MANITOBA SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. McKenzie, Secretary, Winnipeg, Man.

MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Honorary President:
J. W. Scallion - Virden
President:
R. C. Henders - Culross
Vice-President:
J. S. Wood - Oakville
Secretary-Treasurer:
R. McKenzie - Winnipeg
Directors:
Peter Wright, Myrtle; R. M. Wilson, Marringhurst; D. D. McArthur, Leader; C. Bardelle, Foxwarren; W. H. Revell, Roseer; R. J. Avison, Gilbert Plains.

Work of Past Winter

Now that the farmers are all busy seeding it is an opportune time for a review of the activities of the Grain Growers' movement in Manitoba during the season just closed. The only time in which a propaganda such as the Grain Growers' movement may be carried on effectively is during the comparatively dark winter months, and the experience of the last winter affords very great encouragement to those who are most interested in the success of the farmers' organization. While a few of our branches, usually owing to the indifference and apathy of the elected officers, have not been active, but have apparently gone to sleep, the larger number of them have taken a very active interest in the creation of public sentiment in favor of the farmers' movement and the procuring of legislation in the interest of the farming community. The most hopeful sign of progress is the large number of existing branches which have interested themselves in organization work. More new branches have been organized since the last annual convention at Brandon than in the same period during the past five years and this work of organization has been carried on almost altogether by the members of the organizations devoting their time towards starting other branches in their own neighborhood. We regard this as one of the most hopeful signs and one that augers well for the future of the organization. The most effective and permanent work is done, not by paid organizers, but by the people themselves and when our Grain Growers develop a spirit of self-reliance and self appreciation to the extent that they will depend upon themselves for the extending of the benefits of organization, it is good for the individual as well as for the community. The Grain Growers' movement is rapidly inculcating in the minds of our rural population the importance of their own calling, and the desirability of farmers taking a more active part in the administration of public affairs. Those farmers who have interested themselves in the promotion of the principles advocated by the Grain Growers are gradually becoming better men and more useful citizens.

Very many of the evils that exist in public life can only be corrected by the common people as represented in our rural communities making themselves felt in the direction of public affairs. The experience gained and the training given to the mind by men who have been active in organizing the farmers of Manitoba is fitting those men for more useful work and getting them into the habit of doing their own thinking and analysing the merits of measures and men. This applies to the rank and file to the same extent as to the officials of the associations. It may well be said that the branches of the Grain Growers Association are training schools fitting our farmers to take the place in public affairs which the importance of their calling entitles them to. One need only note the alacrity with which the farmer of today, as compared with the farmer of ten years ago, grasps the meaning of economic and other questions brought to his attention, to at once see the development of his mind.

It is also noticeable that men with ulterior motives cannot make the same inroad on the confidence of our present day farmer as they have done in former times. So that the most valuable acquisition to the country through the propaganda of the Grain Growers' movement is not the material or financial gain, which is represented, but the mental equipment with which it provides the farmer to do his part in the building of the nation.

R. McKENZIE.

> At a union meeting of the directors of the Grain Growers' Associations of the Dauphin district, including Valley River, Halley, Ashville and Dauphin, held in the municipal hall, Dauphin, on Tuesday, April 18, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Moved by Jas. McQuay, seconded by J. A. Fisher, "That we reaffirm our previous action on the reciprocity agreement now before the House of Commons, and, further, that we have full confidence in the integrity of R. C. Henders, president, and R. McKenzie, secretary, of the central association. And that a copy of this resolution be handed to Glen Campbell, M.P., and to the press."

GRAIN GROWERS COMPLIMENTED

Colden Club Congratulates Them on Their Advocacy of Freer Trade Relations

R. McKenzie, secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, is in receipt of the following message from the Colden Club, England:

"To the members of the Canadian Grain Growers' Association:

Gentlemen,—We desire to congratulate you most heartily on the excellent work you are doing in Canada to advance the adoption of that system of free trade which has done so much to promote the welfare of the mother country and which in our opinion, is the only one calculated to maintain and develop the unity and strength of the British Empire. We welcome your clearly expressed repudiation of the slanderous statement that your loyalty to the mother country is in any way dependent upon special favors for your products in British markets which would have the inevitable effect of increasing the price of food for the laboring millions here, and are gratified at your efforts to secure increased preference on British articles of manufacture with a view to the eventual establishment of complete free trade between the Dominion and the mother country. We note with satisfaction the declaration by the historic deputation to Ottawa in December last in favor of free trade and a "square deal" for all Canadian interests, a declaration which has helped those in the mother country more truly to appreciate the enlightened policy of the farmers of the Dominion.

