

Convention Address

The following Report of the Prince Albert Convention
was given to the Ruddell, Sask., branch
at a recent meeting
By E. MYLREA, President



THIS is the first time that it has been my privilege to submit to you the report of the Grain Growers' convention held at Prince Albert. I will suggest that it is quite unnecessary for me to make a verbatim report, as no doubt you have all read the very full report in THE GUIDE. I will, therefore, endeavor to give you some idea of the convention as a whole. Mr. Driscoll, Mr. Cameron and myself arrived at Prince Albert after dark. All the hotels were full to overflowing. Several Pullman cars were sidetracked to accommodate the delegates at a charge of \$5.00 for the four nights. Mr. Driscoll being well acquainted with the town, made for a restaurant he knew, but all beds had been taken up. Finally we found refuge in a cold storage and we found that, like our vegetable seed, it was true to name.

President E. N. Hopkins opened the convention with a review of the past, and many encouraging remarks for the future. He said: "When I announced to you three years ago that in 1906 we produced 37,000,000 bushels of wheat and that it represented 29.40 bushels per acre you cheered—and justly so. When it was announced last year that we reached 50,000,000 bushels mark in wheat production and that our total grain yield, 1908, was 100,000,000, you were equally pleased. You would scarcely have believed then, that in 1909 our grain production would be greater than that of the two previous years combined. Yet this year we raised 90,215,000 bushels of wheat—an average of 22.1 bushels to the acre—besides 105,465,000 bushels of oats and 12,630,616 bushels of other kinds of grain, making a total production of 218,310,616 bushels. Now, gentlemen, this is a record to be proud of. When we remember that only ten per cent. of our arable land is under cultivation, then we begin to realize the possibilities of our fair province from a grain producing standpoint."

But, gentlemen, what would it profit us, as farmers, enduring the heat and toil of the day to have an almost unlimited agricultural area and the ability to produce enough wheat to feed the world, if we fail to make adequate provision for ensuring to ourselves the due return for our labors? We must have a strong organization to battle against the multiplied organizations arrayed against us, especially when they throw down the gauntlet and challenge the 800,000 farmers of this Dominion as at their banquet in Winnipeg at the beginning of February. The most amazing statement made at that festive gathering was that voiced by G. M. Murray, secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. He spoke as follows: "The re-organized Canadian Manufacturers' Association is like a young giant, ignorant of its own power. By the exercise of these powers it could, if it chose, bring several millions of people to the verge of starvation or paralyze the industry of the whole Dominion. From the half-hearted 132 who comprised the total membership in 1899 it has grown with such strides that now in 1910 the members number more than 2,500."

Perhaps his statement contains the most astounding challenge that has been hurled at the public in many years. Although I have strayed a little from my subject of reporting the convention, yet it gives the tone and feeling of the 600 delegates assembled.

To be up and doing. The mayor gave us the freedom of the city and arranged concerts at the town hall. The town band played for our entertainment. A horse race on the river, and a parade of the fire brigade, at which all the draft horses and drivers took part.

Thursday, from 7 to 8 p.m. an organ recital was given in the Presbyterian church before the evening session.

Mr. Motherwell, during his speech, left the vital part of elevator purchase

rather indefinite. Therefore a new resolution was put to the meeting that the government move in the matter at once, so that the 1910 crop would be handled to the satisfaction of the farmers. Mr. Motherwell also said that the government would appoint a commission of five members of which the Grain Growers would be asked to nominate two. The delegates requested that three Grain Growers be appointed on the commission; otherwise they would be in a minority. If Mr. Motherwell did not seem to share the confidence of the cabinet, the attorney-general did not hesitate to say at the banquet that the government were appointing a commission and they would be



A Group of Ruddell Grain Growers. A. G. Hawkes of the Central Association and President E. Mylrea in centre

known in a few days and that they would all be men in sympathy with the farmers. It was very noticeable that the thriving, pushing towns have the largest membership and the prominent men take the greatest interest in all the proceedings of their local branch of the Grain Growers' Association.

Mr. Dacey, vice-president, met Hon. Walter Scott re the terminal elevators. Mr. Scott said there was constitutional difficulties in the way, but Mr. Dacey gave the premier to understand that the farmers knew what they wanted and meant to have it. The coal supply was

All the terminals are in the hands of private individuals, except the C.P.R., and they receive only grain shipped by the farmers, the elevators sending theirs to the privately owned terminals.

The mayor had asked the people to treat the Grain Growers well, and do all they could to make our visit enjoyable.

