Farm Women's Club

Organization

By a Farm Woman

TAKING the three words, Organization, Education and Co-operation we may consider briefly how, as women members of the Grain Growers' Association, we might apply them. First, Organization. The need of organized effort is being realized more than ever today. Our individual work for the most part counts for little against the tremendous forces at work today in almost any phase of development. If we are to accomplish any great good we must work together, and to work together harmoniously we must have some kind of system or organization with definite aims. The Grain Growers' Association stands for the bettering of conditions for the farmers and the farming communities, and the voicing of the thought and sentiment of the farmers in regard to matters of legislation; trade, finance and education.

With the new responsibilities placed on the women of Canada, and with the rapidly increasing responsibilities it behooves us to study conditions around us intelligently, and work for the bettering of home conditions and community life. It will take our combined efforts to do this in the best possible way. In the business world we see this demonstrated. Every trade or group of workers are organized. The farmers must have an organization that can cope successfully with the combined business activities of other organizations. If agriculture is the basic and greatest industry of this country, then why should not its workers be recognized as an organization, and one of the determining factors in making our laws, assisting in controlling financial conditions and markets, and furthering education in all its forms for the good of all the country.

As the Women's Section of the Grain Growers' Association, we are a vital part of the Grain Growers' Association. We are ready to assist the men in every way possible with their plans, in business if need be, for the betterment of the community and to help each other solve their home problems, and we need the help of all the women. With the sincere and hearty co-operation of all—not the few only—and working with a high purpose, our influence cannot help but be felt.

Education

We need Education. Education in the broadest sense, and especially along affairs that are particularly connected with our daily life in the home and the district. We can all be better farmers and better homemakers. In our meetings we may have an interchange of ideas, our own experiences, educating us to express ourselves in public. Every member should contribute in some way to make our meetings educative and successful. To be good farmers embraces most of all the good of other professions, and a good homemaker requires all the proverbial wisdom of Solomon.

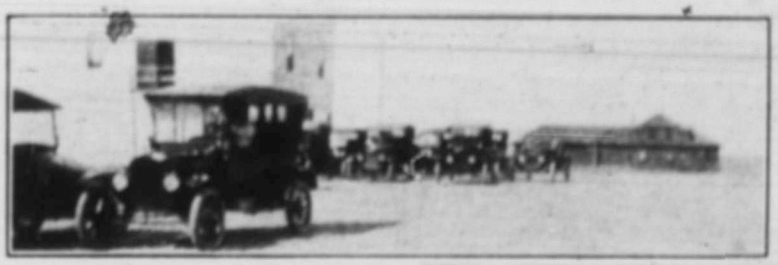
We may bring in speakers from outside, from time to time. Specialists in their own line of work. We may have demonstrators and lecturers on Home Economics and Agriculture for the asking. We need others for fresh inspiration and to broaden our own ideas and to keep us in touch with up-to-date development along these lines. In connection with our work a dramatic club and a choral society might be developed. We must provide some form of recreation and entertainment that will be educative as well as interesting for our younger members. With debates, mock parliaments, and public speaking, our meetings could be made a training school to educate speakers to take their place in the legislature—farmers to represent farmers, who know farm conditions.

Co-operation

Then comes co-operation. In this we must have the help of every member of the community. All are agreed as to the benefits of co-operative buying and selling, the financial benefit and ease in handling staple requirements. We could have our own co-operative store, butcher shop, a central business office for transacting business, a library and reading room, and an elevator, a laundry and creamery, an attractive community hall for public meetings where our planned dramatic club and choral society could entertain, a place for illustrated lectures and educational movies. We could be organized for any work we are given the opportunity to do for the good of the community. And if we all work together enthusiastically for the common good there will be little chance of failure. Co-operate, that we may work together for the greatest good, to make the world a better place to live in now and for those who come after us.—Mrs. Robt. Milne, Keyes, Man.

What Was that New Idea?

