

SPECIAL STUDY WORK

A meeting of the Special Study Committee of our association was held at the Central office on November 22, with a view to re-organizing the special study work and placing it on an entirely new basis, and also to prepare a program for recommendation to our locals to cover the winter months. A rearrangement of the committee took place, H. H. McKinney, superintendent of organization, being appointed chairman, and S. W. Yates, of the Central office staff, secretary. Henceforth the work of the committee will be directed from the Central office. Mrs. McNaughtan of Piche, Mrs. Platt of Tantalton, and Mr. Geo. W. Atkinson of LaFleche are the remaining members of the committee, Messrs. McKinney and Yates and Mrs. McNaughtan forming the executive.

Careful consideration was given to the selection of subjects to be submitted to locals, and every effort was made to confine these to real live questions. Moreover, it was recognized that what is a suitable subject for one local may be wholly unsuited to another, and the principle was therefore adopted of suggesting a number of alternative subjects of varied character, and in this way the committee hope they have succeeded in providing a program which can be adapted to every individual local in our organization. It includes such subjects as the farm labor problem in its various phases; a pioneer's night; six day's training course for organizers; do we need a monthly paper of our own? seed selection; co-operative marketing; health conservation; municipal hospitals; food control, etc.; with social evenings; games, costume parties, etc. These, however, are only suggestions. We have no wish to impose any hard and fast rules, and locals are entirely at liberty to vary and improve them wherever they feel they are able to do so.

In preparing for the discussion of the various subjects set forth, members will no doubt feel the need of books of reference, and the committee will be prepared to offer suggestions on this subject to any who may apply. In this way we trust that locals may be able, at a very small expense, to form the nucleus of a library which will have a real and permanent value.

We wish to impress upon our members that this is only the beginning of what we trust will, under the new arrangement, eventually become one of the most important branches of the work of our association. An educated democracy is the only democracy worth while, and this is the end and aim of the work we are herewith initiating.

We are anxious to receive suggestions from any of our members who have suggestions to offer, and we shall be pleased to give them every consideration. We invite our members to write us freely on any educational question, whether in the way of suggestion or criticism, and to address all such communications to the secretary, Special Study Committee, Central Office, Farmers' Building, Regina.

Special Study Program—Dec. 30.

If the meeting is held on December 30 or 31.

A. Pioneers' Night; Early Experiences; A Social Time. Everyone may come in special costume or make-up. Work up a play for the occasion, such as "David Copperfield" or "The Trial Scene from the Merchant of Venice." Copies of suitable plays will be supplied by Central.

—If held after January 1.

Increasing the efficiency of our local. (1) Standard efficiency test contest explained; (2) How can we improve our local? (3) How can we improve our membership? (4) Why we should become Life Members; (5) What should we do for our boys and girls? (6) How can we make our meetings more interesting?

A CASE IN POINT

The local tribunals in this part are disallowing so many exemption claims that it is going to put a lot of us farmers out of business unless there is some immediate action taken. I will give you our own case of which there are many similar ones.

We are farming six quarters of land and are producing fair crops every year. I have only two sons, one of which is

Saskatchewan

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in the North West Mounted Police force, and the other is with me on the farm. He is the only help I have and I do not know where I can get any. We were short of help this year, and it looks now as if we would have to let a part of our land go to weeds. In this case we made application for exemption before the local tribunal at Ogama, but the claim was disallowed. We have appealed the case. Of course this means extra expense. Could you do anything to help us out? If you wish any further evidence we can furnish it.

C. W. FRANKS.

Viceroy.

This is one of many cases which have been brought to the attention of the Central office which would seem to prove a lamentable lack of judgment on the part of members of local tribunals. Considering the constant and urgent appeals which are being made for greater production one would think that a simple statement of the facts given by Mr. Franks would be sufficient to secure exemption, but apparently that is not the case. We can only hope that the registrar, whose attention we have drawn to this matter, will see that every consideration is given to these cases on appeal. If greater production is to be secured, those who are capable of rendering the best service must be left on the farms. As to that there cannot be two opinions. S. W. Y.

THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM

The question of increased transportation facilities is one that cannot fail to arouse the interest of our members, especially in those districts which are deficient in railway accommodation. Notwithstanding the many years that have passed since the first settler crossed these western plains, we have not yet got clear of pioneer conditions, and any proposition that will help to overcome these conditions is sure of a welcome and of serious consideration.

In this vast country we need the help of every agency possible in the transportation of our grain and other produce, and naturally, this is more than ever evident where rail transportation is deficient. Such a condition prevails in that portion of the province which lies to the south-west of Saskatoon. Why should this region, which is very inadequately served by the railways, be subject to pioneer hardships, while a great stream like the Saskatchewan River flows along with its facilities unutilized? Why should not this river, on which homesteaders in the old days used to transport their grain, be again used for the marketing of crops and the carriage of supplies? These and similar questions may have arisen in the mind of many a farmer in the district drained by this river, but the proposal has recently been put into something like a concrete form by A. T. Bailey of Saskatoon, in a letter to the Central secretary.

Mr. Bailey's proposition is that grain from the south-west country should be brought into Saskatoon by means of a string of scows or barges, drawn by a powerful steam tug of light draft, the latter to be equipped with some device to protect it against sand bars. Mr. Bailey expresses the opinion that a good many farmers would build their own scows in the winter months if they were sure of co-operation in the matter. Mr. Bailey is doing a public service in drawing attention to this matter, and if the proposal is feasible it should certainly be carried into effect, especially considering the great world needs of the present day.

On the advice of the Central secretary Mr. Bailey will probably take the opportunity to bring this matter before the annual meeting of District No. 6, which meets in Saskatoon on December 11, and if it there meets with favor the whole question will probably be brought before our annual convention which will be held in Regina in February next.

PREPARING A REST ROOM

The women's section of the Silver Creek G.O.A. held a very successful

fowl supper in Kamsack on Thanksgiving eve, which netted us about \$75, which is to be used in establishing a rest room for farmers' wives and children.

Mrs. G. R. KRAFT,
Sec.-Treas.

CONCERT AT TRENTON

The schoolhouse at Trenton was filled to capacity on a recent Tuesday evening, when the local W.G.G.A. held a very successful concert. Weather conditions were favorable for the event. Heavily freighted sleighs with jingling bells came sliding over the snow from north, south, east and west, between seven and eight o'clock. The ride in the silvery moonlight through the clear crisp air, was quite exhilarating. The program presented on this occasion opened with the National Anthem. The following numbers were then rendered in pleasing style:

Quartette by Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Shillington and the Misses Nelson; recitation by Octave Lesy; chorus, "I want to kiss Daddy goodnight," by Lena Kirkwood, Margaret Hanson, Muriel Stephens, Ethel Stephenson; recitations by Mrs. Haight, Keeler, Sask., Margaret Hanson and Mr. Joyce; songs by Mrs. R. Stephenson.

Rev. H. Joyce, who presided, then introduced Mrs. Haight, a representative from the executive of the W.G.G.A. who in a very interesting and able address, outlined the program of reforms which the women of Saskatchewan had banded themselves together to secure. These reforms included the federal franchise. "We have got this in part," the speaker said, "if we have a husband, father, brother or son in the war, we may vote, but not otherwise. This works out very unfairly in many cases where the good citizenship of the lady concerned is undoubted. It seems inconsistent, too, with true democracy. We are an independent board," she said, "taking sides with no party. We wish to secure co-partnership of parents. Our children in Canada, in the eyes of the law, have but one parent. This old law enacted for the benefit of the Hudson's Bay servants who married squaws, should be changed at once. We women are not in the squaw class and we demand a right to the guardianship of our children."

