

DISTRICT No. 11 CONVENTION

The Slogan for 1916 is

"Every Member a Life Member."

The annual convention of District No. 11 was held at North Battleford on December 8 and 9, and was fairly well attended, 78 delegates registering, despite the fact that the notice given had been somewhat short. The meeting was held in the Collegiate Institute, which was placed at our disposal by the city authorities. The delegates were welcomed to the city by Mayor Foley and Commissioner Wright, of the Board of Trade. J. H. Wesson, Forest Bank, was elected secretary.

Thos. Sales, director for District 11, then gave a stirring address, dealing fully with the work in the district for the past year, also reviewing the actions of the Central Executive. Amongst the most important things dwelt upon in his address were Free Wheat, the very mention of which was received with applause by the audience. The work of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, the recent meeting with the commercial representatives in Winnipeg, the appointment of a permanent board of appeal re grading of grain were dealt with and also our attitude to the Patriotic Fund, he taking the position that the raising of funds for the dependents of the men who had gone to fight the battles of the nation should not be a matter of voluntary charity, but should be a national duty. He also dealt with the Hafford appeal case, which was successfully contested by the Association, and the right of our incorporated Locals to carry on their own business established beyond any doubt; also the question of compulsory education.

A resolution committee was appointed consisting of Mr. Collins, of Wirral; George Truscott, West Eagle Hills; and G. Orchard, of Halcyonia.

Organization work was then dealt with and short addresses were given by the various sub-organizers; J. Wesson, Maidstone; Geo. Truscott, and others. C. Davis, of Willow Heights, another of the sub-organizers, also gave a splendid address on this subject.

The Central Secretary, J. B. Musselman, was in attendance on Thursday morning, and dealt with the new distribution of districts, after which nominations for district director for 1916 were taken.

Thos. Sales was the choice of the Convention, and the names of C. Davis and B. Saloway, of Halcyonia, were voted on for second choice, resulting in C. Davis winning out.

At the afternoon session the meeting was addressed by Mrs. Jno. Ames, of Hanley, executive member of the Women's Section of the G.G.A., who delivered a very thoughtful, capable and interesting speech on the various lines of work being carried on by the W.G.G.A. Mr. Scharfe, of Meota, followed with a very interesting account of community laundries as carried on in various places in the state of Minnesota.

The Co-operative Enterprise

J. B. Musselman, in a clear cut, forcible speech, outlined the work not only of the past but of the future, dealing with the closer federation of the various farmers' organizations, the attempted boycott by established trade interests, the need for capital to carry on the co-operative enterprises of the association, and the plans for the raising of such capital. In a lengthy speech, he showed a masterly grasp of his subject and many times he aroused his audience to tumultuous applause. At the close of his speech the following resolution was carried unanimously: Resolved, That this convention heartily commend the work of various executive officers of all the Western farmers' organizations and of our Central Executive for their effort to bring about a federation of all these bodies on the basis of local units, provincial central bodies and inter-provincial central bodies. Further, that wherever feasible and in so far as practicable the profits of all the bodies should, after paying interest only on capital, be distributed to their shareholder members on the basis of the business done.

Then followed a very interesting discussion on the ways and means of raising capital, many questions being asked as to the debentures to be issued, and

the Life Membership scheme, finally the following resolution was carried unanimously: Resolved, that this convention heartily approves of the plan of the Central Executive for raising capital for the Trading Department by the sale of Life Memberships and Capital Debentures as outlined by the secretary, and we hereby pledge ourselves to the support of the plan.

Did they support the plan? As the chairman, Thos. Sales, declared the resolution carried, he made the remark, "Now, boys, it's up to you." and amidst enthusiastic cheering they stormed the platform, surrounded the Central secretary and kept him busy signing up applications for Life Memberships and Debentures. There is no wonder after a scene like that, at the Central secretary making the remark that he came to North Battleford to receive his inspiration. It establishes beyond any doubt that the plan for raising capital is going to be both popular and successful.

