

RESULTS OF ORGANIZATION

Continued from Last Week

1910. 20—The following resolutions passed and taken up with the Dominion Government:—

Whereas we are convinced that the terminal elevators as now operated are detrimental to all parties concerned, from the producer to the consumer, as proved by recent investigations and testimony of important interested bodies, we therefore request that the Dominion Government acquire and operate as a public utility, under an independent commission, the terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur, and immediately establish similar terminal facilities and conditions at the Pacific coast, and provide the same at the Hudson Bay when necessary.

The Hudson Bay Railway was the next matter introduced. The resolution reads as follows:—

Whereas the necessity of the Hudson Bay Railway as the natural and most economic outlet for placing the products of the Western prairies on the European market has been emphasized by the Western people for the past generation, and

Whereas the Dominion Government has recognized the need and importance of the Hudson Bay Road and has pledged itself to its immediate construction, and has provided the necessary funds entirely from the sale of Western lands, and

Whereas the chief benefit to be derived from the Hudson Bay Railway will be a reduction in freight rates in Western Canada due to actual competition which could be secured only by government ownership and operation of the Hudson Bay Railway, and

Whereas anything short of absolute public ownership and operation of the Hudson Bay Railway will defeat the purpose for which the road was advocated, and without which it would be in the interests of Western Canada that the building of the road should be deferred.

Co-operative legislation came next. Resolved that in the opinion of this convention it is desirable that cheap efficient machinery for the incorporation of co-operative societies should be provided by federal legislation during the present session of parliament.

Whereas it is generally believed that the Bank Act, forming, as it does, the charter of all Canadian banks for a ten year term, by its present phrasing prevents any amendment involving curtailment of their powers enjoyed by virtue of the provisions of such charter.

Therefore be it resolved that this Ottawa convention of delegates desire that the new Bank Act be so worded as to permit the act to be amended at any time and in any particular.

The tariff case was put as follows:— (1) That we strongly favor reciprocal free trade between Canada and the United States in all horticultural, agricultural and animal products, spraying materials, fertilizers, illuminating fuel and lubricating oils, cement, fish and lumber.

(2) Reciprocal free trade between the two countries in all agricultural implements, machinery and parts of each of these, and in the event of a favorable arrangement being reached, it be carried into effect thru the independent action of the respective governments rather than by the hard and fast requirements of a treaty.

(3) We also favor the principle of the British Preferential Tariff, and urge an immediate lowering of the duties on all British goods to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff schedule, whatever that may be, and that any advantages given the United States in reciprocal trade relations be extended to Great Britain.

(4) For such further gradual reduction of the remaining preferential tariff as will ensure the establishment of complete free trade between Canada and the Motherland within ten years.

(5) That the farmers of this country are willing to face direct taxation in such form as may be advisable to make up the revenue required under new tariff conditions.

1911. 21—In December, 1910, members of our association participated in a delegation of 800 farmers, organized under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, waited on parliament urging the government to make reciprocal trade arrangements with the United States. A gradual increase in British preference so as to have free trade between Great Britain and Canada

Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henderson, President, 404 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

in five years and several other reforms in the interests of agriculture. W. S. Fielding, finance minister, immediately opened negotiations with the president of the United States and succeeded in making a trade agreement for a free trade in natural products, a material reduction of custom duty in agricultural implements and many lines of manufactured foodstuffs. Parliament, however, refused to ratify the agreement. The following matters were brought to the attention of the government:—

(a) Re Terminal Elevators. On the resolution we secured the appointment of what is now known as the Grain Commission which is doing good work in administering the laws governing the operation of terminal elevators. Thru this commission many valuable suggestions and some amendments to the Grain Act have been secured which have been of great value.

(b) Re Hudson Bay Railway. Our presentations and resolutions were favorably received, resulting in action being taken by the government by which it is expected that the Hudson Bay road will be completed next year. We will then have an additional line of transportation competing for the carrying of our grain to the world's markets. This line is to be government owned and operated.

(c) Re Co-operation. This was followed up by investigation as to what we had in provincial legislation that would be helpful and finally resulted in the passing of the Provincial Co-operative Bill of last session of the provincial legislature which embodies in it all the necessary provisions for the transacting of co-operative buying at the smallest cost.

