

Institute Workers.

With great pleasure we submit the finely engraved likenesses of the three men unto whom, in great measure, is due the success of the farmers' institutes in Manitoba:

The President, James Elder, of Virden—by his clear judgment and unbiased devotion to principle; the Vice-President, S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Brandon—whose very name is an inspiration to higher ideals in farming; the Secretary-Treasurer, R. E. A. Leech, of Brandon—by his untiring energy and push.

PRESIDENT ELDER.

James Elder, "Hensall Farm," Virden, President of the Virden Farmers' Institute, and who for the past two years has been President of the Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute, determined at the last annual meeting, owing to failing health, to resign from this responsibility and tax upon his efforts. But the unanimity with which the members demanded his service compelled compliance with their wishes, and he was again elected president for the ensuing year.

Mr. Elder is one of the most intelligent and successful farmers in the province, is a clear and practical speaker on agricultural topics, and articles from his pen are always highly appreciated by readers of the *Advocate*, for which he has been a contributor for some years. He was born on May 6th, 1817, near Hensall, Huron Co., Ontario; farmed on the same place, on what was known as the London road, about half way between Exeter and Hensall; moved to near Virden, Manitoba, in the spring of 1884, and settled on "Hensall Farm," which had been bought without seeing it in 1882 from the C. P. R. Co., broke 160 acres in 1884, and 140 in 1885. In religion Mr. Elder is a Presbyterian, in nationality a Scotchman, and in politics an Independent Liberal, bound to no party, and refusing the dictation of either party's wire-pullers. He is, in fact, a staunch Manitoban, with great faith in the ultimate greatness of this western land.

VICE-PRESIDENT BEDFORD.

Mr. Bedford was born Feb. 1st, 1852, County of Sussex, England. Emigrated to Ontario in 1863, and removed to Manitoba in 1877, and took land near Thornhill, in Southern Manitoba, the same year. In 1880 he married Minnie, daughter of J. F. Bolton, of Newboro, Ontario.

From his arrival in this Province, Mr. Bedford's energies have been directed largely towards encouraging emigration to Manitoba and the Northwest, both personally and in the interest of colonization companies. He was instrumental in settling large numbers in the Pembina and Rock Lake districts.

He has held the position of Inspector for the Scottish Ontario, North British Canadian, and Canada Northwest Land Companies, and for some years had 400 families of different nationalities under his care. Was elected by acclamation a member of the Northwest council for Moosomin district, September, 1885. Mr. Bedford followed farming on his own account in Oxford County, Ontario, and at Thornhill, Manitoba; he also managed a large farm at Fleming and Moosomin, N. W. T.

In 1888 the Dominion Government purchased what is now the Experimental Farm, lying two miles from Brandon on the north side of the Assinaboine river, appointing Mr. Bedford Superintendent; and, as President Elder remarked at the late Institute Convention, "the Dominion Government never made a better appointment." Kind and courteous to a degree, an undefatigable worker, and an enthusiastic experimentalist, Mr. Bedford's efforts have indeed been crowned with success; for where chaos and weeds held possession, now order and neatness prevail; avenues nicely gravelled and lined with trees, experimental plots, systematically laid out, testing the grains, grasses, fodders, trees, shrubs and flowers in all their varieties; and specimens of the several breeds of live stock, all in the pink of condition. But not only in the success of the farm itself, but, what is perhaps of more importance, is the interest manifested by the farmers throughout the province in the work of the farm, as attested by the increasing amount of correspondence, and the great number of visitors who annually inspect the farm.

SECRETARY-TREASURER LEECH.

The Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute is to be congratulated on securing for a second term the services of so able and energetic a person, for what is perhaps its most important office, as R. E. A. Leech.

Mr. Leech is a large and successful farmer, owning about 2,400 acres of Manitoba soil, of which 1,100 are under cultivation and 750 in crop this year.

Mr. Leech takes a prominent part in all the public institutions of his district, and is one of the pillars of the Methodist church.

Born in Lansdowne, Leeds County, Ontario, on June 25th, 1859; emigrated to Manitoba in the spring of 1879, with no capital, locating first in the vicinity of Rapid City, but subsequently settling down on his present magnificent farm about four miles south-east of the city of Brandon.

Central Institute Convention.

The second annual convention of the Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute was held at Brandon on June 27th, 28th and 29th.