Late Mr. Green

Resolutions carried are as follows: Resolved, that we place on record an appreciation of the work done for this association by the late Fred W. Green, and that we feel deeply the loss sustained by his untimely decease.

Resolved, that this convention heartily endorses the stand taken by the Canadian Council of Agriculture in its demand on the Dominion Government for immediate steps to be taken to secure "Free Wheat."

Resolved, that this convention favors the establishment of Co-operative packing plants and stock yard.

Resolved, that this Convention deems it advisable that every child in Saskatchewan shall be taught the English language.

Resolved, that the seed grain competition of 1916 is in the best interests of the Association and that each Local should carefully study the conditions governing the competition and do their utmost to make it a success.

Resolved, that the convention reaffirms its position in support of Free Trade.

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Convention a government grant of two-thirds of the prize moneys paid out be allowed to any branch of the S.G.G.A. upon the recommendation of the Extension Department of the College of Agriculture.

A National Responsibility

Resolved, that this convention places itself on record as firmly of the opinion that the care of returned soldiers, and dependents of soldiers is a matter of national responsibility, and that in no sense should this work be dependent upon voluntary contributions, and, further, that the funds requisite for this purpose should be raised by an equitable method of taxation, distributing the burden amongst all the people.

A Social Evening

On the last evening of the convention a concert was given. Mayor Foley kindly consented to occupy the chair. Addresses were delivered by Principal Quance, of the Collegiate, J. B. Musselman, and J. G. Rayner, representative of the College of Agriculture. The usual votes of thanks were passed to the mayor, council and citizens of North Battleford, and to those who kindly assisted in the concert, and the delegates, after a profitable and pleasant time, departed for home to report to their various Locals, carrying with them the slogan for 1916, "Every Member a Life Member."

DISTRICT No. 8 CONVENTION

To Officers and Members in District No. 8:—Kindly note that the Convention for District No. 8 will be held in Davidson, January 4. President Maharg or Secretary Musselman—possibly both—will be in attendance, and also Directors Sales and Reid. It is earnestly requested that at least one repre-

sentative from each Local should be present at this Convention.

THORNE M. EDDY,
District Director.

EMERGENCY FUND**Another Appeal from a Judge's Finding**

Here is another instance of how the Emergency Fund is used to fight for the protection of the farmers. As in all test cases, when we appeal such a case it is a matter not alone of the party immediately concerned, but of thousands of farmers now and hereafter. It was held in this case practically that the farmer must pay the full purchase price, not only whether a machine will or will not do the work it was sold to do, but that even if the machine was sold contrary to the laws of the province he must still pay. We mean to find out.

The case is Haug Bros. & Nellemoe vs. Murdock, a farmer of Gull Lake. Our solicitor cites the case as follows: "The facts in this case arise out of the purchase by the defendant from the plaintiff in June, of 1911, of a 30 h.p. Avery Alberta Special engine. On the trial Judge Elwood found that the boiler was not constructed according to the plans and specifications issued by the department. The Steam Boilers' Act provides that every new boiler sold or exchanged since January 1, 1911, should be constructed in accordance with the specifications set forth in the regulations issued by the department. A regulation of the department provided that where boilers were not so constructed the inspector should penalize each boiler by reduction in the allowance of steam pressure. Judge Elwood held that the effect of the statutes and regulation read together was to make this the only penalty, with the result that if an engine were sold which was not constructed according to the statutory requirements the penalty was inflicted on the farmer and not on the company.

The appeal was argued before the court en banc in the early part of the month, and judgment was reserved and will be given on January 7."

J. B. MUSSELMAN.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

The following is a list of the district conventions, giving district, director, date and place:

District 1, W. H. Beesley, to be announced later, Elbow; 6, F. W. Redman, January 4, Indian Head; 8, T. M. Eddy, January 4, Davidson; 13, W. H. Lilwall, January 11-12, Saskatoon; 14, T. M. Morgan, to be announced later, Swift Current; 15, Frank Burton, to be announced later, Assiniboia; 16, W. T. Hall, to be announced later, Conquest.