(d) Re Banking. This was the beginning of a discussion of the Bank Act, but has resulted in a general study of the whole banking system and has been the means of bringing about a better understanding of the whole question. At the present time there is a disposition on the part of the banks to understand and provide for the requirements of agriculture along these lines that is commendable. This is seen in a marked degree in the handling of grain, but more especially is it noticeable in the producing and development of the livestock industry.

(e) Re Tariff. After several years of discussion of the tariff question, the Grain Growers' Association set forth very clearly and in concise form their views on the above resolutions, the substance of which has been emphasized at each convention since. Today we are more fully than ever convinced that whatever may be secured along other lines of agitation that will bring relief, that relief will only be insignificant as compared with what will come when the tariff question is so settled that the whole of our economic obligations will be borne equitably by all of the people. Our slogan this year, "Down with the Tariff."

21—Resolution re the establishment in Winnipeg of a Union stockyard to give Western farmers the same privileges as Eastern ones have in the matter of watering and feeding of stock before sale, and the marketing of livestock along the same lines as The Grain Growers' Grain Co. markets our wheat.

Result—The Union stockyards is now in operation under the control of "The Public Markets Limited." The directors being representatives of the C.P.R., C.N.R. and G.T.P. The ministers of agriculture of the three prairie provinces have a right to be represented at meetings of the board, but have no vote.

The Grain Growers' Grain Co. has established a livestock department under a sales manager, who has his office in the stockyards to handle farmers' shipments of stock on commission.

22—Commission charges on oats, resolution re same.

Result—Thru the persistent efforts of our executive the commission charges on oats have been materially reduced.

1912. 23—Resolution asking The Grain Growers' Grain Co. to extend their activities into other lines of business than those now carried for the benefit of co-operators.

Result—The Grain Growers' Grain Co.

is increasing its activities each year and is now handling many lines of farm supplies.

24—Resolution re admitting farmers' wives and daughters to membership.

Result—The constitution has been amended to permit farmers' wives, sons and daughters living on farms to become members on an equality with the men.

25—Resolution re appointing of a permanent secretary with offices in Winnipeg.

Result—Up to 1912 the secretary was engaged to give only a portion of his time to the work of the association. Due to the continuous increase of work and the important position the organization has attained it became imperative to employ a permanent secretary to give his whole time to the work.

26—Resolution urging the establishing in Winnipeg of an agency which would handle produce shipped from the farms to be sold without loss as at present when handled thru middlemen.

Result—To meet the demand and urgent need of an agency to find a market for farm produce direct from farm to consumer, associated with market gardeners in the immediate vicinity of Winnipeg, the Central Farmers' Market was continued in operation in 1914. Thru an incompetent manager the first year was a failure. On change of management and name the market is fulfilling the functions it was intended to perform and is now disposing of a large quantity of farm produce. Returns are made each week and the market is doing work in serving both urban and rural patrons.

1913. 27—Resolution re woman suffrage. Our Central office was instructed to co-operate with the Manitoba Political Equality League to further the interests of woman suffrage.

Result—This was first taken up in 1912 and introduced in our convention by an address which aroused a good deal of interest in the question. The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association as an organization were the first body to make a public pronouncement on this question of the enfranchisement of women and their consistent support given to the movement has no doubt been a potent factor in procuring legislation giving women the franchise.

28—Resolution urging that the railway enlarge the loading platforms.

Result—The loading platforms have been enlarged to standard size and legislation to have more platforms where needed secured.

29—Resolution re agricultural credit to provide cheaper money for Canadian farmers.

Result—Such study and attention is being given to this question as is producing legislation which it is hoped and believed will be very helpful to our farmers.

1914. 30—Resolution to have the commission charge on oats and barley reduced.

Result—The association has succeeded in securing a reduction of commission for handling of oats and barley from 1 cent to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent for oats and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent for barley.

1915. 31—Special seed grain rates have been secured thru the representations of the executive which have saved the farmers of Manitoba and the other prairie provinces considerable amounts. These seed grain certificates have been handled thru our Central office to all bona fide farmers free of cost.

32—Negotiations have been carried on for some time in the matter of abattoirs which it is hoped will lead to something definite in the future.

1916. 33—The special rate granted to shippers of all livestock for feeding and breeding purposes has been one of the advantages secured this year. Other questions have been considered with careful attention which it is hoped will bring results in the coming days.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The following branches have reported with membership dues recently:—Letellier, Strathclair, Kenton, Binscarth, Ashern, Spruce Bluff, Vidar, Woodlands, Rosser and Sinclair.

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and

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