

OFFICERS:

Honorary President:	Yrden
President:	Culross
Vice-President:	Oakville
Secretary-Treasurer:	Winnipeg
J. W. Scallion	
R. C. Henders	
J. B. Wood	
R. McKenzie	

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

A meeting of Golden Stream Branch was held in the schoolhouse on Dec. 12. The following were appointed delegates to Portage District convention on Dec. 21: Angus Stewart, J. E. Thompson and Jas. Wallace. A committee was appointed to circulate a petition for Direct Legislation. C. H. Burnell represented the District Association and arrangements were made to hold annual meeting at an early date.

Beaver Branch, true to its industrious name, had a well-prepared program for its annual meeting on Dec. 13, in the school house. The chair was occupied by President H. N. Smith, who addressed the meeting in his usual able manner. The energetic secretary, John Green, was able to report a slight increase in membership. One of the younger members, Mr. Mun, gave a reading—"The Cremation of Sam Magee." A feature of the evening was an address by S. Thompson. Officers for 1913 were elected as follows: President, H. N. Smith; vice-president, S. Thompson; secretary-treasurer, Ben Richardson; auditor, John Green; directors, Geo. Cooper, S. Thompson, Jos. McCasky, Thos. Kelly, John Pierce; delegates to Brandon, B. Richardson and John Green. Thos. Annison was appointed representative on the District Board. Delegates to Portage Convention, on Dec. 21, S. Thompson, H. N. Smith, A. W. Stone, Geo. Pierce, Thos. Kelly. It was decided to challenge Bagot Branch to a debate, and Messrs. Scott, Richardson and Smith were appointed a committee to arrange program for the next meeting. District Association was represented by C. H. Burnell.

Successful Annual Meeting

One of the largest meetings ever held by Oakville Branch was opened at 3 o'clock on Dec. 14, in the Forester's Hall, by President F. Metcalf, in a short address reviewing the year's work of the Oakville Association. Visitors present were: P. D. McArthur, District President Longburn, J. H. Gray, President Oakland Branch, G. F. Chipman, Editor "Guide" (Winnipeg), Mr. McKenzie, manager Echo Milling Co. (Gladstone), also Councillors Leader and Wilson. The secretary's report showed a membership of 113 and a cash balance of \$63.80. On motion of Blight and Parsons, the Directors were appointed a committee to examine all the loading platforms in the vicinity and take the necessary steps to have the same enlarged and improved. Moved by Wells and Solomon—That in buying flour we patronize the independent mills.—Carried. On motion of Blight and Parsons: Jno. Davies, J. D. Whitmore and Wm. Halliday were appointed to confer with Mr. McKenzie about flour, and when they reported it was decided to order a carload of flour from the Echo Milling Co., through Thos. McIntyre, the local dealer. Blight and Robertson moved that the directors be a committee to circulate petitions for Direct Legislation.—Carried. A. T. Smith, Geo. Wells and Wm. Solomon were appointed a committee to answer questions of Railway Commission re fireguards.

Officers for 1913 are as follows: Pres., F. Metcalf; vice-pres., Geo. Wells; auditors, A. Hawkes and A. T. Smith; directors, Jno. Davies, S. Mountain, F. Robertson, A. T. Smith, R. Morton, Jno. Burnett; reporters to Brandon Convention, Jas. Whimpter and C. H. Burnell; delegates to Brandon, A. T. Smith, Jno. Davies, Geo. Wells, Wm. Solomon, W. Plaskett, J. D. Whitmore, Jas. Christie, A. Munro, Les. Mountain, Wm. Halliday, A. Hawkes, Robt. Dawson. Twenty-two delegates were appointed to go to Portage Convention. Wm. Solomon was appointed District Representative for Oakville Branch. Moved by Solomon and Wells—That the secretary be instructed to send ten cents per member to the District Association.—Carried. Forty-five members paid up their dues for 1913.

Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is Conducted for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President.

