

Saskatchewan

This section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association

G.G.A. CONVENTION AT WADENA

Mayor Hearn's Welcome to Delegates—
Messrs. Green, Maharg and Rooke
Give Interesting Addresses

The district convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association met at Wadena on November 26. Delegates were present from various parts of the district. Mr. Rooke, the district director, occupied the chair and explained that the district convention was yet in its experimental stage and that the system was adopted in order that the rural districts might be more easily reached by having these meetings at various points in the province. Mayor Hearn was present and gave a short address, welcoming the delegates to the town of Wadena. He spoke of the importance of the work before the convention and the bond existing between rural and town people. A common interest, he said, pervaded all and the success of the agriculturists would mean success to the inhabitants of the towns and cities. Wadena, he added, had worked hard on many things that would benefit the farming community as well as the town and would continue to pursue the same policy.

Councillor Vatnsdal also welcomed the delegates in a few well chosen words.

The chairman, Mr. Rooke, then gave a splendid address as follows:—The object of this convention is to endeavor to create a greater interest and more enthusiasm in the well-being of the agricultural class. We have in years past been having only one Central or provincial convention and this year we are having a convention in each of the fifteen divisions of the province. We realize that in order to have our association become as strong as it should be we must make a more determined effort to reach every portion of this province; and the better we are organized the more competent will we be to handle the many perplexing problems that will be ours to solve from time to time as conditions demand. The main industry of this province is agriculture and the prosperity of all useful industries and business of this province is hinged to the success of the farming class. We are too often inclined to cultivate that individualism which strives to uplift one individual at the expense of another. We should rather cultivate that spirit of co-operation that will assist our neighbors to rise to a higher plane of success in all its varied forms and more fully recognize that all citizens of this province are brethren, no matter what their vocation may be. We are, on account of our isolated position, too often suspicious of one of the other. This failing of ours will gradually pass away. As we come more in contact with each other in the work of our local associations and as we do business with each other and for one another we will gradually take a broader view of all things.

We must exercise patience in the work of organization. The permanent success of merchants and all classes of business men in Saskatchewan depends entirely on the success of the farmers. Other classes might seem to prosper for a time, but that seeming prosperity cannot last if the class that follows the natural avocation of the province realize they are on the downward course. We owe it as a duty to ourselves and to those dependent upon us to strive in every way to make a success of our calling. There is, though, an individualism for which all men should strive, that is to refrain from extravagant expenditure in every shape and form, or in other words, we should not spend our money for that which is not bread and our labor for that which satisfieth not.

Now, gentlemen, we have some resolutions to consider and I trust that you will discuss them frankly and be courteous to all classes; knowing that to succeed, all classes having the well being of our province at heart must work in unity. Therefore, we have no room for the spirit of enmity and strife.

Before this convention closes I hope you gentlemen will put through a resolution favoring extending the franchise to women on equal terms with men, for this is not granting any favor to women, but simply allowing them their rights. We need the co-operation of the women

of the province and this is the only way to secure their hearty co-operation. I hope that this and other district conventions will arouse the enthusiasm of all present and that you gentlemen will go home so well pleased with the results of this convention, that when the convention is called for next year you will literally be tumbling over each other in order to get to Wadena and that there will be such a large gathering that it will tax the hotel accommodation to its utmost capacity.

Provincial Secretary Green then spoke of the pleasure of meeting farmers. He had been a farmer himself all his life, having extracted his living from the soil with his own hands. He complimented the chairman and mayor on their sound remarks and said that the agriculturists would appreciate the co-operation of the towns and cities. Speaking of the necessity of organization he said, a man studies his own interests first, then he broadens out to study the interests of his family, a band of men gather together and study the interests of a community. The circle extends and embraces others, who study the interests of the province, and still a larger group are organized to influence the destiny of an empire. Milling companies, railway companies and various trades had found it necessary to organize in order to concentrate their influence and advance their particular interests. The disorganized farmers had become easy victims to these organized bands. In 1901 the grain monopoly had driven the farmers so hard that they had to turn and fight. They met at Indian Head and organized the Grain Growers' association. The grain blockade was taken up, the loading platform, distribution of cars, an assistant warehouse commissioner was appointed and the local associations were asked to assist in enforcing the Grain Act. Since then many important questions had been successfully dealt with and others are yet in the balance. Among these great questions are: The initial elevators, interior storage elevators, parcel post, G. T. Pacific, Hudson Bay line, fireguarding railways, government telephones, sub-experimental farms, agricultural college, cheap money, hail insurance, direct legislation and woman suffrage. The Grain Growers' association had become a wonderful influence and care must be exercised that the influence be used rightly.