PATRIOTIC ACRE FUND**Removing the Mountain**

The great results already attained by the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Patriotic Acre Fund will surely prove to be a wholesome dose of medicine for those who have been inclined to pessimism. It has been said that "Faint heart never won fair lady," and just as surely it can be said that no great cause was ever won without effort. A tremendous amount of effort has been put into this scheme, and that effort is now having its reward in a magnificent success. The position at the time of writing—December 8—is as follows: Number of acres promised, 5,180; grain actually received, 33,000 bushels; cash received, \$7,320. These actual contributions in themselves represent a total of about 1,670,000 pounds of flour of the best grade. "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed ye shall say to this mountain, 'Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea,' and it shall be done." We are moving the mountain!

—S.W.Y.

Some Good Samaritans

We have still got Good Samaritans on the earth. One contributor, in sending in his contribution says: "I promised last

year at the convention I would do this, and I am going to fulfil it. I got hauled very bad, but I think I can still stand it. My neighbors, I think, got about forty bushels to the acre, but I didn't. so to be in line I'll send \$40." Another writes, "Some of my wheat—half of it—only graded No. 5, but I thought it only fair to give the best." Still another says, in sending a contribution of 20 bushels of wheat: "Sorry I cannot send more, as I got about three-quarters of my crop hauled. Perhaps you will have another acre contribution next year, when I hope I shall be able to touch the forty bushel mark." Verily, they have their reward.

—S.W.Y.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE COMPETITION

Our members are evidently taking an interest in this competition, as up to the present four persons have sent in designs, each of which is evidence of careful thought on the part of the designer, they having kept the principles of the association well before them, and, moreover, have made a praiseworthy attempt to embody these principles in their designs. The names of the competitors are as follows: H. Cressy, Dollard; Rovis Reeves, Brithdir; D. Mc. Allan, Dinsmore; and J. Carruthers, Wiseton. We hope to receive many other designs in the near future.

—S.W.Y.

WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US

Relative to the forthcoming annual convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, to be held in Saskatoon, the Phoenix of that city has the following to say:

Mayor Harrison Pleased

Mayor Harrison returned from Regina this morning, where he interviewed the executive of the Grain Growers' convention regarding the place of holding the 1916 convention.

"Saskatoon is indeed fortunate in having secured the convention of the Grain Growers' Association for 1916," he said.

"There are about 25,000 members of the Grain Growers' Association in this province, and the different branches are entitled to send one delegate for every ten members, besides which there is a ladies' auxiliary now in operation, from whom we may expect at least 400 or more delegates.

Large Attendance Expected

"While I do not expect the maximum number at this convention, I am convinced, after talking the matter over with the members of the executive, that there will be at least from 1,800 to 2,000 delegates present at the convention. It devolves upon the citizens of Saskatoon to see that they are hospitably received.

"The members of the Grain Growers' Association are very appreciative of the reception accorded them by the citizens of Saskatoon during the convention of 1913.

"Strenuous efforts were made by the other cities to capture the convention, and we are indebted to the board of trade for the splendid efforts put forth by them to obtain it for Saskatoon. We are also deeply indebted to the Hon. A. P. McNab, Murdo Cameron, reeve of the municipality of Cory; Will James Thompson, and Thos. Sales, for their splendid efforts to secure the convention for Saskatoon."

The Regina Province says:—The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association represents over 25,000 organized farmers, and their political, social and economic activities are intimately interwoven with the life of the province at large. Furthermore, the association represents the greatest variety of commercial undertakings which, thru a system of co-operation, have resulted profitably from the financial standpoint since their inauguration fifteen months ago.

The presence of the women of the province on an equality with the husbands and brothers, and with the same privileges, also gives the coming convention an added importance in the history of the organization, and marks a stepping stone in the social and economic history of this province.

To the grain growers, their wives and their children, a hearty welcome is assured from every citizen of Saskatoon.