It was very gratifying to see so large a gathering of solid and substantial farmers present, and still more gratifying to listen to their able and intelligent discussions of the various questions brought up. Every delegate spoke confidently of bright crop prospects for this season, and all were thoroughly satisfied with the country as a whole, and especially with their own particular district.

That certain changes are desirable in the existing laws and conditions affecting the farming community is evident from the resolutions passed during the sessions of this convention.

The first session opened with President James Elder in the chair, who requested the Rev. H. C. Mason to open the proceedings with prayer, after which the president proceeded to read his annual address, which appears in another column.

Messrs. Waugh, Briggs and Postlethwaite were appointed a committee on credentials; George H. Greig was appointed assistant secretary during the convention. The secretary, R. E. A. Leech, then read his annual report, also financial statement.

The following matters had been referred to the executive for action:

1. To secure direct government grant.
2. To secure representation on grain standard board.
3. To secure discontinuation of elevator monopoly.
4. To ask the government to change date of annual meetings of local institutes from June to December.

The amount of government grant asked, after estimating requirements, was \$1,000.

Three meetings of the full board of directors were called, and five meetings held at which three or more members of the board were present.

In December arrangements had been made to supply local institutes with lecturers.

The C. P. R. aided, by giving free transportation to the local organizer who had been appointed. The work, however, was delayed for a long time, to obtain the ratification of the Minister of Agriculture.

On January 20, a circular letter had been sent to all the local institutes asking for an expression of opinion as to removing the duty on binder twine and having producers equally represented on the grain standard board, with suggestions as to grades. In these matters ten institutes reported in favor of abolishing the duty on binder twine, and nine upon the grain standards.

At the beginning of the year seventeen farmers' institutes were reported in operation, and seven defunct. Of the defunct institutes three have been revived—Cypress, Dufferin, and South Brandon No. 2. Six new institutes have been organized, viz.:—Morris No. 2, Belmont, Glenboro, Russell, Hartney and Carberry. The total now in operation is twenty-six.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Total available funds.....	\$601 80
Disbursements—	
Telegrams, postage, etc.....	\$ 22 75
Stationary and printing.....	44 35
Expenses of directors.....	53 35
Lectures.....	198 55
Salary of secretary for 1892.....	60 00
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Balance.....	\$379 00
	\$222 80

Communications were then read from Board of Education, Winnipeg Grain Exchange, and Prof. James W. Robertson, dairy commissioner, expressing their regret at being unable to be present. Hon. George E. Foster, Minister of Finance, and Hon. A. R. Angers, Minister of Agriculture, were both unable to attend, but the Finance Minister promises to interview the farmers of Manitoba in September. Hon. Thomas Greenway, Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba, was unable to be present.

The election of officers for ensuing year resulted as follows:—President—James Elder, Virden; Vice-President—S. A. Bedford, Brandon; Secretary-Treasurer—R. E. A. Leech, Brandon; Directors—T. Sissons, of Portage la Prairie; E. A. Struthers, of Russell; James Dale, of Balder; W. B. Underhill, Melita; J. Beril, St. Jean Baptiste; G. H. Greig, *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, Winnipeg.

It was decided to appoint a committee of three to attend to the business of the Central Institute, and it was afterwards decided that the president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer be said committee.

The following committees were appointed:

- On grain standards—C. Braithwaite, Jabez Eliot, Wm. Sharman and W. Postlethwaite.
- On legislation—James Elder, A. Grant, A. M. Bradford, E. A. Struthers and J. C. Smith.
- On railway and navigation—J. Laidlaw, J. Dale, C. Braithwaite and E. Briggs.
- On correspondence—W. H. English, J. M. Fee, J. Williams, W. Kitson.
- On resolutions—J. Baril, John Brown, R. E. A. Leech and Newton S. Ferris.

Before the convention adjourned quite a lively discussion took place on the elevator monopoly question, and a letter from Mr. Whyte, Gen. Superintendent of C. P. R., was read, in which he showed the many advantages elevators gave, both to the farming community and to the railroad companies, in the storing, cleaning and handling facilities afforded, as against flat warehouses and farmers' wagons.

EVENING SESSION.