As you work around the house keep a small note book handy to note down suggestions which come to you for the meeting which will be held when the busy time is over. It is wonderful how evasive ideas are, and putting them down in a book will help you when you come to plan the work for the winter. Jot down questions which have bothered you and also factors which have helped you either in your household work or in the reading which you have been doing. If each member of the club would do this, these questions and suggestions could be collected and sorted and a profitable meeting spent on the various topics which the women found to be a problem or a help to them in their work.



Grain Growers' Sunday at Pangman, Sask.

Programs for Young People

The Young Peoples' Committee of the Womens' Section G.G.A., met on August 6, at the Y.W.C.A., Saskatoon, with Mrs. Alex. Wallace, Director District 9, convener, in the chair. Other members present were Mrs. Chas. Treble, Watrous, Mrs. G. McAllen, Dinsmore, and Mrs. J. McNaughtan, ex officio—secretary. The Juvenile Grain Growers' constitution was amended, and adopted as a basis to work on, the idea being that it would be very helpful in districts where teachers wished to co-operate with parents. The School Fair movement was studied, and though it was admittedly too late to do much this year, the committee decided to follow up the work, with the idea of getting all our Womens' Sections interested in co-operating with the respective agencies next season. It was further decided to devote attention to publishing accounts of G.G.A. work, of special interest to Junior Grain Growers. The committee arranged to appeal to every community in the province to put on some form of winter program for "Our Young People," and a suggested program was prepared covering the four-fold development of the future citizen. The committee also undertook to collect lists of suitable sketches, songs, readings, etc., for Pierrot, or Minstrel Troupes, Waxworks, Tableaux Vivant, Action Songs, Glee clubs or quartette parties, theatricals, and other forms of local entertainment.

During the next few weeks, will every one interested in "Our Young People," send in to me the names, publishers, and prices of any items suitable for local programs. I would ask that only items that can be personally vouched for as being suitable for presentation in the limited space of the average school-house, be sent.—Violet McNaughtan, Hon. Sec., W.S.G.G.A.

The W.G.G. Rest Room

The establishment of a W.G.G.A. Rest Room, at Regina Exhibition, was an unqualified success. Hundreds of our members, and women whom we hope will become members, visited us there. Numerous questions were asked by the visitors, and a great amount of information was gained, regarding G.G.A. matters. Many were astonished at the size and variety of the Grain Growers' Exhibit. Some said they thought the trading department only meant lumber, coal and binder twine; others asked if an organizer could be sent to their district, and a number told of the activities of their local Womens' Section, which have never been published, because the local secretary forgot to send in a report.

Greater still was the number who expressed appreciation of the tastefully decorated room, and other conveniences. And let me tell you, this is only a beginning. Many possible improvements were realized, and in conference with the heads of various departments of the G.G.A. exhibit, plans were laid to develop, not only the rest room, but every feature of the exhibit of interest to women. And while on the subject of rest rooms, there are splendid possibilities for W.G.G.A. propaganda, if the Womens' Sections would erect a rest room, if only a tent, at their local fairs, and equally share the responsibility. All who are interested in getting our farm women as well organized as they need be, will note the suggestion.

Nurse Aids Settlers

During the summer of 1914, a few of the women of Quill Lake felt that they should have a women's society of some kind to help bring the people of the community in closer touch with each other and to develop a community spirit. In the fall, several lecturers were sent out by the government to speak on different subjects in connection with agriculture. From one of the speakers we heard about the Homemakers' club and asked for an organizer to be sent to us. Miss Harrison came and we organized the Quill Lake Homemakers' Club on December 16. We still have a good strong working society. Last year we raised $110 for patriotic purposes. We do relief work in the way of supplying aid to new settlers and in connection with this work we keep a woman who was a nurse in England, and is now living over 30 miles from town and a doctor, supplied with the necessary things for first aid. She is constantly being called upon for help in all kinds of cases in many different homes and under all kinds of conditions.—Mrs. Jennie Rodger, Quill Lake.

