of the list.

Dropmore was the next branch visited, and a meeting held there on Tuesday, March 28. This is one of the new branches, being organized only in February last. When the meeting was called to order every seat in the hall was taken. The president, in his opening remarks, referred to their organization meeting, outlining the various activities which they wished to participate in. After addressing the meeting, thirteen new members paid their dues, making a total paid up membership of forty-two. The secretary, Mr. Richardson, informed me that they expected to get at least forty-two more members. They have now a number of lady members. Dropmore is an example of what every district in Manitoba can do in organizing a branch of the Manitoba G.G. Association in their own district without the assistance of outside help.

On Thursday, March 30, I was billed to address a meeting at Bird Tail, but owing to the train service and the impassable condition of the roads I was obliged to cancel the engagement.

On Friday, March 31, in company with Frank Simpson, we attended a mass meeting in the Grain Growers' new hall at Vista. At this meeting Mr. Simpson and myself dealt with the problems of the Grain Growers in a general way. The Vista Red Cross Society served dinner in the hall from 5.30 to 7.30, which was followed by a program consisting of instrumental solos, readings, etc., of which a solo by Mrs. T. Miller and a reading by Miss Flora McDonald are worthy of special mention. Mr. Simpson and myself were again invited to address the evening meeting. Mr. Simpson dealt specially with the farmers' demand for Free Wheat and wider markets, while I gave special attention to the social and educational features of our movement. The gathering closed about 11 o'clock by singing the National anthem.—ORGANIZER McCUIH.

AGAINST GRAIN ACT AMENDMENT

On April 1, Gilbert Plains Grain Growers passed the following resolution:

Whereas, the Hon. Gen. E. Foster, minister of trade and commerce, brought before parliament an amendment to the Grain Act, giving to the Board of Grain Commissioners discretionary powers to relieve congestion, and whereas the farmers, who were most vitally concerned, were neither notified nor consulted concerning said amendment;

Resolved, that we strongly condemn such Kaiserism in Canadian politics, first, because we desire to be governed by laws as far as possible, and not by commissions; second, because we believe that the only way in which our government can relieve congestion effectively is to give us better transportation and wider markets—Free Wheat with the U.S.A.—so that our grain can get to the markets of the world, and we very respectfully submit that in future when questions of this kind are before parliament, the farmers of Canada be treated with the courtesy and consideration which are given to the manufacturers of Canada when Finance Minister White draws up his budget.

J. B. PARKER,
Secretary.