

WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US

"If, as is reported from Saskatoon, the German editor of a German newspaper published at Regina, had the impudence to get up in a Grain Growers' Convention and object to a resolution dealing with aliens, and succeeded in carrying his point, then the Saskatchewan Grain Growers must be an aggregation of tenderfeet. What status an editor (except, of course, Br'er Chipman, of The Guide, whose task is always to pull the wool over the farmers' eyes in the interests of the Grain Growers' Grain Co.), whether he be English, American or German, has in a Grain Growers' Convention, is not quite apparent from this distance. But the status, or lack of status, which the editor of any German newspaper ought to have within the councils of British-Canadian farmers in a country like Canada, just at this time, is not very difficult to discern. Just imagine, if you can, a Canadian editor arising within the caucus of some organization in Berlin and protesting against the Hun's barbarous submarine warfare on unarmed Canadian ships or the Zeppelin attacks upon women and little children in English seacoast towns. How long would that particular Canadian live to tell about it? Not very long, we venture to say. Of course, the full details of this little incident are not to hand. But, if the Saskatchewan Grain Growers changed any one of their resolutions to suit the sentiments of any German editor, then they should never have permitted any person on the outside to hear about it. On the face of it, it is the most deplorable incident that has taken place in Canada since the war began. Think of a German editor telling an organization of Canadian farmers that a resolution they had on their list was 'rotten' and that it was contrary to the 'high ideals' of the association. What a travesty on the word 'ideal' to have a German define what is meant by it. What a lesson Belgium furnishes in the way of the 'high ideals'—German ideals, too! 'Rotten!' did this German say about a Grain Growers' resolution? But could any Grain Grower resolution be sufficiently 'rotten' to compare with the German method of carrying its civilization (?) into the barbarous (?) world? Where does this particular German editor get his 'pull' that he dare dictate to any Canadian association? Is it from Premier Scott of Saskatchewan, or from some other source? But is it not enough to make the blood of Canadians boil?—News-Telegram, Calgary.

A good many newspaper clippings of interest have come to my desk during the past few weeks but none quite so outrageously ridiculous as the one quoted above from the Calgary News-Telegram. It affords a very good example of the lengths to which all too many newspapers will go to provide

Saskatchewan

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

matter which appeals to popular feeling quite without regard to whether or not the impression made is just.

Everyone deplores what the war lords of Germany have done to Belgium. Those who think deeply deplore also what these same war lords have done to the German people as a whole, but how much, if any, superior to theirs is the sentiment which actuates the editor who pens an article such as the above, even when he himself has to admit that "the full details" are not to hand?

Notice his reference to Mr. Chipman and The Grain Growers' Grain Co., then also the closing sentences of his article. It will then be fully apparent that the real purpose of the editor in question is not to safeguard British institutions and the "high ideals" of the Grain Growers—which same ideals are quite evidently not shared by him—but to discredit the whole movement of the organized farmers in the eyes of his readers.

It is true that the delegate in question, an erstwhile homesteader and farmer, is also an editor, but that he dictated or attempted to dictate to the convention is not true. The resolution to which he spoke for a couple of minutes only would have been handled exactly as it was handled had he not been present at all. Scores of resolutions presented to our great conventions are modified before being passed and the increasing moderation and tolerance evident in its findings are perhaps the best evidence of the invaluable educative work that is being done by the association. The Grain Growers' convention takes no cognizance of color, creed or language or of political party in its deliberations, nor are the findings of its thousand delegates ever dictated.

J.B.M.

VICTOR LOCAL ACTIVE

Central Secretary:—I have to inform you that altho the above local was only formed last January, we had 58 paid-up members as on 31st December last. During the year the total trading done thru our local was \$4,085.68, of which goods to the value of \$3,000.00 were bought from Central. Apart from this our members consider they are able to save many hundreds of dollars thru the action of the S.G.G.A. At our annual meeting held on the 10th inst., F. W. Berkler was re-elected president, and the undersigned, secretary.

J. M. JARRET,

Sec., Victor Local.

THREATENS TO SUE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The following is a copy in part of a letter recently received from a jobbing concern in the far West which is evidently making a systematic effort to secure the business of local co-operative associations without recognizing the organization as a whole:

"We attach herewith copy of letter written to The Co-operative Association, which is self explaining. We believe this association is a branch of your organization, and think you should be informed before we start suit. We regret the necessity to use force to collect this account, as we have sold many dollars' worth of goods to the Grain Growers."

The quotation form referred to in my answer to this letter is a printed form directed to the "Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, Saskatchewan." The whole shows clearly what an utter lack of conception of the basis and principle of our organized farmers' movement the average business man has.

J. B. M.

Answer

Gentlemen:—Your favor of February 18, which was replied to in my absence from the office, is still on my desk. There are two or three things that I think I ought to say to you in this connection.