The evening session was held in the opera house. Mayor McDiarmid, of Brandon, being absent, his address of welcome was read by Secretary Leech. Mr. Percival, President of Brandon, also welcomed the convention to Brandon. Mr. Underhill, of Melita, replied in a neat speech, as also did Messrs. Dale, of Balder, and Struthers, of Russell. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, was then introduced and delivered a most interesting and instructive address on "Agricultural Education," a full report of which we hope to publish at a later date.

At intervals during the evening sessions a choir rendered selections of music and song, which helped to enliven the meetings very much.

THIRD SESSION.

President Elder presided, and Rev. Mr. Harding opened the third session with prayer. The correspondence committee then reported. H. McKellar, of the Agricultural Department, then read a very interesting essay on "Keeping Farm Accounts, (which we will publish in full at an early date). This was followed by an animated debate, in which all favored the keeping of accounts, and after thanking Mr. McKellar for his able paper, the following resolution was passed: "That Mr. McKellar be requested to send a copy of his account book to the secretary of every local institute, and that he be requested to prepare a paper to distribute to the members of the local institutes, and that every member be urged to adopt the principle involved and to keep accounts; and that a list of subscribers be sent to the Secretary of the Central Institute. These to be forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, with a view of obtaining the account book as cheap as possible."

FOURTH SESSION.

The President occupied the chair, and Rev. Mr. Daniels opened the meeting with prayer.

The committee on resolutions then submitted their report, which concluded as follows:—"Your committee cannot allow the present occasion to pass without offering some recognition of the varied and efficient and yet gratuitous services of Mr. S. A. Bedford, of the Brandon Experimental Farm, to the farmers and farmers' institutes of Manitoba; and that a resolution be drafted and a copy sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and to Mr. Bedford."

The auditors' report was then read and adopted. It was recommended that the Local Government place the appropriation for the Central Institute to the credit of the officials of the institute, to be used as they think best, always in accordance with the Institute Act.

COMMITTEE ON GRAIN STANDARDS.

The committee on grain standards reported as follows:—"That the government be petitioned that the grain standards be amended, making them permanent. 2. That the number of grades be increased, and that there shall not be more than a difference of three cents in value between grades of sound wheat, nor more than five cents between the lower grades. 3. That the Board for the making of such standards be composed of at least half the number of practical farmers."

Your committee would further recommend that the Governor-in-Council be asked to appoint five or more practical farmers so as to give equal representation on the standards board for the crop of 1893, and would suggest the names of five farmers be agreed upon by this meeting to submit to the Governor-in-Council. Subsequently the names of Elder, Briggs, Eliot, Kitson and Postlethwaite were adopted.

H. A. Chadwick, president of the Poultry Breeders' Association, read a very interesting paper on "Eggs in Winter."

J. S. Thompson, provincial veterinarian, read a very instructive paper on "Tuberculosis in Cattle."

R. Waugh read a paper on the "Cultivation of Wheat."

RAILWAYS AND NAVIGATION.

Mr. Braithwaite submitted the report of committee on railways and navigation:—"That considering the present low price of produce and the possibility of its continuing, the farmers of the province cannot longer continue to pay the present exorbitant rates, which are unjust to the producer and consumer, and seriously interfere with the progress and prosperity of the country. Your committee would therefore suggest that the executive of the Central Farmers' Institute request the transportation companies in fairness, nay, demand in justice, that the present rates on grain be reduced at least twenty per cent., said reduction to come into effect for the crop of 1893.

On canals your committee would suggest that our government take up the matter of deepening our water ways so as to give us twenty feet of water from Lake Superior to the sea at as early a day as possible, thus making Port Arthur an ocean terminal. This your committee believe would solve the whole problem of grain carriage.

REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

The following petitions were addressed to the Dominion Government, Manitoba Government and Canadian Pacific Railway respectively:—

1. That the tariff be adjusted from a protective to a revenue basis.
2. That whereas only one member of the Grain Standards Board of 1892 was a genuine farmer, therefore it is requested that *bona fide* farmers compose at least half the Board.
3. That legislation be enacted for the suppression of combines.
4. That legislation be enacted to prevent unjust discrimination in freight and passenger rates.
5. That date of annual meetings of local institutes be changed from June to December.
6. That a noxious weed inspector for the province be appointed.
7. That the government appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to the Central Institute.
8. That amendments to Institute Act be submitted to the Executive of Central Institute before final action is taken.