At 6.30 the meeting adjourned to Burns Hall, where over one hundred and fifty people accepted the ladies' hospitality. After the good things had been disposed of President Metcalf took the chair and in a masterful speech introduced Mrs. Perry, woman's editor of The Saturday Post, representing the Political Equality League, who spoke on "The Possibilities of Citizenship in Women." She said that citizenship was a large thing, the moral standard for both man and woman should be equal. She gave many reasons why there should be political equality between man and woman. If the woman was capable of being the mother of the race, she was surely capable of helping govern the race. This century was going to be the century of the "Woman and the Child." The woman on the farm should have her own money, not as a concession, but as her right, and there should be real co-operation between husband and wife. There should be an international as well as a Provincial law to punish the wife-beater. Farm women should have more labor-saving devices. She said a small gasoline engine could run the cream separator, washing machine, churn, etc., and did not cost any more than a good coffin. While there was nothing better than work, yet a woman should not be a slave to her work.

P. D. McArthur, District President, gave an able address on the "Objects of Our Association and What We Have Accomplished." He reviewed the work of the organization since its first convention nine years ago. He quoted many facts which were enough to show that no farmer could afford to stand outside of the association. G. F. Chipman spoke on "Grain Growers' Problems, and How to Solve Them." Gordon McPherson, of Portage, sang several comic songs which were heartily received. Mrs. A. T. Smith surpassed herself in "O Canada, We Stand On Guard for Thee," which touched a responsive chord in every heart.

The officers wish to take this opportunity of thanking all those who contributed to the success of the evening, especially the ladies and those who waited on the tables.

Mayfield is blessed with an energetic bunch of Orangemen, who have built and paid for a hall and shed which would be a credit to many places with twice the population. In this hall on Dec. 16 a meeting was held, at which Josiah Bennett, District Vice-President, occupied the chair. It was decided to re-organize the Mayfield Branch and the following officers were elected and installed: President, L. P. Lamb; vice-president, W. Kay, secretary, Jno. Hunter; directors, M. Steel, F. Fahner, A. McIntosh, W. B. Smith, F. McMillan, W. Telford. L. P. Lamb was appointed a delegate to Portage Convention, and Matt. Steel was elected District Representative. It was decided to hold a meeting on Jan. 3, at 3 o'clock, to appoint delegate to Brandon and hear report of delegate to Portage.

The District Secretary would be glad to receive reports from all the Branches addressed by P. D. McArthur. See that your secretary reports.

COLIN H. BURNELL,
District Secretary.

FOXWARREN G. G. SOCIAL AND CONCERT

A very successful affair at which there was a crowded attendance, took place on Friday evening in the schoolhouse. The program was as follows:—Chairman's address, Mr. C. Burdette; recitation, "Caleb's Courtship," Miss Lena Burdette; solo, "The Bandolero," Mr. W. J. McLaughlin (encored); recitation, "Is Marriage a Failure," Mabel E. Taylor; address, Mr. F. Simpson, of Shoal Lake; solo, "Father O'Flynn," Mr. W. J. McLaughlin; recitation, Miss Iola Taylor; address by Mr. R. McKenzie, secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association;

recitation, "Bob in Trouble," Miss A. Burdette. In his opening address, the chairman, Mr. Burdette, deprecated any feeling of hostility to the merchants, who were necessary to the welfare of the district, but he thought that so many commercial travellers were not necessary and meant additional expense which eventually fell on the consumer.

Mr. F. Simpson, of Shoal Lake, a director and nine years chairman of the Shoal Lake association, was pleased to see the wives and families of the farmers there. Their isolation was the cause of the farmers becoming the easy prey of the many adventurers constantly on the watch for them, and one of the aims of the association was the bringing of farmers together to minimize this effect.

The transportation problem was the cause of great trouble and loss, not only to the farmer but the business man as well. The Grain Growers were asking for reciprocal demurrage as against the railway companies. The slowness of transit was not the only grievance, and the speaker gave statistics to illustrate the exorbitant and anomalous system of freight charges, and said that as individuals they would be powerless, but as an association they might hope to do something.

Mr. Lewis Stubbs looked upon Direct Legislation as the key to all other reforms. He spoke strongly and eloquently in favor of the Initiative, the Referendum and Recall. Mr. McKenzie particularly wished to impress on the boys the importance of properly fitting themselves for the future that lay before them. The farmers were proud of the grain they grew and their stock, but they should pay more attention to training the young people of the farm to take their proper place in the world. The business of the country was left too much in the hands of men reared in the atmosphere of privilege. He urged the boys never to look down on their calling but to be proud of it as the cleanest, healthiest and most honorable business of any. We should make farm home life more attractive. The principal obstacle to this was the difficulty of exchanging the produce of the farmer for the commodities needed. He then went into figures tending to prove that reciprocity would be an advantage to the merchant as well as the farmer. The more the farmer had, the more he would spend with the merchants. He thought the one thing for business men, whether farmers or merchants, was for them all to get together and work for the public good.

