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FARMERS WILL EXTEND THEIR ORGANIZATION

National Association Their Next Move—Protest
Against Higher Tariff—Important Convention
Resolutions

The annual convention of the agricultural societies of Saskatchewan met in Trades Hall here on Wednesday last. Mr. Bracken, superintendent of fairs and institutions spoke on the object of the convention which was to make more effective the work of the agricultural societies and co-operation in arranging a program of events satisfactory both to the people and the department of agriculture.

In reviewing the work of organization, Mr. Bracken cited that at the beginning of the year there were 48 societies and now there were 59. Fifty-one exhibitions were held last season. 25 live stock judging competitions were held.

Another branch of work was the co-operative experiments, reports of which had not yet been received. The number of seed experiments that had been carried out was as follows: fall wheat 26; clovers 25; grasses 26; corn 28; rape 15; alfalfa 26. Twenty-eight societies had taken up competitions in fields of standing grain, and there were 238 entries in respect of wheat. Two societies had competitions in oats, with eight entries. Perhaps the most important matter undertaken by societies concerned the seed fairs, 21 having been held last winter and before the present winter is over 41 will have taken place. Last year approximately \$33,000 was paid in prizes by agricultural societies, excluding the sums devoted to sports. Up to the present time the farmers' institute work had not been as satisfactory as it might have been, but he believed that with more co-operation between officers of agricultural societies and the officers of the department it could be made a very much more valuable feature than it had been. Of about 185 farmers' institute meetings held in the province, the societies supplied speakers for 88, the department supplied speakers for 44 and 44 were held independent of the societies. On the whole the work had been very satisfactory to the department. Mr. Bracken's two concluding suggestions were: (1) keep the purely agricultural features of the exhibition prominent, letting no other attraction of any character overshadow them; (2) develop the institute department.

The reports of the various associations were taken up and the delegates covered the operations of their respective societies. These reports showed that the societies are in a prosperous condition and are discharging their functions in a very satisfactory manner.

Evening Sitting
At the evening session, Mayor Smith tendered an address of welcome. His worship regarded the convention of farmers amongst the most important gatherings of the province. He called attention to the generous expenditure made by the city in exhibition buildings.

Ald. Sinton, president of the Saskatchewan Stock Breeders' association dealt with the relations of the societies and the live stock interests. The speaker advocated mixed farming and he thought that the agricultural societies should take up the question of the most suitable breeds of cattle. The associations have been a big factor in the past in aiding stock breeding and the co-operation of the two branches of agriculture is bound to have successful mutual results.

Insects
T. N. Willing of the department of agriculture took up the insect pests and illustrated with lanterns. The Hessian fly had been working in parts of the country between the Manitoba boundary and Moose Jaw. Gophers are becoming plentiful in districts, but in the cultivated areas are gradually being exterminated. The poison process in the spring is the best means to deal with their destruction. One of the greatest pests is the common house fly which is responsible for much of the typhoid in the country. They breed around closets and in manure. One pound of the latter was found to contain 1,200 maggots of this fly. Turning to birds Mr. Willing advocated letting the common hawk exist, as they destroy much vermin. One nuisance is the English sparrow which has come into this country within the last fifty years and is increasing rapidly, and fast becoming a pest and it may be necessary to take steps to exterminate them. Mr. Willing appealed to the farmers to co-operate with the department in its work. In doing this there would be better results.

Diversified Farming
Mr. Motherwell addressed the convention on diversified farming. He did not mean mixed farming as applied to grain and stock raising. He believes that only certain districts are adapted to stock raising, such as the country in the northern part of the province. However, on the prairie coarse grain can be grown much more successfully than wheat year in and year out. Farm land will not play out for it is found that the land in Regina district is better than ever after twenty-five years' use. The line he has seen some splendid record

tion at a point central to this province, at which farmers may have their seed tested free of charge.

Terminal Elevators
Moved by Mr. Kidd, seconded by Mr. Jaxon, that:

"In the opinion of this meeting the conditions of the grain trade in western Canada demand that the elevators, both terminal and local, should be under direct public control and operation, that the producer may be enabled to reap the just reward of his labor, and to the great good of the community."

An amendment was moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, that owing to the importance of this matter the question be left over for the present. The amendment carried.

Seed Grain

In resuming in the afternoon, the resolutions prepared by the resolution committee not previously dealt with were taken up, the first being one bearing on the question of seed grain, which was as follows:

Moved by Mr. Jaxon, seconded by Mr. Mitchell and carried:

"Whereas, it is highly desirable as a means towards maintaining the high reputation which has justly been attained by our province for the quality of the cereals that our farmers use the best possible seed and should therefore be assisted to this end in cases where the farmer absolutely needs such assistance in good faith and through temporary inability to otherwise obtain sufficient seed of a desirable quality."

"And whereas it would be extremely difficult for the provincial agricultural department to acquire in all cases that detailed information which would protect the public treasury from mis-use of the assistance tendered;

"And whereas it is also evident that such protection can be provided by legislation which shall place the responsibility of recommendation upon the agricultural society (where such a body exists) and the burden of possible financial loss upon the taxing district (where such a body exists) in which is located the land for which the seed grain is required, and which shall provide that the price of the grain be a charge upon the land for which the grain is obtained, the same to be collected as a tax during a suitable term of years."

"Be it therefore resolved that this convention hereby recommend to the government of the province that at the coming session of the provincial legislature, legislation be introduced for the effecting of the above specified end within the limitations suggested."

