

Manitoba Grain Growers

Conducted Officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by the Secretary

W. R. Wood, 306 Bank of Hamilton Bldg., Winnipeg

THE semi-annual report of every local association is now due at the Central office. The purpose of this paragraph is to request presidents and secretaries to make it a point to see that it is not delayed. Blank forms were sent to every secretary during the latter part of June. If in any case that blank has been lost, secretaries should drop a line to the Central office for a second one. It is of first importance that a report be received from every local association. If there is nothing to report then secretaries owe it to the association to drop a line saying so and stating the situation. The secretary of the provincial association relies upon the local secretaries for their loyal co-operation in making the statistics for 1918 as nearly perfect as possible. Do it today.

Edwin the Victor

Up to date, the Edwin local association in the district of Portage la Prairie, holds the palm for success in the summer canvass for members. Stirred by the increasing evidences of hostile organization of the big interests and massing of the protectionist forces for an unparalleled onslaught upon the agricultural interests of Canada, they "called their chiefs to council, in the din of a troubled year," with the result that two captains were appointed and a thorough canvass of the neighborhood undertaken. The association membership stood then at 45. Today it stands at 90, with the possibility that the 100 mark may be reached before the close of the year. This provides the Edwin neighborhood with a splendid working force for the teaching of the principles of the movement and good things are to be expected during the coming fall and winter.

The association held a meeting on Tuesday evening, July 30, at which the campaign result was modestly announced by the president, Mr. Rogers. Addresses were given by Mrs. J. S. Wood, of Oakville, and W. R. Wood, of the Central office. The attendance, which was about 85, included a large proportion of young people and the spirit of unity and optimism and progress manifested augurs well for the future of the movement in the neighborhood.

If any other local wishes to dispute Edwin's claim to first place, it is up to its officers to get their report into the hands of the secretary as early as possible. Reports of success or of interesting incidents in the progress of the work are always welcome at the Central office.

At Brandon Fair

The Grain Growers' Association was represented on the exhibition grounds at Brandon during fair week by a commodious tent in which workers from the Women's Section, The Grain Growers' Guide and the livestock department of the United Grain Growers were on hand to give information and to greet the friends of the movement. It is hoped that in coming years the Grain Growers' tent may come to be an established feature of the fair and that it may render useful service as a rendezvous for rural visitors, a rest room for ladies and an information bureau for all departments of the farmers' movement.

Board Meeting

On Tuesday and Wednesday, a session of the tent was used by the directors of the association for their summer meeting. Nearly every district was represented and a number of directors of the Women's Section who were present were invited into consultation with the board. A day-and-a-half were spent in continuous consideration and planning of the work of the association, with a view to continuing the progress made during the recent summer campaign.

Amendment to Constitution

Among other work done it was agreed to recommend the following amendments to the constitution:—

1.—That section 6, sub-section 1, en-

titled "Eligibility for Membership," be amended to read as follows:—

"That farmers, farmers' wives, sons and daughters, over 16 years of age and others who are in sympathy with the aims and purposes of the association and who agree to co-operate therewith to attain its aims and purposes may become members by the payment of an annual fee of not less than \$2.00. Sons and daughters of those eligible for membership being under the age of 16 may be admitted to associate membership without fee, on purchasing and wearing a Grain Growers' button. Members only have the right to vote. Membership shall be continuous unless severed by the members or by the association. A member in arrears for dues may have full membership restored by payment of such arrears."

2.—That the following paragraph be added in sub-section 3 of section 4:—

"The directors of the Women's Section of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association are accorded the right to attend meetings of the board of directors and to take part in discussion with them."

3.—That the following sub-section be added after sub-section 4 of the constitution:—

"In the annual meeting of the provincial association, when the order of election of officers is reached, the honorary president, if he is present, shall take the chair and preside during the election of the president. If he is not present, then the secretary shall act in this capacity. When the new president is elected he shall take the chair and conduct the meeting during the election of the other officers."

On Their Job

There is no more significant feature of the recent progress of the Grain Growers' movement than the splendid interest and initiative which have been manifested at various local points. The speakers were again and again encouraged and delighted by the evidences of thoughtful planning and effective arrangement on the part of local officers and members. The impression was continually being deepened that as a result of the work of former years, we have all over the province in considerable numbers, men, and some women, who from personal conviction are committed to active personal service in the movement and are in fact constantly on the alert looking for opportunities of giving it a lift.

Practical Help

Here, for instance, is a local board that telephones in advance to a neighboring town to know when the speakers may be expected in order that they may arrange entertainment for them.

Here is a local secretary who has drummed up farmers on every rural line in the telephone exchange, urging individuals to get out to the meeting. At one point which the speakers had failed to reach owing to rain and bad roads, there was enough active interest to carry out organization and as a result we have the Erickson local association starting out full-fledged with an initial membership of 39. At Edwin, apart entirely from any outside stimulus, local workers set to work on a systematic canvass which added 45 to their membership within ten days. A young and energetic district secretary, who has spent his life among the Beavers, conceived the idea of leading up a complete program, musical, social and associational, and carrying it to five or six points adjacent to the Beaver lodge and then worked out his plan with the result that five good meetings were held and one new branch organized and added to the strength of the Manitoba Grain Growers. In a certain branch some of the workers had been lamenting the lack of interest and the difficulty of getting members. One mem-

ber quietly asked for 25 membership cards and when the next meeting was held, handed in a list of 25 members added to the association. When such work becomes common among our associations, the strength of the movement will be doubled if not trebled, and every local organization will be up to strength, and all that is needed is just a little interest and goodwill and personal gumption on the part of local workers.

