

Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President, Suite 4, Balmoral Court, Winnipeg, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

HOW FOREST GREW

Following is one of the reports submitted at the Brandon convention from the branches on membership and co-operative buying:

In presenting to you the report for the Forest branch of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association I might say that our branch was organized on November 29, 1913. We organized with a membership of about thirty, which was increased during the year to sixty-two. Considerable co-operative buying was done, but this was greatly increased during 1915.

The secretary-treasurer's report for 1915 showed an increase in membership from sixty-two in 1914 to ninety-seven paid up members for 1915. A ladies' auxiliary was formed early in the summer with a membership of twenty-four. Their organization shows progress and considerable is being accomplished in support of Red Cross work, etc.

Our Association held ten regular business meetings with an average attendance of thirty and two special meetings of a social nature. On June 29 we held a very successful picnic jointly with our ladies' auxiliary. This we hope will become a permanent feature of our Association.

During the year ending December 31 we handled four cars of Souris coal, four cars of Taber coal, two cars of hard coal, one car of seed oats, one car of twine (40,000 lbs.), two cars of apples and one car of flour and feed. Three cars of coal are yet to be delivered. Besides these arrangements were made with our local merchants whereby we got our formaldehyde and seed corn at quite a saving and we also got 4,500 lbs. of fresh frozen fish shipped in at a saving of one to three cents a pound. The value of our trading for the year totals \$9,605. This meant a saving for our branch in the purchasing of commodities of approximately \$1,500 or an average of \$15 per member.

All commodities are distributed direct from the car. All orders are sent in to the secretary and when a car arrives these members who have orders booked are immediately notified when the car is to be unloaded. The secretary is instructed to attend to the unloading of all commodities and collects the money. He is paid \$3 a day for his services. No deposit is made by our members when an order is placed, but cash is paid at the car before the goods are released. Our financing is all done thru the bank. A written guarantee is given the bank signed by our president, secretary and board of directors, and the president and secretary are authorized to sign all checks, notes, drafts, etc. A sufficient margin is placed on all goods handled to cover the cost of handling, any interest that may be accrued on notes from the bank, cost of draft and in most cases sufficient to guard against any possible shortage of weight or shrinkage, etc. Any profits accrued is turned into the treasury of the Association, but we aim at handling things at actual cost and do not figure on making any profits. To aid in financing our Association we place our membership at \$1.50 per member. We also generally put a small margin on any goods sold to a non-member. This we find has a dual effect, as it not only increases our revenue, but also induces non-members to join. Co-operative buying is about the most persuasive argument we can use when soliciting new members. If we can convince a man that by investing \$1.50 he is going to save \$15 or \$18 we generally get him.

Sixty per cent. of our old members have already renewed for 1916 and we have also obtained six new members. We hope during this year to get every farmer in our district into our Association. We recognize the necessity of all becoming members if we are to co-operate and help each other as much as possible.

SPRINGHILL COMMUNITY CLUB

As many members of the community as could be got together on short notice gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Yereux on Wednesday afternoon, December 29, and a preliminary meeting was held at which it was decided to continue weekly meetings again this winter. In order to get started at once a program

was planned for the month of January. In the meantime representatives of the various organizations will be appointed to the executive and at some future meeting of the executive a complete program for the balance of the winter will be planned. As the carrying on of the work by the various organizations in the community requires funds a new departure from the order of last winter's meetings was decided on, it being agreed that the Church, the Women's Missionary Society, the Orangemen and the Grain Growers' Association would each be responsible for a meeting, a dinner and more lengthy program than usual at which special meeting a charge will be made.

The program for January is: Jan. 6—A review of the work of last winter by Rev. A. W. Kenner, after which the meeting will be open for discussion. Jan. 13—Modern movements in agriculture. Jan. 20—The church will provide dinner and program. Jan. 27—Study No. 10: Land tenure, taxation taken by Geo. A. Boker and Fred Harper.

Note.—The above branch have prepared an interesting program for this month and we hope other branches will do likewise.

