

HOW THEY DO THINGS AT RUSSELL

At the annual meeting of the Russell District Branch of the Grain Growers' Association, held on Saturday, the following resolutions were passed:

That this meeting of the Russell District Branch of the Grain Growers' Association offer its condolence to Mrs. Lang and family in the loss of the late W. H. Lang, who was a valued member of the association.

Resolved that this meeting of the Russell District Branch of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association is of opinion that all lake and river terminals, and all transfer elevators should be owned and operated by the Dominion Government. First to maintain the purity of the standard grades which there is good reason to believe is now debased by mixing and manipulation of certificates, and to ensure to the grower just weights and fair dockage.

That this meeting of the Russell Branch of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association hereby records its opinion that the time has come when all grain elevators should be considered public utilities and as such be owned and operated by the Province, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier, Hon. R. P. Roblin, and to the member for the county, M. A. L. Bonycastle.

Resolved that whereas the C.P.R. and C.N.R. running into Russell have increased the freight rate on grain one cent per hundred pounds, that this increase also applies to Birtle, Foxwarren, Binscarth, Millwood and Harrowby, and that the total difference against shippers from all these points amounts on an average crop to approximately \$10,000. We therefore pray the executive of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association to approach the said railway companies, and unless said increase is justified by necessity, to press for the reinstatement of the old rate.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, W. McKay; Vice-President, D. Dunn; Secretary-Treasurer, J. H. Farthing; Directors, W. S. Creer, R. Shaw, W. Hembroff, W. Cusitar, R. A. McLannan and J. A. Kippan; Auditor, P. H. Spencer; Delegates to Convention, W. McKay and J. H. Farthing.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS.

Mr. President and Fellow Members:

It is with great pleasure that this report is made, because there is a record of progress almost all along the line on the year's working. Thanks to the energy of some of our members the roll call for 1908 shows a doubling of the members over 1907, we now have 103 paid up members against 52 last year, a fact to be proud of, but not to be satisfied with. Twice during the spring of the year this hall was filled by those interested in our proceedings, the meeting on March 6th being addressed by R. McKenzie, the secretary of the central association, and by our old friend and neighbor, Alex Creer, President of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. Both had encouraging reports of progress, both pointed out need for watchfulness and other strenuous work to maintain the progress made and to win further victories. On all sides combination and co-operation is recognized as necessary to the exigencies of the times, a large part of President Roosevelt's last message to Congress being made up of advice as to the treatment of large corporations which he says must not be destroyed by the state but protected in right dealing, restrained against extortion and punished for oppression; their profit should be large enough to pay generous salaries to staff and liberal wages to workmen, with reasonable dividend to stock holders, all of which we will doubtless allow.

The efforts of our association and the Provincial House to control the Grain Dealers' Association has so far not met with success. We have an enemy who will not fight to a knock-out, but who continually runs to

corners, and only one effective means exists for putting him out of business and that is to take away the elevators which enables him to manipulate the market to his purposes. One old evil we can all help to remove, that of overestimating the crop, which is used to depress the market at the opening of almost every season, this being no exception. The Ogilvie Milling Co. during and just before harvest sent fabulous reports to Britain as to the magnitude of the crop, and actually sold below value on Liverpool market with this end in view.

The season, particularly in this district, has played into the hands of the elevator men, and an unusual quantity has unfortunately got into their hands. Russell being fortunate in securing from 3½ to 5c. per bushel above the average for the province, may we not credit some of this to the Grain Growers' Grain Company and some to the influence of our own Association, not forgetting our local Farmers' elevator.

Many of our members have benefitted by the opening of the C.N.R., shipping facilities coming almost to the door of many who have hitherto had to draw their grain weary miles to a shipping point. Congratulations are due them on this, but other expected benefits are yet absent, and whilst at competitive points there is an improvement in service, rates have so far as this district goes, advanced, and we now pay 16c. per hundred instead of 15c.

Some twenty years ago our municipalities raised monies by debentures to give bonus to grist mills. One of these has been out of existence some time, being destroyed by fire, another exists in a moribund condition, and a decision by Police Magistrate Collins is to the effect that a mill bonused by money raised by taxes on the property of the district to give gristing rights to the inhabitants and whose only business practically during all the years has been gristing, is not a grist mill under the statute, and not bound by its provisions. Gristers must therefore govern themselves accordingly, as the owner of such mill is only bound by special contract and perhaps not then unless same could be proved by witnesses.

Several valuable amendments to the Grain Act were obtained and the result of the operation of the Grain Growers Grain Co. were eminently satisfactory.

A LIVE ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Vegreville branch of the Alberta Farmers' Association was held in the town hall on Saturday afternoon last. The attendance was satisfactory considering that it was the day after Christmas and that many of the members have to travel 15 or 20 miles to attend a meeting.

The reports of the secretary for the year 1908 were read and adopted. The membership of the local branch is now 155, and the bank balance is \$316.

The local branch is about to take up the erection of a building for holding meetings. H. T. Payne, G. T. Gascoigne and the secretary were empowered to get a building in shape and report early in January.

The matter of erecting an elevator was discussed and it was given a six months' hoist.

The entire executive board was elected by acclamation and resulted as follows:—

President, G. T. Gascoigne; Vice-President, D. A. Kennedy; Directors, H. McCleery, Sherman Huff, H. T. Payne, E. J. Sandercock, John McKeith and W. G. Cole.

Jas. J. Stanton, D. A. Kennedy, G. T. Gascoigne and others spoke in very forcible terms against the Department of Education in its neglect to give adequate recognition to representations made by the local branch regarding educational facilities for children in sparsely settled districts. To strengthen the case three special delegates were chosen to go to Edmonton for the annual

convention, three picked Gascoigne as

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