Experts in their Class

The campaigners were no less delighted to find that, more frequently than some of them expected, they came in contact with individuals whose thorough and practical acquaintance with the principles and ideals of the movement is such, as to fully entitle them to be classed as experts. There is to be found a considerable number of older men whose experiences in the earlier days, when special privilege made it a struggle to keep their heads above water, led them to investigate and ponder economic problems and who today are as prophets to the younger generation in their passionate resistance to the interests that would exploit the individual. Here and there one of this class is found who 20 to 25 years ago became a reader of Henry George, and who for years has known not only the evil of privilege but the antidote of providing public revenues by taxation of land values. Not a few are met with whose education in economic freedom and in independent political thinking was largely received through such periodicals as the Montreal Weekly Witness, with its 70 years' advocacy of free trade, or the Toronto Weekly Sun, with its keen analysis of public conditions and governmental administration.

Future Leaders

And among younger men it was an inspiration to meet many who with the optimism and the energy of youth have set themselves to become fully acquainted with the ideals of this new western movement. There are few local branches that have not one or more of them. A few here and there are men with college training, but the larger number are men whose training has been that of the movement alone, but whose energy and enthusiasm have overcome all handicaps and given them mastery of the principles of the movement and a keen appreciation of the activities of opposing interests. They are reading and thinking and discussing the problems of the day. They are jotting down ideas and working them over into their own thinking. They are cultivating the spirit of comradeship with others in the movement. They are realizing that opportunity for real life service faces them in this work. And as one meets these young men, one's conviction grows that the farmers' movement in Canada is already training the future leaders, not only of our local communities but of our provincial and national life.

Industrial Movements

Profit sharing has a history which goes back in England to the year 1829, and England is not only the original home of this system, but it has been also the chief sphere of experiment on these lines. The mark of profit-sharing is the allowance of some kind of bonus to employees, paid as a percentage of their wages. The typical case is one in which a certain minimum profit is first allotted to the ordinary capital of the company; after and when this minimum rate is obtained a part of any additional, say a half, is paid to labor and the other part to capital. The payment may be made purely at the discretion of the employer or it may be an obligation undertaken by him and implied in the wage contract. The essential

is that the bonus is paid to the employee simply as an employee and not as a shareholder in the firm. But there may be in the intermediate case in which the employer enables his workmen to obtain shares in the firm on special terms which are open only to his own employees, and thereafter pays dividend in the ordinary way upon those shares. Schemes of this kind stand between profit-sharing and co-partnership.

It is evident, in the first place, that profit-sharing alone not only implies the exclusion from government of the employees who benefit by it, but that the payment of a bonus at all may cause, whatever the efficiency of their labor, by faults of administration for which they are not responsible; or even, in the most typical cases, by results of administration which bring the total profit of the firm down to less than that minimum amount which has to be paid to capital before anything is paid to wages.

Co-partnership

It is probable that if the ideal of co-partnership had been more to the front at the beginning of the great industrial change of last century, there might by now have developed, by the accumulated force of profit and interest, a widely distributed working-class holding in the capital of the country. Even if the movement had begun on a small scale with something approaching a co-incidence of workers and shareholders in certain businesses, by the end of a hundred years the capital thus growing would have ramified throughout the industrial system, so that the usual firm of modern times might, through its working-class shareholders, have had a management in close sympathy not simply with its own labor, but with labor as a whole.

Municipal Trading

Municipal Trading has a history in the United Kingdom dating back about 40 years but its development has been a rapid one, so that it is now in existence for one industry or another in most of the municipal corporations of England and Wales. At the opening of the new century 299 out of a total of 317 corporations were carrying on reproductive undertakings with a total capital of about 120 millions sterling. These undertakings represent the main public services which are at the basis of the industry and life of great cities, especially the supply of water, gas, electricity and tramway service. Every political voter has a share in the control of all the industry of the nation, since there is nothing in this country which Parliament may not do in the way of industrial regulation or appropriation of industrial revenues. But the policy of direct public government of industry is still in this country mainly local, and is the chief cause of the building up of a heavy local indebtedness. The post office and the coinage are as yet our only nationalized industries.—D. H. Macgregor.

What of the Future?

Our aim is that our movement shall continue to minister to an increasingly efficient democracy, our people coming rapidly to realize their power and its opportunity and obligation, opportunity to enter upon a larger life, obligation to take up yet more devotedly the service of mankind. Our hope is that rural life shall progressively be endowed with richer social, intellectual and moral elements, that our commercial and industrial activities shall gradually but surely forsake the ideal of profit for that of service, that our public life shall more completely represent not merely the economic and material interests, but more especially the moral ideals of our people. And that thus the whole circle of our life, being moralized and ennobled, the relationships and the activities of the race shall in a large measure fulfil the dreams of the idealists, the prayers of the saints and the aspirations of the progressives.