

RUSSELL RESOLUTIONS

A meeting of the Russell branch was held in the Maccabell Hall on Tuesday, January 25, with W. H. McKay, president, in the chair.

J. H. Farthing, on behalf of the delegates presented a report in regard to the Brandon convention. The following resolutions were also passed:—

Resolved: "This meeting reaffirms its stand as outlined in the resolution adopted at the meeting held on December 12, 1908, and again expresses the desire that the Executive of the Central Association do again approach the railway company, and if necessary carry the matter to the railway commission and that copies of this and the resolution of December 12, 1908, be sent to Association interested with a view to securing their co-operation."

This resolution refers to the increase of grain freight rates from the stations of Birtle, Foxwarren, Binacarth, Millwood, Harrowby and Russell.

Resolved: "That this Association endorses the Bill of Amendments to the 'Grist Mills Act' as prepared by the executive, and trusts that it will use its best endeavors to secure the passage into law of those amendments."

Resolved: "That the case of the crossing of the railway on sec. 15-20-22, and the fencing of the right of way submitted by Mr. Jno. Sinclair, be sent to the Executive, with the endorsement of this association of the resolution of the Franklin Association as adopted at Convention."

Resolved: "That the attention of the C. N. Railway Company be called to the dangerous state of the first crossing west of Silverton, between townships 20 and 21, range 27, where cutters are constantly upset in taking the crossing, owing to the acute angle of the road over the track, and the wide opening between rails and plank, and request the Executive to, if possible, secure a remedy."

At the close of the meeting Professor Mitchell, of the Manitoba Agricultural College, gave an address on dairying.

MR. CRERAR AT CARMAN

On Tuesday afternoon, January 25, a meeting of the grain growers of Carman district was held to consider the question of government owned elevators, and to hold a public discussion of the proposition now before the Provincial Government. T. H. Crerar, President of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, was present and presented the case in all its bearings. He began by reviewing the struggles of the farmers of this Province against elevator monopolies. One of the great benefits to be derived from government owned elevators would be the securing of a sample market at Winnipeg, where wheat will be tested and vouched for and the actual wheat bought and sold. The elevators will under control of an independent commission, be kept clear of party influence, the members of which may only be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. Should complaints arise from farmers they will be lodged with the grain growers' associations who will take them before the commission. The operation of the elevators will not be a charge upon the country, but their operation shall pay for the cost of maintenance and provide a sinking fund to meet the original outlay. The Government will guarantee the sample and the identity of the wheat sold, and this will ensure better prices to the farmer as well as the milling value of the wheat to the purchaser. Old country buyers will not buy wheat on present elevator samples, but under the new system, all the millers of the world would compete on an even basis for our wheat. Grain would be weighed in car at the shipping point, and the railways would have to stand for the weight at the other end. Government operated elevators would mean the establishment of power plant mills between Winnipeg and Fort William. Winnipeg would have a sample market, and wheat would be shipped to all parts and sold on sample. The prosperity of the west depends on agriculture, and anything that retards it affects all other callings. The men on the commission will be selected not on account of their politics or partyism, but on their fitness for the position, and the men in the elevators will be amply qualified for the work. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Crerar answered several

questions in regard to the subject of government owned elevators.

DISCUSSED GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

We held a meeting of the Grain Growers' Association in Alexander on January 21, and it was the most encouraging meeting that we have ever had.

Messrs. Moffat and Kerr of Souris were present. Mr. Kerr dealt with the plan as submitted to the government for the purpose of creating a system of public elevators and management of the same.

The subject brought forth considerable discussion. This, rather than the wish to have some of the details made clear, than objection to the general idea. Mr. Kerr deserves much credit for the grasp that he has of the subject, and his manner of reasoning.

Mr. Moffat took up the general work of the association in the past and emphasized very strongly the need of a farmers' organization. Nothing can be a greater proof of the benefit of this meeting than the willingness of many to put up their dollar for membership.

The following resolutions were passed:— Moved by John Grierson, and seconded by Fred. Dunn:—"That this association wish to express their approval of the plans for public elevators as submitted to the government." Carried.

Moved by R. S. Scholes, and seconded by John McManes:—"That a vote of thanks be tendered to Messrs. Moffat and Kerr for the able manner in which they dealt with the subjects before the meeting." Carried.

EDWARD GRIERSON, Sec.-treas.

LENORE'S ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING

One of the best representative meetings of farmers held in Lenore for some time turned out to hear T. N. Knowles, one of the directors of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. The chair was taken by President Hill. The first speaker was Mr. A. Goodwin of Oak Lake, who after a few introductory remarks on the marketing of grain introduced the speaker. Mr. Knowles on rising, at once convinced us that his information was not taken from a book, but from experience from the time he used to punch a yoke of bulls on a three days' trip with a load of 30c. wheat up to the present time. He charged the railways with first fostering the monopolies and still nursing them. He traced the conditions which led up to the Grain Act. He ridiculed the idea of a beardless boy who never grew a bushel of wheat, coming out to a farmer who has been growing it for a score of years to tell him what his wheat would grade; what it weighed, and what it was worth. The conference at Ottawa before Sir Richard was also dwelt upon. He explained the benefits that would accrue from a sample market in Winnipeg. The expulsion of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. from the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange was also gone into.

This big gathering of farmers was of one opinion that the government should own and operate the elevators. Mr. Knowles' remarks were interspersed with some amusing stories which kept his hearers in the best of humor and the Emerson farmer will always be a very welcome visitor to Lenore.

W. J. DONOHUE.

ONE SUCCESS AFTER ANOTHER

F. W. Kerr, the recently elected director for Southwestern Manitoba, has been holding a successful series of meetings in his district, assisted by J. G. Moffat. On the evening of January 31, they organized a new branch of the association at Antler. There was a splendid attendance and twenty-seven farmers joined while as many more promised to become members. Prior to this meeting, Messrs. Kerr and Moffat attended a banquet given by the Sinclair Association and which was a most enthusiastic gathering. Mr. Moffat discussed the benefits of organization while Mr. Kerr impressed on the gathering the necessity for a change in present conditions. Mr. Kerr stated that he found that where once the wrong opinions and misunderstandings of some of the grain growers were set right, the principle of the proposed system of government elevators received a great advance.

On January 27, Mr. Kerr attended a concert and social of the Grain Growers held at Medora, and delivered an address there.

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