

RECENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

SHOAL LAKE

President F. Simpson, in his opening address, emphasized the need for more members if we wished for greater results. The farmers are the backbone of any country and the Grain Growers' Association is comprised of the cream of the farmers. Agricultural districts ought to be represented in our legislative bodies by men of the agricultural profession.

Mr. Crerar, the lecturer, said in part:

"Farmers comprise seven tenths of the electors, and it is their own fault if things do not come their way. The distribution of cars as at present is entirely owing to the efforts made by the G.G.A. They have always had to struggle to keep the privilege alive. Grain men, elevator men, railways and bankers did all they could last spring to deprive farmers of this privilege. Mr. McKenzie, secretary of the association, by showing up the manner in which cars are allotted, made any changes in that direction impossible. Every farmer shipping oats by carload receives \$6.00 more for same owing to the action taken by the G.G.A. in convention. The organization secured by their united action \$5,000.00 for some of their members at Eli who suffered that loss by fire from a C.N.R. engine burning up hay. Another member received all costs and value of a car of wheat destroyed.

The Grain Growers' Guide is published in order to educate the farmers how best to dispose of their products. Manitoba has 30,000 farmers and but 5,000 of these are in the Grain Growers' organization. What great things could be done if the 30,000 were members. Banks, railways or legislatures could not refuse any request when made by them. Farmers could command the respect of all parties if all joined the association and stayed together.

What the association is now after is the Government ownership of interior as well as terminal elevators. They want to kill track buying of grain and have all bought on street at a difference of from 5c. upwards. Wheat at Liverpool last season averaged 8c. per bushel profit after paying all charges, meaning millions of dollars taken from the farmers. They are in favor of grain being sold on sample."

Mr. Crerar also showed the probabilities of grain being changed in terminals, and very much more high grade wheat going out than was taken in. That the elevators in the interior would cost the Government considerable less than the telephone system and would certainly be self-supporting.

Resolution by M. J. Templeton in sympathy with all the efforts made by the Grain Growers' Association, in all its endeavors, was seconded by Mr. T. Telford. A short address was given by both mover and seconder.

THE BEST YET AT SWAN LAKE

The meeting of the Grain Growers of Swan Lake held in the Bank Hall last month, was one of the best meetings ever held in Swan Lake. There was a good representative gathering from all over the district, and much interest was taken in the splendid address given by T. W. Knowles.

The speaker first outlined the rise and development of the Grain Growers Association. Only seven years ago a few farmers, not more than twenty-five in number, banded themselves together for protective purposes. To-day the Association has a membership of over 5,000 members, and it is expected that this number will be doubled before another year.

Before the Grain Growers' Association had started, a farmer could not ship a car of wheat, it having to go through the hands of the elevator men. After much

agitation the Association forced the Government to change the Grain Act, so that now a farmer has the same privileges of shipping his grain that the elevator men have. In the same way the Association agitated with the Railway Companies, until the freight on oats is reduced, saving at least \$6.00 on every car shipped.

The Grain Growers Association has also done much towards protecting the farmers from unjust treatment from the Railway Companies. Several instances were cited by Mr. Knowles where farmers could not get compensation for losses sustained till the Association took the matter up.

Mr. Knowles touched briefly on the Grain Growers Co. It started under adverse circumstances but to-day they were handling the bulk of the grain passing through Winnipeg. A sample market and Government ownership of elevators was what the farmers needed to-day. This is what the Grain Growers Association is agitating for.

A large number of new members were added to the Association at the close of the meeting.

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