Excellent Work of Bowden W.I.

The Institute at Bowden was organized on May 11, 1917, with 18 members. There are now 38 on the roll, though five have now moved away. The average attendance is 12. We have two meetings each month. One is a business meeting at which we do hand work for the Red Cross while talking. The other is entirely devoted to Red Cross sewing. Last September we sold by auction the vegetables and other produce from the Children's Fair (we had asked for these to be given to us for this purpose), and realized $50 which we sent to Calgary to buy Christmas stockings for wounded boys in hospital. At the fall fair in October, we raised $194 in various ways, by selling tags, by providing ice cream, tea and lunches, by an auction of produce and a dance in the evening. This $194 we sent to Calgary for "Our Day," for the British Red Cross. In December we held a sale of work and a dance and raised $57.90. Out of this we bought a new Singer Sewing machine for our Red Cross work, the company treating us most generously. The balance we kept on hand for various expenses. On April 1, we had a dance. A cushion which had been given to us by one of our members was raffled off. This realized $31.30, and three other cushions given by members were auctioned, bringing in $8.50. This money, also the proceeds of the dance, was kept as a reserve fund for the Red Cross.

In October we had a very interesting address by Mrs. Rogers, of Fort Saskatchewan, on the work of institutes, which was full of information and helpful ideas. In May this year we had a three days' demonstration on war cookery by Miss Williams. At our meeting in May we issued an invitation to the Village Council to attend a special meeting to discuss the repair and cleaning up of the cemetery. On June 22, we met at the cemetery in the morning and 15 men who were interested, helped us with axes and scythes to clean up the brush. We piled it up and burnt it. Lunch and tea were provided by the Institute at the near by home of one of the members. The Council, not to be out-done by the women, is going to repair the fence! The Oddfellows are most kind and lend us their hall for our meetings rent free, and help us in every way possible. We have, since we organized, been working as an auxiliary to the Calgary branch, made 2,312 articles for the Red Cross, and now our girls have formed a junior sewing circle. We are at present helping the Red Cross by canvassing for a great auction sale for the Red Cross to be held in July. Where possible we pay personal visits, in other cases we write letters or use the telephone. I think the auction will be an immense success.—Amy B. Taylor, sec.-treas., Bowden Women's Institute.

Normanton Raises Fund

In 1916, the women of Normanton, always a progressive settlement, decided they would form a Womens' Section of the already established G.G.A. They made a start with 22 members. Since that time the membership has grown to 30, all working with one object—the betterment of their own and their neighbor's lot on the prairie. They are enthusiastic Red Cross workers and are interested in all movements that make for the general well being. On Friday, June 28, a picnic was held for the purpose of raising funds for the Red Cross and to augment the funds of the association. The weather was showery and uncertain but a large crowd was present who thoroughly entered into the educational and entertaining program. Mrs. Violet McNaughtan made one of her splendidly enthusiastic speeches, dealing with women's sphere on the farm, touching upon an eight-hour day for all, municipal hospitals and the many interests of the farmer and farmers' wives. At the conclusion of her remarks she received an ovation from those present. Mr. McNaughtan spoke on the man's side of the various questions. After an excellent but not extravagant supper, sports were held. Dancing was indulged in by the young people and a sale of work held realizing $89, which has been handed to the Red Cross. The sale of refreshments, supper and dance tickets which amounted to $57 was added to the funds of the local.—Kathleen M. Stallibrass, cor.-sec., Normanton, W.G.G.A., Keppel, Sask.

A Seven-Year-Old Club

Fairlight Homemakers' Club met at the home of Mrs. H. I. Ely, July 3, 1918. After the business proceedings were finished a general discussion of the use of wheat substitutes was held. Two members who had been experimenting brought samples of corn and wheat and oatmeal and wheat bread, which were sampled by the ladies present, and all were much encouraged to find that "war bread" is very good indeed. We de-