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Honorary President:	J. W. Scallion
President:	R. C. Henders
Vice-President:	J. S. Wood
Secretary-Treasurer:	R. McKenzie
	Virden
	Culross
	Oakville
	Winnipeg

AUSTRALIAN FARMERS' ORGANIZATION

The following letter from the secretary of the Farmers and Settlers' Association of New South Wales, dated from Sydney, addressed to R. McKenzie, secretary, will be of special interest as giving some idea of what the farmers of Australia are doing:

Dear Sir:—I am extremely pleased to have your letter of 10th ultimo, and to know that Mr. Wright, of Tombong, has called upon you and interested you in our organization. I have awaited the arrival of the printed matter you mention, and this came to hand yesterday, and I am sending you some of our printed matter that will supplement my letter. Further details on any particular aspect of our organization I will be very glad to furnish.

As you will note, we are an incorporated association under the non-trading clauses of our Companies Act. We have a fairly comprehensive memorandum of association that will cover all organizing activities, but recent events in our legislation will probably compel our attention to the marketing of our produce, and we will appreciate any further literature in connection with your trading developments. I am now giving special attention to your prospectus of The Grain Growers' Grain Co. Ltd., as this seems exactly on the lines we are contemplating.

Dairymen Organized

Our butter industry is well organized, and each dairying centre has its co-operative society and factory. Whilst the dairy farmer, as a unit, is notoriously the most difficult of all producers to organize, the directors of the societies and the factory managers have control of the industry and have formed a combination, the head of which is the Coastal Farmers' Co-operative Society. This society contemplates establishing its own agency in London, so as to control its own distribution.

The South Australian Farmers' Co-operative Union is launching out in fairly wide lines, but I think with rather too much speculative tendency. I will try and obtain their articles of association, as they may interest you. I have had a call recently from a representative of the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Associations Ltd., and you will see by their prospectus that they contemplate business in Canada. Major Norton, their representative, was formerly commercial agent in England for South Australia, and he impressed me as having a wide knowledge of marketing conditions and the elimination of unnecessary middlemen as between the producer and consumer. I would recommend you to open communication with Major Norton at their Bristol office.

Now, as regards our organization: We celebrated our twenty-first birthday at our last annual conference. From very small beginnings we have steadily progressed, and now have just over 400 branches throughout New South Wales. Our branches range from ten members as a minimum up to about 150. Monthly meetings are generally held, and any matters affecting the district interest are considered and discussed. The feature of our association is the annual conference, which is held in Sydney in the month of July. You will note our annual conference report, and its perusal will perhaps convey the best idea of the range of our discussions.

Seeking Representation

The present special activity of the association is being directed to secure direct representation of producers in our legislature, as it is mainly owing to the want of practical knowledge on the part of our legislators that our principal hardships and difficulties are due. Our present government is in the hands of the industrial unions, and

their direct aim is to nationalize the means of production, distribution and exchange, to eliminate freehold and to have state control of all utilities.

Our railways are state owned, and altho vested in commissioners who are supposed to be free from political control, the labor unions have an almost complete ascendancy, and the producers get a scant consideration and no satisfaction.

A Protectionist Country

The Commonwealth fiscal policy is Protection, and I can gather from a glance thru your president's address at your convention that we will at least have his sympathy. As regards the feeling among Australian producers the position is decidedly "mixed," and it will probably surprise you to learn that the majority support the Protectionist policy. We are, however, evidently going thru our "period of evolution" consequent on the federation of our states, and the administration of the policy being in hands distinctly hostile to the producers. This is, however, too big a subject to deal with in a general letter.

You mentioned you were sending a copy of The Guide. This unfortunately has not come to hand. I would be glad if you would send us a further copy. I have requested the manager of our official newspaper, The Land, to include you on his complimentary list, and this he is very pleased to do.

I note the catalog issued by The G.G.G. Co., and find it very interesting, and I think if our farmers had the opportunity of securing their goods and machinery at similar prices they would be greatly benefited.

Our principal machinery firms are Massey-Harris Co. and the International Harvester Co., of New York. We have a few local manufacturers, and some combined effort by co-operation among farmers is sadly needed to counteract the octopus grip of our combines and manufacturers.

Re agricultural credit system, we have the outline of a good scheme in our Advance to Settlers' Act, which is controlled by the commissioners of the Government Savings Bank. I will include with the printed matter the acts of parliament connected therewith. The Closer Settlement Promotion Act may not be so applicable to your conditions, but this act is conceived in the most liberal spirit, and it is a distinct misfortune to New South Wales that its administration is in hostile hands. I will also include with the printed matter some of our statistical reports that will give you a good idea of our production.

Want Elevators

One of our great disabilities is our obsolete system of marketing our wheat in bags, and we are moving strongly to have your elevator system inaugurated, and any literature or legislation in connection with your system of handling and transporting and marketing of grain will be much appreciated.