PATRIOTIC ACRE RECEIPTS

Previously acknowledged	\$2630.01
D. N. Morris, Cardale Assn.	25.00
Andrew Burnside, Keyes, Man.	25.00
Sinclair Assn., per—	
F. McLaren	20.00
D. Mawdsley	20.00
D. J. Brownlee	20.00
Geo. Cormack, Jr., Vista Branch	20.00
A. B. Phelps, Pine Creek Assn.	16.00
Bay Centre Assn.	12.80
J. A. Meadows, Rapid City	40.00
Mountain Side Branch, per—	
Sid Ransom	335.28
F. H. Ransom	100.00
Thos. Dougall	100.00
A. H. Dougall	85.00
J. Fleming	60.00
W. Spencer	58.42
A. Arle	31.36
L. Miller	25.00
L. Healey	25.00
W. Hanson	20.00
C. J. Harmsworth	20.00
R. Bracken	20.00
X. Y. Z.	15.00
Geo. Rutherford	15.00
N. Carlson	10.00
M. Carlson	10.00
P. Arde	10.00
C. Connery	3.00
P. McCormick	2.50
Concert Proceeds	51.00
Extra	3.44
Strathclair G. G. Assn., per—	
R. Leeson	10.00
H. McDonald	20.00
Geo. M. Black	20.80
Hugh Roberts	21.45
J. W. Gamble	15.00
Duncan Fair	20.00
Jno. F. McTavish	28.00

Total (less cost of money orders, 25 cents).....\$3973.06

ANNUAL MEETING AT POPLAR POINT

The annual meeting of Poplar Point branch was held the beginning of December. The report showed the Association in fairly good standing, for while not much external work is seen a good deal of internal organization is carried on. The president, Robert Harper, occupied the chair and in his customary pleasing manner presided and discharged the duties. An address was given by Charles Setter, relating the general benefits of the Association in the co-operative aspect, showing clearly that benefits accrue to the individuals as well as to the community, therefore urging all to become participants in such a movement as the Grain Growers' Association, which has the welfare of the entire community at heart. Mr. Setter at the close was thanked for his able address, following which some friends present determined to attach themselves to such a worthy organization. On Thursday afternoon the new board of directors held their first general meeting, those present being R. Harper, the president; J. E. Bruce, J. A. Kennedy, D. T. Setter, Chas. Setter,

J. S. Gates and D. J. Ferguson. Among other business discussed was the Patriotic Acre Fund and from the proceeds the board decided to donate \$75 to patriotic purposes thru the channel of the local I.O.D.E. This season the Association is organizing a series of monthly lectures for the good and welfare of the district.

OAKVILLE ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was held a short time ago and we are hoping for a useful and successful year, in fact, we have a larger paid up membership now than it was at the close of last year. Our lady members are quite active and set an example which the men might well follow for their intellectual and material benefit. We have now a proposition on foot towards having a public meeting and reading room which will be a fine thing for this community. The Patriotic Acre committee failed to circulate subscription books in summer, but have been doing something lately and have now about \$600 collected in cash, and also one horse and some implements, which will be sold by auction. We expect to have full returns in within two weeks and will forward proceeds to you.

THE HOME TOWNS AND THE FARMER

A matter of considerable importance to Western farmers took place in the town of Emerson last week and as it has likely been duplicated in other towns, I am sending you an account of it.

I took two veals to town to sell and not being satisfied with the price the local butcher offered for them proceeded to sell them by the quarter to some people in town. I had sold some and was delivering a quarter at a customer's house when I was forbidden to deliver it or make another sale by the provincial constable, under the by-law of the town governing transient traders, and was threatened that if I did information would be laid by the butcher and I was liable for a fine not exceeding \$50 unless I took out a license which would cost \$40 for the year. I interviewed the mayor, who suggested that I had better look up the by-laws of the town. This I did and found that I was up against it good and hard, the by-law covering the ground very thoroughly. However, I have lately been appointed a J.P. and have come into possession of the consolidated statutes of Manitoba and on my return home I put in a couple of hours reading them and I found that the by-laws were word for word the same as the act respecting municipal institutions as on pages 1846, 1847 and 1848, sec. 612, paragraphs C,D,E,F. But they stopped short at that last part of it, which reads: "Provided always that no license shall be required in villages and rural municipalities for hawking, peddling or selling from any vehicle or other conveyance any goods, wares or merchandise to any retail dealer or for hawking or peddling any goods, wares or merchandise the growth, produce or manufacture of this province not being liquor, within the meaning of the Liquor License Act, and if the same are being hawked or peddled by the manufacturer or producer of such goods, wares or merchandise or by his bona fide servant or agent or employee having a written authority on that behalf, any municipal by-law to the contrary notwithstanding, provided further that no by-law passed under the act shall prevent a farmer from selling free from all charges or taxes or fees in any city, town or village by hawking the same from house to house or otherwise farm produce of any kind grown or produced on the farm of such farmer, nor shall any by-law passed under this act make it compulsory to have such farm produce weighed or measured or to have the free sale thereof in any way interfered with."

