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Women's Organization Reports

Below are the Reports presented at the Opening of the Convention of the Women Grain Growers held at Regina on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, last week

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mrs. Violet McNaughtan said:

I have the honor to submit to you my first annual report, the first annual report of our section of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.

Taking into consideration the economic conditions which have prevailed in our province during the past year, I think we have very great cause for satisfaction in the fact that our work has assumed the proportions it has. Details of that work will be submitted to you under various departments.

Organization

The first and principal work undertaken by your officers was that of organization. Each has done her share in that respect. I have deeply regretted the fact that I have had to refuse so many requests to address meetings in various parts of the province. Just here I would like to point out how impossible it is, even for district directors, with expenses forthcoming, to pay other than systematic visits to locals. Only by complete organization can anything be done along this line. I believe, however, that in future district conventions will meet the difficulty in this direction. Last year it was impossible to arrange for speakers to be present at all the district conventions. Your executive endeavored to share between them the districts without directors. We have to thank the central board, who invited the lady speakers and paid their expenses.

It was arranged that I should attend the meetings at Wadena, Prince Albert, Battleford and Biggar. At these meetings great interest was manifested in our section, and even where few women were present, my time was fully taken up in supplying information to the men delegates regarding our work.

Last month I was invited to the United Farmers of Alberta Women's Convention at Edmonton, where I met a splendid gathering of women, and experienced the great pleasure of seeing them organize along lines similar to ours. I believe this action on their part will be very helpful to us, for we are all women of the West, and many of our problems are inter-provincial. I look towards the day when the women members of the farmers' organizations will increase in such numbers that a woman's representative from each province will be elected to sit in the Canadian Council of Agriculture.

Woman Suffrage

Next to organization, our principal work this year has been along suffrage lines. Acting at the request of a number of our locals to make definite plans regarding suffrage work, your executive passed a resolution asking the other organizations in the province working for woman's franchise, to co-operate with us in this matter. Your president was delegated to attend to this. In October I was invited to the W.C.T.U. provincial convention at Saskatoon, where I presented the suffrage resolution, which carried. I also had the pleasure of addressing the Prince Albert Equal Franchise League, which also endorsed the resolution. In brief, I have placed the matter before all the societies I could discover, with the result that the first meeting of the Woman's Suffrage Federation Board will be held here in Regina at the close of this convention.

Temperance

We Grain Growers strongly endorse the Banish the Bar policy. Many of our clubs are working on this question. At both the Qu'Appelle District and Saskatoon Provincial W.C.T.U. conventions, I found a very sympathetic attitude towards the Women Grain Growers. We have many points in common, and I think that we cannot do

better in temperance work than to support the efforts of the W.C.T.U.

Libraries

Some of our clubs have endeavored, without success, to obtain from the university, community libraries. We must remember that our section is officially but a year old. We must be prepared to show that, as Women Grain Growers, we are here to stay, and perfectly capable of handling these libraries. The extension department of the University of Alberta supplies traveling libraries to literary societies, farmers' associations, etc., so if properly approached, I am sure that our Saskatchewan government will not be less liberal.

Our Future Work

You will observe that I have only dealt with the subjects upon which I have been personally engaged. I would now like to call your attention to the purpose for which we are met together. We farmers stand in a position today without parallel in the history of the West. With wheat at western record prices and thousands of our people who have had none to sell; with the greatest hardship existing, caused by the drought and accentuated by the war; with our cities crying for a "Back to

The community questions: The cash sale of our by-produce, the studying of city social problems, the establishment of libraries, the providing of amusements for our young folk, the New Canadian problem, the medical aid question, and relief work.

At the risk of sermonizing, I have brought a list of questions before you, and I ask, whose business is it?

The War

I cannot close without reference to this awful war. It demonstrates the fact that we, of the twentieth century, are still slaves of a system, which allows a handful of men in each country to manipulate wires, which can cause armies to rise at a given word and kill those against whom they have no quarrel. And who pays? We women can do a noble work if we can, in the slightest degree, help to bring about a universal realization of this fact.

In conclusion, may I again urge upon you the necessity of preserving the entirety of our association, and for that purpose whenever possible holding joint meetings of men and women. Let us be to the association what we are to the home, and use it to help build up a bright, clean, prosperous Western

club discussion. Such an inquiry is the sign of something worth while going on. For you must have definite plans made for a few future meetings if you wish your club work to bear profitable fruits.