The president of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, T. A. Crerar, said: "The operation of the elevators will not be a charge upon the country, but their operation will pay for the cost of maintenance and provide a sinking fund to meet the original outlay. The government will guarantee the sample and the identity of the wheat sold, and this will ensure better prices to the farmer, as well as the milling value of the wheat to the purchaser. Old Country buyers will not buy wheat on present elevator samples, but under the new system all the millers of the world would compete on an even basis for our wheat. Grain would be weighed in car at the shipping point, and the railways would have to stand for the weight at the other end."

Mr. Motherwell said at a meeting held in Regina: "It was in 1901 that this

and thus save the farmers the middleman's profit, etc. They will hold their timber till prices are satisfactory. If ties are worth forty or fifty cents to the railway it is hardly fair to the farmer to pay him 25 to 30 cents. If piling is worth 12 to 14 cents a foot to the bridge contractor the farmer should not have to pay all alone 6 cents for loading it. Furthermore, if ties and poles are culled there should be some way for the farmer to claim those rejected and not have to stand and watch them loaded for shipment without either consent or compensation. So I'd say to the farmers all along the line, ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE! and stand together for your rights."

J. CAREY SMITH.

Burris, Ont., Jan. 29, 1910.

—Morning Herald, Fort William.

TAXING THE INCREMENT

It is interesting to note that Germany is taxing the "unearned increment" of land values. In the past two months thirty-two German towns have either adopted an increment tax or have approved the principle. One state, the principality of Lippe, has declared for the tax for other than municipal purposes. The government proposed to give the municipalities power to levy such tax but the legislature changed the proposal into an obligatory state tax, and also gave the municipalities power to levy a similar tax. The state will do the assessing, but the amount payable will be divided between the state and the municipality, the state being one-fourth. This arrangement is similar to that embodied in the Lloyd-George budget. Berlin is among the cities which have decided to adopt the tax.—Edmonton Bulletin.

ONION GROWERS CO-OPERATE IN ONTARIO

Co-operation is nearly always born of distress. When, for instance, marketing conditions reach the deep mire of despair, those who are producing a certain line of farm products are liable to get their heads together and seek improvement through co-operation. It was conspicuously so with the apple growers of Southern Ontario, and the latest example is the Scotland Onion Growers' and Farmers' Co-operative Association, of Brant County. Last year, when, with a bumper crop in this leading onion producing district, the price was forced down below the cost of production, assisted possibly by manipulation of the trade, and the producers decided to unite for the disposal of their crop. The result was an organization representing a considerable proportion of the heaviest producers, with business arrangements for the shipping, selling and storing of onions. It is believed by the members that their association has already had the effect of raising net prices to the growers, both in and out of the organization, by ten or fifteen cents a bushel. Success to this latest Canadian line of co-operation.—Deloraine Times.

It is reported from Washington that the United States will demand an explanation from the Canadian government as to the action of the Quebec legislature in prohibiting the exportation of pulpwood.

WHY THE HEN?

I saw a hen go 'cross the street,
With slow and stately tread;
She seemed to have an end in view,
And never turned her head.
'Why goes that hen across the street?'
Inquired a passerby:
'I know she does it every day,
But not the reason why.'
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"You speak the truth," I made reply
"She crosses ev'ry day,
And yet the garden over here
Is equal ev'ry way.
She will not stay where she belongs,
Though land she has to spare;
She must go on the other side
To see what's over there."
"Alas! My friend, it's just the same
With all the human race;
The hen won't stay where she belongs,
Though she's a better place.
'Tis naught for which she is to blame,
She's learned it from the men;
Tell me why men go 'cross the street
And I'll explain the hen."



Ruddell Grain Growers ready for masquerade ball. The President and Secretary are among the number

also mentioned. Mr. Scott said that the government had spent \$12,000 in opening up mines and did not think they could spend more.

Several spoke regarding too hurried legislation.

A point made by Mr. McKenzie, the appointed delegate from the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, to the Convention, was:—That the farmer placed his wheat in his car and it is received at the terminals. Your tickets are returned to you, your grain is lost sight of, and in the hands of speculators.

THE OUTGROWTH OF TYRANNY

Dear Sir:—The farmers of Burris Township, having become tired of cut prices, lost poles, unmerciful culling of ties, etc., have organized a mutual protective association with Mr. Black as president and Hugh McDermid as secretary. They have rented a piece of ground at Devlin near the track and employed one of their number as yard master, to help unload, keep tally of every man's timber, and to negotiate directly with the railway and telephone companies