Government Subsidy
Moved by Mr. Dynes, seconded by Mr. Craig, and carried:

"Whereas it is the desire of many agricultural societies connected with this convention to hold seed grain fairs early in the coming year;

"And whereas it will in many cases work hardship or embarrassment if the payment of the government subsidy toward such fairs shall be delayed until after the return of next year's annual crop;

"Be it therefore resolved that this convention hereby requests the government of the province of Saskatchewan to arrange for the payment of subsidies referred to immediately upon the filing with the department of agriculture of the usual declaration regarding such fairs by the secretary of the society holding the same."

Institute Meetings
Moved by A. W. Thompson, seconded by Jas. Ritchie, and carried:

"Whereas, the holding of farmers' institute meetings is a very efficient and important means toward the spread of exact and scientific knowledge of agriculture, and towards keeping farmers in active touch with those progressive methods which are being developed by modern investigation and which must not be neglected if our province is to be held in that prominent position, which with proper management, should result from the natural richness of the soil;

"Be it therefore resolved that this convention recommend to the government of the province of Saskatchewan that the maximum number of the institute meetings subsidized by the provincial government shall be increased from two to four annually."

Provincial Fair
The matter of a provincial fair was brought up on resolution, but was left over for the present, the opinion being that the government should not promote a provincial fair.

For Low Tariff
Moved by Mr. Jaxon, seconded by Mr. Nichols, and carried:

"Whereas it is notorious that the manufacturing interests of Eastern Canada are taking steps to secure legislation whereby they will be enabled to increase the already exorbitant prices which those interests are exacting from the consuming community, especially the farmers of the west;

"Be it therefore resolved that this convention places on record its severe condemnation of any such special legislation as that which is thus reported as about to be introduced."

Transportation
Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Osler, and carried:

"That as great financial loss has been experienced year by year, by the farmers of this province on account of the failure of the railway transportation to meet the public needs, especially in grain, coal and cattle."

"This convention urges that in view

of the enormous public assistance given to railways, the parliament of Canada take active steps to exercise some more direct public control of railway transportation than has hitherto been the case."

Farmers' National Association
One of the most important steps taken by the convention was the adoption of the resolution moved by Mr. Nichol, seconded by Mr. Mitchell.

"Whereas farmers are producers of the necessities of life and deserve a suitable reward for their labors, and whereas they have no control over the prices they receive for their produce, or the prices they pay for what they purchase;

"And whereas, under present conditions, the middlemen and transportation companies obtain an undue share of the wealth produced by the farmer;

"And whereas, the agricultural community have not that influence and power in the public life of the country that its importance demands, and that the best interests of the country require;

"Therefore be it resolved that it is essential in the best interests to the farmers of Canada that a national farmers association embracing the whole country be organized at the earliest possible moment so as to protect and advance the interests of agriculture on all legitimate lines and this convention of agricultural societies, strongly recommends the formation of such organization, and would impress upon the attention of all local and provincial agricultural associations the necessity of taking definite steps to accomplish such an object."

The mover stated that the association would be to the farmers what the Canadian Manufacturers' association was to the capitalists of Canada.

Mr. Jaxon supported this warmly, and urged the farmers to organize along their own lines for mutual protection.

Hudson's Bay Port
A very important resolution regarding the extension of Manitoba's boundaries to the Hudson's Bay was moved by Mr. Jaxon, but was unfortunately defeated. It was as follows:

"Whereas the boundaries of Manitoba will be so extended as to invest that province with a monopoly of the shore and seaports of Hudson's Bay and of the routes of access thereto, with the result that the producers residing in Manitoba's sister provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and Athabasca will be shut out from exercising their rightful share of influence and control over what is conceded to be the most direct and economical channel of communication and transport between these provinces and the outside world, therefore, this convention of representatives of the province of Saskatchewan places itself on record as being distinctly opposed to any legislation which shall shut out any of these sister provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Athabasca and Manitoba from their rightful share of control and influence over the chief natural highway of commerce for the products of the northwest at large."

Mr. Nichol opposed the motion and Mr. Ketchen thought that it favored of politics. Mr. Green considered that the provincial government should deal with this matter, and he was of the impression that they have taken it up at Ottawa. The motion lost by 20 votes to 11.

Other Motions
Resolved that the act regarding agricultural societies be amended to permit of the payment of a grant of money paid out in prizes by agricultural societies for a seed judging competition.

"Resolved that this convention places on record its deep sense of appreciation of the courtesy and conscientious care which has been displayed and exercised in connection with this meeting of the agricultural societies of the province by the officers and members of the provincial department of agriculture, and that the same recognition is hereby extended to the citizens of Regina, and its public spirited mayor, J. W. Smith."

Mr. Millar's Address
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ing the news, proved too much for her and she passed away early Thursday morning. The remains of the father and daughter were interred in the Wapella cemetery on Saturday, a large number of sorrowing friends following the funeral cortege to the grave.

Mr. Dagger, of Regina, government telephone expert, was in town last week looking up the telephone situation with a view to taking over the local line and establishing the first government telephone system in the province. The Wapella company is the only local concern operating in Saskatchewan and if negotiations, as outlined by Mr. Dagger, are completed, the system will be taken over and a rural system established connecting Wapella with all districts surrounding it. The plans of the surrounding townships are now being gone over by the government expert and we hope to see the scheme carried through.

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