Efficiency the Watchword

Greater efficiency in the home seems to have been the main watchword of the present year. Reports have been sent to me of interesting discussions on such home topics as: Food value of milk, relation of foods to health, art of butter making, preserving fruits, best methods at threshing time, home decoration, care of the baby, and influences that mould the character of the child.

Chicken raising and gardening come in for their just share of discussion. Musical and literary afternoons have, in many cases, been a pleasing part of the program, and have been effective in improving the culture of the community.

There has been good work accomplished in spreading the knowledge of the need of temperance, direct legislation, woman suffrage, social reform, district nurses, and co-operation in buying and selling.

The co-operative work has an especial appeal to many of the members. The wise expenditure of the home exchequer is a large part of the home-keeper's duties, and co-operation is of great assistance in keeping the expenditure as low as possible. Club members have bought fruit and vegetables on a co-operative order and found the plan a good one.

But it is especially in the selling of farm by-products that club members are most interested. The matter has been discussed in nearly all of the clubs and except in a very few the members have made plans for collectively shipping butter and eggs to market centres where they can obtain better prices and the much desired cash.

Social Service

In the temperance work our clubs are spreading education along a new line of thought. Apart from the moral side of the question, there is the medical side, on which new light needs to shine. Mothers of men and women to be, especially harken to the cry of little children. They are learning now that often the child is deprived of its rightful heritage of health when the parent's system has been poisoned by alcohol. The result of the liquor evil does not fall on the drunken parent alone, but is visited on the nerves of the second and third generation.

Educating the women members to understand their need of the franchise is an important item of the club work of the past year. The members in general ardently wish for the chance to do their part in the legislative work of the province. The fact that we are Grain Growers with equal franchise in the association gives us the privilege of voicing our need in the convention. Through the farmers' parliament, which is also our parliament, we have the opportunity of drawing the attention of the legislature to matters needing reform, relating to the welfare of the farm women.

Patriotic Work

A number of the locals have taken up patriotic work. They have held knitting and sewing meetings in order to produce handwork for the benefit of our soldiers. In many cases surprisingly large sums for the Belgian Relief and for the Patriotic funds have been raised by giving suppers and concerts.

The greatly needed rest room has come into being in at least six towns by efforts of the Women Grain Growers. This is a branch of our work that I wish to see increase rapidly. The com-

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SASKATCHEWAN WOMEN GRAIN GROWERS' EXECUTIVE, FOR 1914
Back row, reading from left to right: Mrs. Hawkes, Mrs. McNeal, Mrs. Flatt, Mrs. Ames, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Haight, Mrs. Hicks.
Seated, reading from left to right: Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. McNaughtan (President), Miss Stocking (Sec.-Treas.)

the land" movement for their unemployed, whilst, as one of our politicians states, twenty-five per cent. of our people are in danger, this coming year, of being put "off the land," I think that the keynote of this gathering cannot but be serious.

First, we must remember the privileges which we enjoy as members of this great association, the only organization in Saskatchewan granting such privileges—setting an example to our churches even. For this reason we must leave place to study the questions of the association, and so be prepared to use our franchise intelligently. I hope that every delegate here will purchase a copy of "Studies in Rural Citizenship," and where possible, promote debates and discussions upon the subjects contained therein.

Secondly, I trust that we shall at these meetings determine what is our specific work in the association, and prepare a scheme for carrying it on in such manner that, at next convention, we shall have reports showing not only local but provincial work accomplished. As organized farm women, we must possess organized opinion. We have many urgent questions facing us.

The home questions: To make our local meetings so restful, entertaining and instructive that the tired mother will make an extra effort to come, and coming, take heart and learn to live.

The school question: The present rural educational system is a distinct reflection on every man and woman in the province.

Canada. With best wishes for the future.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Miss Erma Stocking presented her report, as secretary, as follows:

I have great pleasure in submitting to you my report, as secretary, for the year 1914, of the women's section of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. The work has been so full of interest and of so progressive a nature that enthusiasm for the future of our organization is a natural outcome.

The Women Grain Growers' Association commenced the second year of its existence with only five locals. The number has increased to fifty, thus showing a remarkable growth for only one year. An interesting feature of the organization work has been the fact that in no community have organizers been sent to persuade the women that they needed just such a club. In every case the local association resulted from the longing of the women for the sociability and for the opportunity to do their part in the work for the betterment of the home and state, that this association affords.

Our correspondence files show many inquiries from every direction in the province re methods of organizing and aims of the association, thereby showing that interest in our work is province-wide. Alberta and Manitoba have also contributed their quota of letters asking how to organize for club work. There have been many letters asking for advice on subjects best suited to

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