

Official Minutes of Brandon Convention

The convention opened at 10.30 a.m., January 24, with R. C. Henders, acting president, in the chair. The first order of business was an address of welcome by John Fleming, Mayor of the city of Brandon, to whom the president made a reply on behalf of the convention.

The president then presented his annual address.

The report of the directors was presented by J. S. Woods.

J. S. Woods—W. J. Fortune—

That the directors' report be adopted.

Messrs. C. Burdette, of Foxwarren; D. D. McArthur, of Laurier; W. H. Bewell, of Rosser, and J. A. Fortune, of Gilbert Plains, spoke to the motion for adopting the report. The motion carried.

J. S. Woods—C. Burdette—

That the privileges of the convention be extended to the fraternal delegates from the other associations and to the representatives of the press. Carried. Mr. Batho, of the Nor' West Farmer, accepted the privileges on behalf of the press, and Mr. Hawkes, representative delegate from Saskatchewan, on behalf of the fraternal delegates.

The president announced that inasmuch as some of the delegates from Saskatchewan and Alberta have not yet reached the city a place would be given them on the program tomorrow afternoon.

The auditors' report was presented by Mr. Middleton. After some discussion, in which explanations were given on the expenditures in the case of Marples vs. Henry by Secretary McKenzie, W. Cherry, of Birtle, and G. H. Mahood, of Birtle, and the ex-president, D. W. McCuaig, the motion of adopting the auditors' report was carried.

HOURS OF SESSIONS

W. H. Bewell—O. Wright—

That the sessions of this convention be from 9.30 to 12 a.m.; from 2 to 6 p.m., and from 8 p.m. to the hour of adjournment. Carried.

On motion the convention adjourned for lunch.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The minutes of the morning session were read by the secretary, and on motion of A. J. Fortune and W. H. Dayton, were adopted as read.

The secretary, R. McKenzie, read his annual report, and also a letter from the Free Trade Union of Great Britain congratulating the Grain Growers' Association on the memorial which they presented to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the tariff at Brandon last July.

R. McKenzie—O. Wright—

That the report of the secretary be adopted by the convention.

OTTAWA DELEGATION

Mr. Peter Wright, of Myrtle, presented the report of the Ottawa delegation which waited on the government and presented memorials on the terminal elevators, amendments to the Railway Act, Chilled Meat proposition and a reduction in the customs duties.

D. W. McCuaig, A. J. Fortune, J. M. Brown, Mr. McGregor, T. W. Knowles, J. W. McConnell, O. Wright and R. McKenzie spoke to the report, after which it was adopted on motion of Peter Wright and T. Drayson.

OFFICERS THANKED

C. Burdette—E. G. Brooks—

That a hearty vote of thanks of this convention be tendered to those who took part in presenting the memorials at Ottawa by the farmers' delegation.

COAL OIL COMMITTEE

D. Mair, of Hamiota, gave a verbal report on behalf of the committee appointed at last convention to examine into the gasoline and coal oil situation. F. Simpson—Peter Wright—

That the committee be continued with two more members added. Lost.

Moved in amendment, D. Mair—W. White—

That the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed to take up the same work.

The amendment carried.

F. Simpson, of Shoal Lake; W. H. Johnston, Chater; J. E. M. Banting, Banting, were appointed a committee to examine into the situation as to coal oil and gasoline.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

P. D. McArthur reported for the committee appointed at the last convention to suggest amendments to the constitution. He reported that the committee did not have a meeting to take any action and that he had reported to the secretary of the central association some time ago requesting that the executive relieve them and that the executive bring in a report to the convention suggesting amendments to the constitution.

The secretary, R. McKenzie, for the executive committee, presented a draft report which was discussed clause by clause, and on motion a committee of seven, to be selected by each director appointing one in his own district, were appointed to consider the amendments submitted by the executive and report at Thursday morning's session.

The following committee was appointed by the directors: Wm. Keefer, Ashville; F. Simpson, Shoal Lake; J. L. Brown, Pilot Mound; H. Umphrey, Miami; T. J. McGill, Carroll.

TUESDAY EVENING'S SESSION

The evening session commenced with an address by F. E. Coulter on the principle of the Initiative and Referendum, illustrating its operation and its work in Oregon and Switzerland, and other places.

At the close of Mr. Coulter's address, F. J. McGill moved, and John Kennedy seconded the following resolution:

We the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba, in convention assembled, having at the last annual convention endorsed the principle of Direct Legislation, and wishing to see the Initiative, Referendum and Recall in operation as speedily as possible, hereby instruct our executive to join with the representatives of the Direct Legislation League in memorializing the Manitoba government to enact Direct Legislation during this first session. Carried.

Mr. J. F. Dixon then delivered an address on the Single Tax.

A vote of thanks was then tendered the speakers, and the meeting adjourned.

WEDNESDAY MORNING'S SESSION

Minutes of Tuesday afternoon's meeting read and adopted on motion of O. Wright, Laveham, and W. H. Johnston, Chater.