In appealing for a bureau to supply information to mothers in the province she brought out the appalling fact that through carelessness, or ignorant handling of infants we had lost more children in Saskatchewan than soldiers killed in war from this province. Mrs. Haight contends that a certificate of health should be required before a marriage certificate could be issued. Detention homes for girls should be established. There is urgent need for reform of our prison laws. We should have an industrial farm for criminals, as in Manitoba and elsewhere. Consolidated schools were strongly favored by the organization, as well as the nationalization of public utilities, such as banks and railways. The English language should be compulsory in all of our schools. Arrangements should be made to provide warm meals for the children in the schools, the teacher to be present to supervise the children during the noon hour.

Mrs. Ellis, president of the local, moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Haight and the other performers, after which refreshments of a substantial nature were served. A number of cakes were auctioned off to the bachelors and others by Mrs. Kirkwood. There was a generous response at the collection, which, after defraying expenses, will be used for Red Cross and patriotic purposes. After an enjoyable and profitable evening the meeting broke up about eleven o'clock.

SHORT ENGINE COURSES

Short courses in internal combustion engines will be held at the University of Saskatchewan in January and February. The January course will begin on Monday the 7th, and will end

on Friday the 27th. This course will be limited to 50 students. The February course will begin Monday the 4th, and continue until Friday the 23rd. This course will be open to 75 students.

A large number of applications have been received for admission to these courses and further applications will be received as long as the list is open. Students who are desirous of attending should write to the Director of Agricultural Extension, by whom information will be cheerfully given.

The next Agricultural Societies' convention and provincial seed fair will be held at the college of agriculture, January 8 to 11. They will occupy the full four days, the plan being this year to give the first two days up to the society delegates for their own discussions, and the next two to give the delegates the benefit of a number of demonstrations at the college, which will give them an intelligent idea of the best methods to follow in livestock and cereal production. These demonstrations have always proved popular, and will be brought up to date with any new material which may have accumulated within the year. The director would be glad to receive suggestions from agricultural society officials or members regarding the convention.

During the last two months personal letters have been addressed to presidents and secretaries of 120 agricultural societies with requests for personal replies. This letter referred to what seemed to be a lack of interest in agricultural society work generally, and was written with a view to giving all societies the encouragement they require in furthering the work which has been entrusted to them. Up to the present time only 30 replies have been received. Doubtless the pressure of harvest work has made it impossible for those presidents and secretaries, who are farmers, giving attention to this matter, but I hope to receive during the weeks to come letters from the remaining presidents and secretaries. In this connection I have a very interesting communication from I. J. Rushton, president of the Tantalton Agricultural Society, which is appended herewith.

Tantalton to the Fore

"Respecting the attendance of agricultural societies' secretaries at Regina fair, the small attendance must have been very disappointing to your department as it points to lack of interest, seeing that a good progressive secretary is the life of any society. I think the lack of interest shown proves to us what I have for some time realized, that many societies have difficulty in securing the right man for the position, and I believe many are appointed to the position without sufficient thought being given as to their suitability, consequently the cause suffers. Both presidents and secretaries must be public spirited, progressive, and have the future welfare of their district at heart, also be ready to sacrifice their time and give of their own personal means if necessary. In Tantalton's case, I believe we are fortunate in having the right man as secretary. He was one of the faithful ones at Regina, and I believe looks closely after the best interests of the society at all times. I believe you will find from your returns that our society has been taking full advantage of all the good things going."

"During the year we have held a seed grain and poultry show, short course, spring stallion and team show, sent a young lady to your girls' convention, five boys to Regina fair, held a Summer fair, and last but not least, our children's fair, each of which proved a decided success. I almost forgot to mention that we had four plowing matches in our agricultural district. We managed to work up interest in three Grain Growers' Associations to hold plowing matches. Two of these financed their own matches, the third one was fully financed by the municipality, who made the grant over to myself as president of agricultural society and a director of said G.O.A. The fourth match was held at Tantalton by the agricultural society. I have been pleased to see the large amount of interest shown in these events by the general public. The events of each succeeding year are better than the previous ones."