"We are glad to think that there appears to be every prospect of the important reciprocity agreement being accepted both in Canada and the United States of America. We see in this extension of freer trade relations, mutually advantageous to two great trading communities, the first step, as we earnestly hope, of more complete free trade not only on the North American continent, but between that continent and the rest of the world.

"We can assure you that we in the mother country rejoice at everything that increases the prosperity of your important industry, and at all steps that open further markets for your products. As free traders, we are confident that every increase of trade is bound to benefit all trading communities throughout the world, and that the greatest economic development of the vast natural resources of Canada is in the highest interest of the mother country and of the Empire.

"Signed on behalf of the Colden Club by

WELBY, Chairman.
RUSSELL REA, Treasurer.
T. A. MURRY MACDONALD, Secretary.
B. G. M. BASKETT, Secretary-Designate."

In his letter enclosing the resolution B. G. M. Baskett, secretary of the club, expresses the hope "that it may do something to silence those of your opponents who are urging that the measure of reciprocity with the United States is an act of treason to Great Britain."

VALLEY RIVER MEETING

Following is a report of the last meeting of the Valley River branch as submitted by J. Broughton, secretary.

"At our last meeting on March 30 the following resolutions were adopted: 'That the question of purchasing formalin be left until April 6 in order to give home dealers time to quote prices.' 'That a hearty vote of thanks be tendered those who took part in concert, and to Chairman Mr. McNeill.' Broughton, Our Grain Growers delegates, Messrs. Watson and Kitty, who spent most of the winter in the East were called upon and gave a very clear and interesting account of what passed at the big conference. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered them for their services and a resolution passed that the members of the association defray the expenses of the delegates, amounting to $45. 'That whereas the members of our local legislature have voted themselves an additional indemnity of $300 per session, making $1,200 per year, this branch of Manitoba Grain Growers, in meeting assembled, hereby protest against the increase, believing that it first should have been submitted to a vote of the provincial electors, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the premier, Mr. Roblin, and Mr. Norris, leader of the opposition; also to J. G. Harvey, member for Dauphin, and to the central association.' The subject to be discussed at the next meeting is 'Public Ownership.'

Then followed the official report of the secretary. 'In presenting the official report I must deviate somewhat from the usual course in order to describe our social standing as well as the financial. The subject chosen for one of our social meetings was, 'The Single Tax.' Albert Hartford and Samuel Turrell addressed the meeting and a close discussion followed. The next meeting was taken up in discussion and planning for a concert. The concert proved a success in every respect. The proceeds, $45, were devoted to the library fund. A special meeting was held to discuss the reciprocity agreement and resulted in the following resolution: 'Resolved that if we have any fault to find with the reciprocity agreement it is because it calls for too little in the way of free exchange of commodities between Canada and the United States and that we desire to see free agricultural implements, lumber, fish, cement, oil for fuel and lubricating purposes. And, further, we consider the relations between Canada and United States are unjust and unfair and discriminating in favor of the monied classes and against the masses of the people.' The resolution was the unanimous conclusion of the meeting."

SHOAL LAKE RESOLUTION

The following resolution was passed at a special meeting of Shoal Lake Grain Growers' Association held at Shoal Lake on April 11, and carried unanimously: "Resolved, that this meeting views with alarm the proposal to eliminate Clauses 143 and 144 in the Grain Bill as recommended by the committee of the Senate and strongly desires that the Grain Bill remain in its entirety as in the original demanded by the Grain Growers, but nothing short of government ownership and operation will be satisfactory to the farmers of the West." A discussion also took place as to the desirability of holding the annual picnic and a committee was appointed to make all necessary arrangements. The picnic will probably be on July 5.

OSPREY TO CO-OPERATE

The Osprey branch held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday last with a good attendance. The twine question was discussed and the secretary was instructed to gain information regarding prices and buying in co-operation with other associations. A paper was read by Thos. Drayson on the tariff reform, which was much appreciated. A resolution was also passed unanimously condemning the action of the local government and opposition in voting an increase in the sessional indemnity from $1,000 to $1,500 at its first session.

ROSSENDALE MEETING

A correspondent from Rossendale writes us that the Rossendale branch has supported the reciprocity agreement. On April 8 they had a very able and interesting address by R. J. Avison, of Gilbert Plains, who clearly proved to the satisfaction of his audience what Direct Legislation meant to the farmers. There were quite a number of the farmers who took shares in the Grain Growers' Grain Company and also a number of new subscribers to The Guide.