Armed with this authority I went before the town council at their next monthly meeting and stated my case when the council quickly climbed down and apologized to me and promised to have their by-laws amended at once. The local butcher, who is also a councillor of the town, finding that he was up against it, also personally apologized to me at the council board and the matter there ended.

Now this may seem a small matter to rush into print about. There is, however, an important principle at stake, one that we farmers are and have been ever since the organization of the Grain Growers' Association fighting for, the principle that the farmer can sell his produce when and how he likes. When we consider how the big milling interests combined with

the railways have successfully kept us out of the American market for our grain, also the wholesale butchers have for the last ten years been able to convince the late government not to allow a public abattoir in Winnipeg, where farmers could have their cattle killed and butchers not in the combine could buy farmers' cattle; when you find the Retail Merchants' Association combined with the Credit Men's Association to get legislation passed to stop farmers buying in carload lots, and now towns and villages passing by-laws to stop farmers selling in their home town except thru a middleman, it looks to me as tho there is a connection all down the line to make the farmer the unpaid hired man of the corporations and retail traders, so I am sending you this that The Guide readers may see their position and if other towns have the same by-laws then the farmer will know they are just bluff and cannot be enforced.

T. W. KNOWLES.

Emerson.

POINTERS ON MEMBERSHIP

Following are some answers to the question—What methods have you adopted to increase your membership?

By giving preference to members when handling flour, feed, grain, coal, apples, etc.

This branch has 43 members on roll, all paid, for 1915 and reports only 5 farmers in the district not in the Association.

Personal canvass of members. Report 17 paid up and 35 farmers in the district not in the Association.

No particular system except an occasional conference on the subject at a regular meeting.

No system. 9 members on roll.

We have no system. 23 members on roll, 19 farmers in the district not members.

No system. 24 members on roll, 50 farmers in the district not in the Association.

No system. 10 members on roll, 50 farmers in district not members.

Use the Grain Growers' annual concert as a basis for increasing membership. 50 on roll, 25 in the district not members.

By social evenings and persuasion, thru the purchase of commodities.

By canvassing by committee appointed. 41 members on roll.

Personal canvassing. 80 members on roll.

The co-operative part of our work has been the chief cause for increasing our members during this year. Total on roll 104.

We have all our directors armed with tickets and have tried every one they can. None. Total number on roll 40, number of farmers not in the Association 200.

Practically none. It is left to the secretary. Paid dues 32, number of farmers in district not in Association about 100.

Myself and one or two others talk Grain Growers' Association until we get tired and then stop. We co-operate in the purchase of supplies. Number on roll 39.

We have no system, but are open for pointers. Number on roll 23.

Canvassing after our meetings. Number on roll 42, paid up for 1915 18, farmers in district not in Association 40.

Personal invitation by all members. Number on roll 96, number of farmers in district not in Association very few.

We had a little co-operative buying and induced them to try and do a little better. Number on roll 25, number of farmers not in Association 6.

Had some co-operative buying and rounded them up for members' fees. 36 on roll, 44 not members of the Association.

Co-operative buying had been our strongest factor in increasing membership. Some are in the Association for the sake of being organized; others for what they can make out of it. Number on roll 61.

We try to convince all farmers that by becoming members and buying thru the Association they can save money.

Since we have been buying a few commodities in carloads we have trebled our membership. Number on roll 70.

R. C. Henders, president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, has moved into the city for the winter and is now residing at Suite 4, Balmoral Court, Winnipeg.