Minutes of evening meeting read and adopted on motion of A. Playfair and A. McQuay.

HUDSON'S BAY RAILWAY

J. S. Woods—P. D. McArthur—

Whereas the Dominion government is committed to the construction of a railway to Hudson's Bay, and,

Whereas this is essentially a Western question, principally for the movement

of Western products, and it is to be paid for from the proceeds of Western lands, and is the last remaining outlet free from corporate control,

Therefore, be it resolved that, in the opinion of this convention of Manitoba Grain Growers, it is essential to the best interests of the Western Provinces, that the said road should be built and owned by the government and should be operated by an independent commission for the benefit of the people.

Messrs. Jas. Bower, of Alberta; T. W. Knowles, of Emerson; Jas. Stewart, of LaRiviere; W. Wilson, of Pilot Mound, spoke to the motion to considerable length, and on being put to the convention it was carried unanimously by a standing vote.

PRESIDENT ELECTED

The president then announced that according to arrangements of the board of directors the election of president and vice-president for the ensuing year would then take place.

D. W. McConnell, of Hamiota, nominated Mr. R. C. Henders for president. No other nominations being presented, E. W. McConnell, of Hamiota, seconded by W. J. Boughen, of Valley River, moved that nominations for president be closed.

VICE-PRESIDENT ELECTED

On nominations for vice-president being called, O. Wright nominated J. S. Wood, of Oakville, as vice-president. No other nominations being made, it was moved by C. E. Banting, of Banting, seconded by W. H. Johnston, of Chater, that nominations for vice-president now close.

The president placed J. S. Wood's name before the convention as vice-president and it was carried unanimously.

After some announcements the meeting adjourned.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON'S SESSION

The minutes of the forenoon session were read and adopted.

NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

The following nominations for directors were then made:

District No. 1—Peter Wright.

District No. 2—R. M. Wilson.

District No. 3—F. W. Kerr, Souris; D. D. McArthur, Laurier; T. J. McGill, Carroll; J. G. Moffatt, Souris; Chris. Stinson, Hargrave. Mr. Kerr expressed his desire to withdraw, and his name was removed from the list of nominations.

District No. 4—C. Burdette, Foxwarren; A. D. McConnell, Hamiota; F. Simpson, Shoal Lake; Wm. Rows, Blairis, were nominated. Mr. A. D. McConnell withdrew his name from the nominations.

District No. 5—Thos. Zachary, Austin; P. D. McArthur, Longburn; W. H. Bewell, Rosser; Thos. Drayson, Neepawa.

District No. 6—R. J. Avison, Gilbert Plains.

Messrs. Peter Wright, R. M. Wilson and R. J. Avison were declared by the president as being elected by acclamation, and each addressed the convention, thanking the delegates for the confidence reposed in them.

D. W. McCuaig, chairman of the elevator commission, then addressed the convention and answered questions in reference to the operation of the government system of elevators in Manitoba.

At the conclusion of Mr. McCuaig's address a motion was passed expressing confidence in the Manitoba Elevator Commission.

Chris. Fahrni—J. E. Thaker—

That the executive be instructed to bring to the notice of the proper authorities the necessity of establishing a union stock yard in the Winnipeg railway yards so that the Western farmers be afforded the same privileges at Winnipeg as are given the Eastern cattle shippers in the Eastern market in the matter of watering and feeding stock, to permit stock being brought to normal conditions before sale. Carried.

The president appointed Peter McDonald, Virden; J. L. Brown, Pilot Mound; J. B. Robson, Dauphin; E. J. Fream, Inaifail; R. M. Cherry, Birtle; C. Robson, Berton, as scrutineers to distribute ballots. Ballots were then taken for the election of directors.

The convention then adjourned.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on motion of M. Taylor, Carroll, and S. L. Henry, Stockton.

DIRECTORS ELECTED

The scrutineers appointed to count ballots for directors reported C. Burdette, District No. 4; W. H. Bewell, Rosser, District No. 5; D. D. McArthur, Laurier, District No. 3, duly elected.

E. A. Partridge outlined his scheme for the building of the Hudson's Bay Railway.

Peter Wright—J. Stewart—

That the Grain Growers of Manitoba, in convention assembled, do hereby tender to the city of Brandon their thanks for and appreciation of the splendid program provided for their entertainment last night and that the same be conveyed to all who took part in that program. Carried.

COAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Bastard, of Pierson, read the report of the commission on coal, which was adopted on motion of W. H. Johnston—R. Shaw and was as follows:

"Our committee report that the situation in regard to a combination of

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DIRECT LEGISLATION MEETINGS

Have You Heard F. J. DIXON?

F. J. Dixon, of Winnipeg, is now on a speaking tour for the Federation. No charge for speaker's services. Advertising matter sent free. The addresses are instructive, interesting, inspiring. The subject is a live one. If your local association wants to arrange a meeting, write to the address below for particulars. A dollar makes you a member, entitles you to free literature and helps along the cause.

MANITOBA FEDERATION FOR DIRECT LEGISLATION
229 CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WINNIPEG