The present system was very defective, and he took for illustration the methods of banks who favored the big corporations by letting them have all the money they wanted at 4 or 5 per cent, while the small business man or farmer had to get down on their knees to pay 10 or 12½ per cent, and then consider themselves lucky they did not have to get into the clutches of the moneylenders, who were merciless. In a word the banks took our own money to loan to big corporations to skin us. He favored the establishment of rural co-operative banks.

DAUPHIN DISTRICT MEETING

The district meeting on Dec. 3 was not well attended owing to nominations for rural council taking place that day. However the usual ones of the faithful attended. The meeting was short. Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Burnell, of Oakville, gave short addresses, which were well received.

Mr. Burnell outlined his proposed constitution for county organizations and the secretary outlined a scheme for making meetings more attractive to some by providing a text book, much the same as is done by the Christian Endeavor society. The topics might be about equally divided between economic and scientific agricultural problems.

Directors:

Peter Wright, Myrtle; R. M. Wilson, Marriaghurst; D. D. McArthur, Lander; Frank Simpson, Shoal Lake; W. H. Bewell, Rosser; R. J. Arison, Gilbert Plains.

Dates may or not be fixed in the topic book, but we think that all branches lending their mental energies to one topic at the same time it would create a mighty force in the solution of that problem. The topics might also, at the pleasure of the locals, be worded so as to constitute a resolution for debate, and the Provincial Secretaries, when any question of immediate public interest arose, could send out a circular requesting all branches in lieu of the regular topic to consider at a fixed date the question outlined. The Board of Directors might get out such a text book either by writing it themselves, or by getting persons qualified to do so, or the association at large could do so by the Directors inviting anyone to try their hand and brains by taking a topic, dividing it into headings and writing a short precise on the subject. The Directors might then select from the writings submitted and issue the textbook at the cost of production. The idea seemed to meet with the approval of all present, but owing to the smallness of the meeting nothing was done regarding same. The president and secretary were requested to visit all the affiliated branches before the annual meeting.

W. J. BOUGHEN,
County Secretary.

Suggested Topics for G. G. A. Locals for 1913

Jan. 3.—Tariff Beneficiaries. Origin of tariffs. Who benefits by tariffs and how? Does the treasury of the country get the most benefit? Should they be continued? Why?

Topic led by
Seconded
Critiqued by

General discussion.
Jan. 17.—Seed selection. Advantages of plumpness, early maturing. Milling values.

Topic led by
Seconded
Critiqued by

Jan. 31.—Public franchises. What public services should be under public control? What under individual or corporation control?

Topic led by
Seconded
Critiqued by

Feb. 14.—Horses. Care, management and feed. Breeds for various uses, etc.

Topic led by
Seconded
Critiqued by

Other topics as Direct Legislation, Proportional Representation, Compulsory Education, Agricultural Teaching in Schools, Universal Suffrage, Agricultural Credit, along economic lines, and on practical agriculture—Mixed or Specialized Farming, the Vegetable Garden, Growing Fruit in Manitoba, Raising Pigs, Poultry for Profits, Honey Production, Arboriculture, Tree Growing in our Climate.

SYNOPSIS OF WORK OF STONE-WALL BRANCH

With the exception of the busy summer months regular monthly meetings were held. Three of the monthly meetings were social functions, each of which afforded a pleasant reunion to the members and resulted in both an increase of the membership and the finances of the organization. If I would offer a suggestion it would be that you have a definite program arranged for each of your monthly meetings and that in the call of the meeting the program be announced so that each member would feel that there was a good time in store for him when he got there. Now is the time for your annual meetings and appointment of delegates to the Brandon Convention. See announcement of our program and be prepared to help make it profitable.

The above outline is taken from a letter received from Mr. Panderson, secretary Brant-Artyle Branch.