

CENTRAL BOARD MEETS

A full meeting of the Central Board was held at the Head Office of the Association on Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31, with every one of the twenty-three members in attendance. A large amount of valuable work was accomplished and a number of important matters dealt with. Director C. M. W. Emery of Assiniboia gave a very interesting and exhaustive report regarding a case of special interest which had been brought to the attention of the Central. The complaint in this instance is that on the closing of the hospital formerly in operation at that point a boy was discharged and allowed to go home unattended and without proper notice of his approaching discharge having been given to his parents, that the lad in question suffered a relapse from want of care and supervision and finally died. The mother of the boy seeks to fix responsibility upon the doctors who were in charge of the hospital. The matter was submitted to the Association's solicitor for advice.

The Board gave a unanimous endorsement to the action of the Canadian Council of Agriculture in connection with the offer of the Federal government to take over the entire surplus of the 1917 wheat crop on a basis of \$1.30, f.o.b. Fort William, for No. 1 Northern wheat, the consensus of opinion being that unless other productive industries are brought under similar regulation such a commandeering of wheat would be discrimination against western agriculture; that the only excuse for setting a price which may be justifiable is that by setting a liberal minimum price, production might be slightly stimulated and that so far as the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association is concerned it is willing to take its chances on the open market in competition with the world. The Board, by resolution, asked President Maharg to prepare an article to be given to the press, setting forth the attitude of the organized farmers of the province on this question.

Many matters of vital importance arising out of the offer of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company to undertake distribution of agricultural supplies from warehouses at local points throughout the province and generally to lend its capital, machinery and organization to the perfecting of this service of co-operative distribution so extensively developed by the association during the past three years, received careful and exhaustive attention. The executive reported to the Board of Directors an outline of a tentative agreement which had been arrived at between it and the board of the Elevator Company. This agreement proved fully satisfactory to the board and does not contemplate that the Central of the association shall go entirely out of trading, but that such commodities as can be handled to greater advantage for our people thru the machinery and organization of the Elevator Company will be so handled. The agreement assures the fullest protection of the interests of the locals of the association which are engaged in trading whether incorporated or not and assures the return thru the association to its locals for distribution on a patronage basis of the profits of this business in the truly British co-operative method. It is altogether probable that a meeting of the shareholders' representatives of the Elevator Company will be convened at deal finally with this proposed agreement.

Coal Supplies.

One of the most important problems dealt with was that of securing coal supplies for the fall and winter of 1917-18. It will not be possible for the Co-operative Elevator Company to construct any large number of coal sheds in time to take deliveries of coal during the summer months of June, July and August, but unless the locals all over the province can take a considerable percentage of their requirements in coal during the three months named, there is now no doubt that there will be no possibility of supplying them with all that they require when the rush season comes on next fall. The coal situation is fully as acute in the east as it is in the west so that there is every likelihood that little, if any, Pennsylvania coal can be shipped to Western Canada next season. There will therefore be a more than usual demand for western mined coal and there

is scarcely any possibility of materially increasing the output. The board therefore decided to do its utmost to impress upon the members of the association everywhere the imperative need of taking delivery of at least half its coal requirements during June, July and August, and to point out to them the very grave peril which they will otherwise be facing.

The board also dealt with the binder twine situation and closed a contract for an additional quantity of twine which, having been made for export to a European country was released for domestic consumption because of the exceeding difficulty of securing ocean tonnage for its conveyance across the Atlantic. The secretary read a letter from The Grain Growers' Grain Company in which notice is given that that company has cancelled its arrangement to supply the association with machinery and stated that on account of this action of the company the central is not now in position to accept orders for machinery from its locals or members. It was decided that since The Grain Growers' Grain Company has seen fit to take this action the association should seek for other sources of supply of farm machinery and that the executive shall investigate the feasibility of manufacturing machinery in order to supply the requirements of our people.

Dealing with the question of what steps the association as a body should take to give effect to the Farmers' National Political Platform which was adopted at the annual convention, the board decided that the secretary should communicate with all candidates for election to the Federal House, ascertain their attitude towards this platform and give publicity to their replies. The following resolution was also passed: "That this board recommends that in any Federal constituency where candidates for election have not been nominated or where no existing candidate will pledge himself as outlined in the previous resolution, those who support the National Farmers' Political Platform call a convention, elect a candidate of their own and undertake to finance his election without aid from other interests."

The board instructed the executive to secure a departmental head for the organization department as foreshadowed in the annual report of the executive to the convention.

Grain Growers' Sunday was fixed for May 27 and all locals will be circularized asking that each make an effort to secure a special address in all the churches on that day dealing particularly with the ethical value of the Grain Growers' Association's movement.

A grant of \$2,000 was made from the balance of the funds of the Patriotic Acre Fund to the British Sailors' Relief Fund.

J. B. M.

CLUB ALL IMPLEMENT ORDERS

To the Executive Committee, G.G.A. of Saskatchewan:—Owing to the fact that the credit system is not satisfactory for farmers and is too expensive, in buying implements we, the Grain Growers of Amelia, do hereby resolve that the executive committee of Saskatchewan consider the following resolution:

(1) That the secretary act as implement agent for each local, and have notes and all printed matter to carry on the selling of implements. That the secretary receive all orders, same to be brought before a business committee of three, besides the secretary, to consider orders sent to the central by the secretary; the purchaser to sign the notes; the local to go good for same, after being examined and the bank to finance same; the cash to be sent to the Central, which at a given time would take all orders, involving hundreds of thousands of dollars, using the cash in a large order form in place of local orders, and purchasing in the cheapest way.

This, we, the Grain Growers of

Amelia, think will gradually do away with collector, as the local secretary would be among the purchasers—and would have the power to collect, take securities and see that the notes were paid that the local goes good for. We would also do away with salesmen, agents and agents' profits, travelling expenses and collectors, also compound interest, and save the farmer and help him keep his land and property. Each local, situated in each town, in time would handle repairs or have each local secretary sell them direct, instead of by order.

We, the Amelia Grain Growers, therefore hope to see this matter considered, for which we thank you in advance.

A. P. BROWN,