

April 11, 1917

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 lead 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 to 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

Saskatchewan

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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.O.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 purchasers 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,
Secretary, Amelia G.G.A., Sask.
Signed this 14th day of March, 1917:
EDGAR EVENSON, President.
A. P. BROWN, Secretary.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

During the last few weeks we have sent out from the central office some eight hundred certificates which are now adorning the homes of life members of the association in all parts of the province. Several hundreds of these were framed before being shipped, at the moderate cost of one dollar. We are anxious that as many of the certificates as possible should go out as framed certificates, otherwise there is a danger that they will be allowed to lie around until they become soiled and unfit for framing. This would be a great pity as the certificate is a real work of art, designed by one of our own Grain Growers. One of these certificates hung on the wall of at least one farm house in every district would be a powerful missionary for the cause for which the association stands. Some day the great world struggle will end; when, we do not know. It may be soon or it may be late; but when the end does come, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association must be prepared to take its part in the great work of reconstruction which must take place. The greater the number of life members, the stronger the association will be. The stronger the association, the greater the part it will be able to play. We therefore ask each life member who has not yet received his certificate to send in an order for a frame, which, now that the rush is over, can be executed in a few day's time, and let it do its work, as it will, if given the chance in persuading other members to "go and do likewise."

If you do not want a frame, write us all the same, giving your correct name and address (printed) so that no errors may be made in filling in the certificates. Every life member is entitled to a certificate free, the charge of one dollar being merely for the frame.—S.W.Y.

OUTSIDERS AT MEETINGS

Central Secretary:—Kindly inform me as to the liberty we should extend to outsiders to attend our meetings. The case being this—the town business men and the board of trade members are asking us that we inform them of our meetings so they may attend with us. Now we do not hesitate to explain to them for what purpose the Grain Growers' Association is organized, but there are many things we do not want to let them handle or do for us. What I want to know is this: How much should we accommodate them without letting them do us any harm or injury? Should we exclude them altogether?

A LOCAL SECRETARY.

Answer: Regarding outsiders attending your meetings, it is entirely within your own power to do as you like in this connection. I see no reason why you should allow any outsiders to attend any of your meetings where business is to be discussed. You could advertise once in a while that you would hold public meetings where only such matters as social intercourse, debates, literary effort, entertainments, concerts or dances would be taken up, but I do

not think that you should permit any of the business men in town, or anyone except your own members, and possibly visiting farmers whom you hope to make members, to attend any of your meetings where business is to be discussed. No other kind of business organization would throw its business meetings open to the general public and there is no reason why an association of the Grain Growers should do so. Your meetings will not be public meetings unless you announce them as such.

CENTRAL SECRETARY.

SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL AT IDALEEN

The following is a clipping taken from the Idaleen local paper:

"The box social and dance given under the auspices of the Idaleen Grain Growers' Association in the school house in that district on Friday night, March 2, proved a wonderfully successful event. The music provided by the Sovereign Orchestra was excellent and all had a most enjoyable time. The proceeds amounted to \$298.50 from the boxes and lunches. A quilt made by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the association, brought \$35, making a grand total of \$333.50, of which \$315.75 goes toward the Belgian Relief Fund, the balance being taken up by expenses. The Idaleen Grain Growers have reason to be proud of the success that attended their patriotic endeavor, in raising so large a sum for relief of the suffering Belgians."

ANOTHER RED CROSS DONATION

Central Secretary:—Kindly accept the enclosed \$22 for the use of the Red Cross Fund. Of this \$10 is the proceeds of a dance held for that purpose. The remainder is contributed by the Lac Vert auxiliary. Mrs. Lyons, of Lac Vert, has been the main worker for this amount and her efforts are worthy of no small amount of encouragement.

P. HEUGH,
Sec.-Treas., Lac Vert G.O.A.

TAKE OVER HARDWARE

Central Secretary:—Please accept our best thanks for the efforts of the Central Office to help us in our meeting yesterday. We were delighted to have Mr. Maharg with us and altogether we had a most interesting and instructive time.

We were able to carry thru our scheme of taking over the Waseca Hardware Company's business, and have promises for a considerable amount of new capital. Thanking you for the help you have given us.

H. K. FARLEY,
Sec., Waseca G.O.A.

PATRIOTIC BOX SOCIAL

Central Secretary:—Kindly find enclosed money order for \$70.00, for the Red Cross Society, being the proceeds of a box social and dance held on New Years night, by the members of the Banbury local. An enjoyable evening was spent and not the least part of the enjoyment was the idea that the proceeds might help "somebody's son" at the front who might be suffering to uphold the traditions of the British flag.

JNO. W. LEAKE,
Sec., Banbury Local.

GETTING A FERRY

Central Secretary:—In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, re our ferry crossing, I am directed to express the thanks of our members and to inform you I received a reply from the Hon. A. P. McNab, himself, stating the matter had been handed to the Highway Department. The very prompt reply, the nature of it, and the letter of the Hon. Minister, himself, gave lively satisfaction and was an additional proof, if such were needed, of the great influence our association, as a body yields.

E. D. COTTER, Secy.-Treas.
Lily Plain Local.

BIG CHEQUE FROM SNAKEBITE

Central Secretary:—Please find enclosed check for \$302.60, being amount raised by Women's Section Snakebite G.G. Local, for the benefit of the Red Cross Fund. Kindly forward said amount to that society.

MRS. H. B. FITZMAURICE, Sec.