President Maharg being indisposed, spoke briefly. He wished to acknowledge the kind remarks of Mayor Hearn. Mr. Hearn had struck the keynote when he spoke of the co-operation between the town and country. He stated that he did not come to educate others, but to be educated. Numbers alone could not effect success. The Manufacturers' Association only numbered 2,500, but they were a tremendous power, simply because they pulled together as one man. He asked the people if they had sufficient confidence in themselves to undertake to look after grain shipping at their local points. He spoke of the good work accomplished by the co-operative elevator system.

The meeting closed with the national anthem and three hearty cheers for Wadena's mayor.

At a meeting the next morning the following resolutions were passed: Resolved: That in the opinion of this district convention the Dominion government should appoint a railway right-of-way commission, whose duties it shall be to settle all differences between private property owners and railways, re right-of-way, and that on this commission there shall be placed one practical farmer.

Resolved: That in the opinion of this convention the membership fee of \$1.00 should apply to December 31 in the year in which payment was made.

Resolved: That this convention approves of the action of the executive regarding sample markets.

Resolved: That in the opinion of this convention the executive should approach the Manufacturers' Association and endeavor to secure their consent to make all machine notes payable on December 1.

A long discussion took place on co-operative trading, the majority of the delegates favoring some system being adopted. Mr. Green read a lengthy

resolution adopted by Battleford Association, district 11, and outlining a plan of organizing a co-operative wholesale and retail company within the association. This plan was finally recommended without a dissenting voice. The meeting then closed.

This is to inform you that this local will hold the annual meeting on December 6 at 2.30. Enclosed find \$7.50 membership fees which I should have sent in before. Our meeting place is Nipawin school. We meet the first Saturday in every month at 2.30 p.m. This is our regular meeting day, but we expect to have a meeting every fortnight during the winter. In your last letter you asked the condition of our local. Well, this association is rather unsettled. We are all homesteaders in this local and some join one year and the next are away, so that our membership is not steady as a rule. We are not content with things in general, but are of the opinion that a local which is content is liable to go backward. Have we good homes? Well, you should see some of the shanties around here that men bring their wives to. They might do for a bachelor, but when a married man brings a wife and children into a shanty 12 ft. x 18 ft., the beds divided off by curtains, I should say it was not a comfortable home. There are a good many of such places here, but we cannot expect much more until the homesteaders begin to produce. The main draw back is the lack of cheap money. We are too far from town to raise grain profitably and very bad roads. In fact, if it was not for the snow hauling a load would be out of the question most years. Cheap money would help us out wonderfully by allowing us to go into hogs and cattle and use all the grain we grow for feed. There is a pretty strong feeling here in favor of co-operation. We should like to be able to buy all our clothing, groceries, implements, twine, etc., by co-operation and from co-operative factories. Also we should like to sell our grain to a co-operative grain company, to be shipped over a co-operative railroad into a co-operative terminal elevator, thence into a co-operative ship to the shores of old England and sold through the co-operative stores there. That is our opinion on co-operation. In fact, we are trying to get a co-operative store started here and are making inquiries, so if you have any information on the subject we should be glad of it. We think it would be a good scheme for the Central to get some kind of a purchasing agency going, but the main trouble would be the cash, as you know most implements and other stuff is bought on time and to overcome it we must first have cheap money in some shape or form. In regard to your questions. Well, we are in the backwoods yet, but are going to pull up as soon as possible. We have no new resolutions to offer, but would like to suggest that if the Saskatchewan government would spend a portion of the road grading money in ditching and draining roads in this north country, especially in new districts, the settlers would be able at least to use the road allowance, which is impossible on some graded roads where the road is built through a slough and no drainage done. Will you please enroll me as a life member, for which I enclose \$12. I was presented with this by the local at this point.

ALBERT S. TRAYLOR,
Sec'y, Nipawin Assn.

The annual meeting of Burnham Association was held on Saturday, November 29. The secretary-treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of \$49 after all expenses are met for the year. We are looking forward to increased membership for next year. The paid up members numbered thirty-one, one less than last year. The meeting was the best and largest attended that we have held so far, so it augurs well for next season. Officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows: President, G. A. Stock; vice-president, Thos. Norris; secretary-treasurer, Percy Madden; directors, Ralph Bettney, T. K. Linklater, A. Ward, S. Scott, T. Middlemiss and C. Chapman. Kindly note change in secretaryship and address all correspondence to Percy Madden, Waldeck P.O. Wishing the association every success.

C. CHAPMAN,
Retiring Sec'y Burnham Assn.

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