ANOTHER NEW ONE

We report this week another new branch of the Grain Growers' Association at Stephenfield, with the following officers: President, Arthur South; vice-president, R. Daly; secretary-treasurer, Jas. Allan; directors, O. Sparks, J. Ross, W. Grindall, G. Stephenson, N. Nordquist, Ed. McDonald.

FAVORS RECIPROCITY

A meeting of the Grain Growers of Oak Lake was held on Saturday, April 8. After the regular business of the meeting had been transacted the question of reciprocity was brought up and after a good discussion the following resolution was passed: "Resolved, that we, the members of the Oak Lake Grain Growers' Association, are in favor of the reciprocity agreement with the United States, and we hope the government will go still further and give us free trade in agricultural implements."

HOME ECONOMICS GRADUATES

The following students successfully passed the examinations at the end of a three months' course at the Manitoba Agricultural college home economics department. Names are arranged in order of standing, the first five students having obtained honors in general proficiency: Ruth Houghton, Arden, Man.; Margaret F. Fisher, Hilliers, Sask.; Dorcilla Hepburn, Virden, Man.; Margaret Rayner, Elm Valley, Man.; Katherine Bros, Arcola, Sask.; Miss M. Clubb, Morris, Man.; Lilian Rogers, Carberry, Man.; Maud Bell, Westbourne, Man.; Helga Nielsen, Fort Lake, Sask.; Margaret C. McCuaig, Oakland, Man.; Agnes J. Caskey, Longburn, Man.; Lavinda Cameron, Westbourne, Man.; E. S. Christopherson, Balder, Man.

DISTRIBUTION OF RAILROAD SHARES

There is considerable difficulty in learning the number of shareholders of the Canadian railroads and in what countries the stock is held. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy has estimated for the Monetary Times (Toronto) that the total number of Canadian Pacific shareholders is about 24,000, the number of Canadian holders being 2,500. Nearly all the four per cent. preference stock is held in Great Britain. Of the common stock, holders in Great Britain have approximately 65 per cent., 15 per cent. being held on the continent, while the remaining 20 per cent. is divided evenly between Canada and the United States.

Grand Trunk shares are held by 54,490 persons, against 54,900 a year ago. This puts the Grand Trunk second only to the Pennsylvania Railroad, which has 64,869 shareholders. The Grand Trunk has £22,475,992 common and £23,175,632 preferred, and, as is well known, the shares are almost exclusively held in England.

Mr. Chas. M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk tells us that from seventy-five to ninety per cent. of that road's shareholders are residents in Great Britain.

Ninety-eight per cent. of the securities of the Canadian Northern Railway are held in the United Kingdom.

British Capital

Practically Canada's railway development has been almost entirely financed in Great Britain. Since the beginning of 1905 to date, Canadian railways have borrowed in Britain £58,523,632. These figures give some indication as to how Canadian railroad building has been dependent on British capital.

Statistics respecting the distribution of stock of 116 railways and industrial corporations were recently gathered in New York. The companies concerned had an aggregate share capital of more than $7,000,000,000. In December, 1909, these concerns reported a total of 678,644 shareholders. At the present time their stock is divided among 746,221 holders—an increase within the twelve months of 67,597.

Big American Corporations

The average number of shareholders in each railway corporation reporting to the Journal of Commerce is 6,338 compared with 5,703 in 1909, an increase of 635. In the industrials the average number is 6,502—a gain of 694 for the year. A few instances of the wide distribution of the securities of some leading corporations are interesting. The United Steel Corporation is the largest incorporated company in the world, and has the largest number of shareholders. Mr. Morgan's associates in this great enterprise number 115,000—a gain of approximately 15,000 during the past year. Mr. John D. Rockefeller shares the ownership of the Standard Oil Company with 6,953 other persons, the total shareholders of the company being 6,954. The shareholders of the American Tobacco Company number 40,284; of the Amalgamated Copper Company, 13,662; of the Western Union Telegraph Company, 12,953; of the Pullman Company, 11,148.

Among railroad companies the Pennsylvania reports the largest number of shareholders—64,869; Union Pacific, 19,628; Atchison, 28,123; New York Central, 20,102; Great Northern, 16,626; Southern Pacific, 12,615 and Baltimore and Ohio, 10,648.