In the first place, it seems very strange that you should write to me and ask for the association's assistance in collecting a debt from one of our local co-operative bodies when you are in direct competition with this, their Central office, in selling them goods. You have no claim on the service of the association in such a matter.

In the next place I want to point your attention to the fact that under the Agricultural Co-operative Associations Act, under which these co-operative associations are incorporated, their board of directors has no power to create such a debt as you claim this body owes you. Sub-section 6 of section 5, chapter 37, of the amended act reads as follows:

"The directors shall not have power to pledge the credit of the association except as aforesaid or for the purchase price or rental of business premises, salaries and incidental expenses, or for moneys temporarily borrowed to pay for goods purchased or expenses incurred in connection therewith or the shipment thereof."

You will see, therefore, that you cannot collect from one of these co-operative associations for goods which have been supplied to it on credit, as their board of directors have no power to create such a debt except as provided in sub-section 4 in the same section and chapter, which reads as follows: "The association shall, except as hereafter provided, pay for all goods purchased upon delivery."

"Provided that any association may purchase upon credit from any other agricultural co-operative association or any company, association or society incorporated by any special act of the province of Saskatchewan having objects wholly or in part similar to the agricultural co-operative associations."

This does make it possible for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, which is the central wholesale body for all the co-operative associations, to do business with them on open billing or other credit terms if it so sees fit.

I also wish to draw your attention to the form which you use, evidently for making quotations to the locals of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association is an incorporated body and no one except its own officers has a right to take delivery of mail in its name. Therefore when you send out mail addressed to the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association at any local point it is a serious offence for anyone to take delivery of such mail. All mail

to this association must be delivered to the head office, Moose Jaw.

J. B. MUSSELMAN,
Central Secretary.

REQUEST FOR BINS

Central Secretary:—At the last meeting of this local the following resolution was passed and I was instructed to forward same to you:

Resolved, that we, the members of the Eastleigh Association make an appeal to the central to build bins as near to the railway as is possible to handle the vast amount of grain that is still in the farmers' hands and cannot be disposed of.

FRANK GRINDLEY,
Sec., Eastleigh Ass'n.

NORTH TISDALE REPORT

Central Secretary:—The following is a report of what has been accomplished by the North Tisdale G.G. Association in 1915. I have acted as secretary-treasurer, but have given up the position and have enlisted in the overseas forces:

Our membership has increased from nineteen members to eighty. As a breeder of good fellowship in our community the value of the association cannot be estimated. We have done \$8,771.28 worth of co-operative buying, at a saving of over \$3,000. We had a regular monthly meeting with a big crowd, and enthusiasm ran high. We organized what is known as the Grain Growers' Agricultural Fair that was a splendid success, and bids fair to be a valuable asset in this, a mixed farming community, as it encourages competition among the farmers. We have formed two livestock associations. We have at present a scheme on hand to start a Grain Growers' cheese factory. We have had a representative at all conventions, which has been valuable to us. We had a splendid Grain Growers picnic, and also have contributed to the Patriotic Acre scheme and raised money for the Red Cross. This is a real live association that recognizes the great value of organization among the farmers. At an annual meeting E. B. Lloyd was elected as secretary-treasurer, Chas. Whitbread as president, and John Seekins as vice-president.

F. RANDALL,
Sec., North Tisdale Ass'n.

MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION

Central Secretary:—Enclosed I am sending you money order for four dollars for four new members and four renewals for 1916. I also acknowledge receipt of bank money order for \$7.90 covering shortage of coal in C.P. No. 83420, for which accept our thanks. Am also sending you herewith a list of our members. We held our annual election on Monday evening, December 29, and a lively interest was shown, J. Jahraas being elected president and J. B. Hassett, vice-president. It was decided that only three directors be elected for the ensuing year, and resulted as follows: Wm. Olson, E. Scherck and Fred Allan.

The appointment of a secretary-treasurer was not fully decided, the retiring secretary-treasurer being prevailed upon to continue the work. A membership contest was decided upon, two sides being chosen to canvass for new members, the losing side to put up a chicken supper at a date to be decided upon later.

C. H. ENGLISH, Sec.-Treas.,
Prairie Star G. G. Ass'n.

GATHERING THEM IN

A strip of country lying along the international boundary had a sudden boost into the "spot light" on January 20, 1916, when forty farmers organized themselves into what will in future be known as the Whitewater branch of the Saskatchewan G. G. A.

A plan for carrying thru one of the greatest organizing movements that has, perhaps, ever been attempted by any one branch is now before the directors. The following were elected to office: President, T. Reid; vice-president, F. Heskie; secretary-treasurer, G. Spence; directors, F. Richards, S. James and A. P. Lewis.

GEO. SPENCE, Sec.-Treas.,
Whitewater Local G.G.A.

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