We are now busy preparing for our annual conference, which will open on July 12. I will be very pleased to hear further from you, and with best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

P. I. CAMPBELL,
General Secretary.

JOINT PICNIC

The Grain Growers of Grund and Fram held a joint meeting in Memir school, Monday afternoon, July 5. Among the speakers were M. McCuish, the association's organizer; Miss Christopherson, and Mrs. Johnston. Mr. McCuish was the first speaker and reviewed the work done by the Grain Growers during the past twelve years, stating that the undertakings of the Grain Growers were sometimes slow thru not having all the farmers in the

organization and urged the members present to do their part in getting every farmer in the district interested in the movement by joining one of the local branches. Mr. McCuish also gave an outline of the general policy of the organized farmers on the open market and the tariff in general, as well as the co-operative business that many of our branches are now engaged in. He explained that co-operative selling of farm products was yet in its infancy and any assistance the farmers got along that line had to originate among themselves. A start had been made thru the Central Farmers' Market, of Winnipeg, and if that market was to succeed and extend its usefulness it was up to the farmers themselves to subscribe to the market stock and ship their produce to the market prepared in such a way that it would command the highest price. Mrs. Johnston, who is a firm believer in co-operation, advocated the forming of a Women Grain Grower's Auxiliary—part of their duties being to encourage more interest in the poultry business, stamping each egg put on the market. Miss Christopherson, of Grund, addressed the gathering on the duties of the Grain Growers' Auxiliaries, and asked to have a meeting called of the ladies in the two districts (Grund and Fram) for the purpose of organizing a Women Grain Growers' Auxiliary. T. Johnston, secretary of Fram G.G.A., and Fred Joel also spoke in favor of the activities of the G.G.A. work in their two districts.

MCUISH AT SOMERSET

M. McCuish, organizer for the association, visited the Somerset district on July 3 and 4, and while here made arrangements to hold a re-organization meeting in the Hall over the Union Bank, on July 10. Owing to the rain on Saturday noon there was not as large a turnout as was hoped for. R. Lemieux was in the chair. After making a few remarks about the cause of failure of the Somerset Branch he called on Mr. McCuish to address the gathering. In the course of his remarks he dealt with many of the public questions of great importance to the farmers. Mr. McCuish was firm in condemning the protective tariff as robbery, legalized by our government for the benefit of a few manufacturers. The speaker told of times when we failed—in some of the cases the reason was that the bulk of the farmers did not hold together in the making of a strong association. The co-operative undertakings of the Grain Growers were explained as well as the objects of the Central Farmers' Market. R. Lemieux was elected president, and J. B. Foster, secretary pro-tem. The next meeting will be held on July 27, when a full complement of officers will be elected.

BINSCARTH MEETING

A very limited number of members of the above body formed the audience which, with Bert Griffiths, president, in the chair, listened nevertheless with deep interest and appreciation on Saturday evening to addresses by Frank Simpson, Shoal Lake, and R. McKenzie, Winnipeg, director and secretary-treasurer of the parent association. These gentlemen are touring the district in the interests of the association, having covered some 300 miles by auto since the previous Tuesday. It is regrettable that the local executive allowed a nominal expenditure in advertising to stand in the way of getting an audience of such number as would remove the reproach often levelled at farmers of apathy to their own interests, besides being a poor compliment to speakers of such known calibre.

Mr. Simpson, after referring to the towns already visited, at which they had attendances of upwards of 150, went on to speak of the dealings of local branches in staple commodities. The savings effected by these had been

felt—a dollar was a dollar—but their chief effect was educational, and a greater membership was necessary for really effective action. They had plenty of gratuitous advice in this time of stress, to produce more, but they must see to it that they received a correspondingly extra benefit. In the past 10 or 12 years they had learnt a good deal in the matter of conducting their own business. With the object of bringing the actual consumer in touch with the producer, what was called a farmers' market had been established in Winnipeg. The Grain Growers' Association had taken hold of it, but there was still room for improvement. It was not advertised and Winnipeg people did not know of its existence. Judging from the produce exhibited, he himself was of the opinion that many farmers looked upon it as a dumping ground for stuff they could not dispose of elsewhere. Was it any wonder that poor prices obtained there? He instanced "promiscuous" eggs at 16 cents a dozen and the choice article bringing 30 cents. People were willing to pay for the best when they could obtain it. Farmers were not entirely free from blame. In the past any old thing in the way of butter and eggs had been good enough for the local storekeeper, but the best only should be sent where cash was expected.

Large buyers purchased heavily when prices were low (one Winnipeg firm alone having on hand five million pounds of meat) and by means of cold storage took advantage of a rise in prices. This method of business was practicable to farmers by co-operation.

They might also take a leaf out of the capitalists' book in looking after legislation, by which means they secured the advantages they possessed. Farmers should train themselves to look after their own business.

Mr. McKenzie eulogized the community spirit of the association, in which there was a force that was going to revolutionize present business methods. Another feature was the training of farmers for public business. They were allowing others to impose on them economic burdens. The farmers made millionaires and then sent them to parliament to protect those millions, and until farmers would discharge their duties as responsible citizens they could not look to have things as they should be. Agriculturists had been taught the common notion that it was their business to raise crops and the other fellows' to market them. He contended that bringing the grain to the elevator was merely one stage in its production. They should endeavor by co-operation to market it to the miller. The question of farm credits was getting to be a live one. Our economic system was as hard on the business man as on the farmer. The banks gathered all the surplus earnings of the community into their hands, and granted credit to the wholesalers. These in their turn supplied the retailers at 30, 60 or 90 days, adding interest and a liberal allowance to cover probable losses. The retailers, as business men, must again follow this procedure with their customers. But suppose the credit, instead of being given to the man at the top, were given to the man at the other end. There were two forms of capital—fixed capital and working capital. The fixed capital of a farmer was too often secured by a mortgage to a loan company, while his working capital consisted of the amount of credit he could secure from the local merchant.

In other countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, long term loans were guaranteed by government bonds. In these circumstances the fact that he had given a mortgage did not lower a farmer's credit at the bank, as it did by our system under which heavy payments always came at the commencement and the term was too short.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the speakers who were warmly applauded, and the meeting closed with the National Anthem.—(Reported by The Binscarth Express).

DIRECTORS:

Peter Wright	Myrtle
J. L. Brown	Pilot Mound
P. D. McArthur	Longburn
Frank Simpson	Shoal Lake
W. H. English	Harding
R. J. Avison	Gilbert Plains