

Manitoba Farmers' Parliament

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time and effort and make unlimited sacrifices. The district could best develop potential young speakers. One half dozen men brought out in a district to realize their power as speakers and workers would develop enormous possibilities for the future of the whole movement. He would like to see a convention of district officers to discuss and correlate their work in a big round table talk. If this were not feasible, pamphlets or sheets of suggestions might be printed and sent out thru central.

T. Ransom, Mountainside, advertised the meetings well. He thought this important. E. R. Sutherland thought more information should be got out in pamphlets or some readily available form to the locals. He thought the grain growers' movement was the greatest today for making good Canadian citizens of our foreign elements.

C. H. Burnell, Oakville, said the district had developed many men never before known. It offered a great field for service and the development of the best men. The most convenient centre for meetings should be used. A good district picnic will succeed where a local sometimes fails. Besides a picnic his district always holds a convention in March when much attention is given to organization work. This gets local secretaries in personal touch and creates a most valuable interchange of ideas. A good district organization often could prevent the formation of locals where such might fail or seriously handicap other locals. He also emphasized the need of meetings of the district officers.

Bert Macleod, Shoal Lake, thought the Manitoba page in The Guide was not being used or read as well as it might be. The local secretaries should be sent to Brandon. Every district should organize a picnic.

M. Stanbridge, Stonewall, thought the social side of the movement should be more emphasized thru speakers, debates, etc. in which the girls and women should be encouraged to take a large part.

R. Chapman, Ninga, believed a revival is needed. An aggressive movement should be launched for next year and prepared for in February and March. The scarcity of help means early and enthusiastic action should be taken to maintain and increase the interest and activity next summer. J. T. Davies, Franklin, and other speakers emphasized strongly the importance of the district organization to maintain local interest and to act as a link with the central. The need of more constant and up-to-date information and exchange of ideas thru a convention, pamphlets or letters was most strongly very prevalent thru this whole discussion.

Fraternal Delegates

C. E. Barnes, Wallace, B.C., represented by invitation the B.C. Fruit Growers' Association and James Robinson, Regina, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. Both brought greetings from their associations. Mr. Barnes made the best presentation of

the case of the B.C. fruit growers in defence of the added duty placed on apples, yet heard here. He assured the meeting he believed this would only be a temporary affair, indeed as a Free Trader himself he didn't favor the long continuance of it. Having 75 per cent. of their capital invested in orchards and being unable to change when conditions became bad they were in the position of a drowning man and grasped at the added duty to save them. Mr. Robinson said they could not build elevators fast enough in Saskatchewan at present. Forty places now wanted them for next year.

Memoriam Resolution

A resolution of condolence on the death of R. M. Wilson, Marringhurst, was passed and sent to Mrs. Wilson and the family. Many high tributes were paid to that late, energetic, earnest member. A resolution of appreciation of those members who have made the supreme sacrifice for king and country in this war by surrendering their lives fighting to uphold the high traditions of humanity and justice against militarism, of sympathy for the bereaved was unanimously passed. It further pledged the members to do their utmost to see that the State would not allow these to suffer pecuniarily from the bereavement.

Federation of Organizations

J. L. Brown of Pilot Mound and Peter Wright of Myrtle, introduced the following resolution on the question of federation of the various farmers' organizations.

"Whereas the interests of the whole grain growers' movement demand the very closest and most cordial relations between all those bodies that have been called into being during the last few years; and whereas the need has been felt for more closely defined relationships between these bodies and while recognizing the necessity of preserving the separate identity and autonomy as between the commercial and the educational or legislative bodies each discharging its own separate and distinct functions under the management of its own directorate; resolved that we endorse the action of the directors in seeking to arrive at some understanding with the directors of the commercial companies and would recommend the continuance of such negotiations with a view to finding a fair basis for federation and co-operation."

T. A. Crerar on request of the president opened the discussion on this important question. He dealt in a comprehensive manner with the history and objects of the three large commercial organizations now existent. He showed the desirability of closer organization not only between these companies but between the companies and their basic educational organizations. The Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. and the Grain Growers Grain Co. had come to an understanding which he believed would be greatly to the advantage of the movement. The problem now was to find a proper basis of relationship between the commercial companies and the local grain growers' associations.

He emphatically denied that the central organization had any intention, so far as he could discover, of financing any new political party. He thought a broad educational policy should be pushed. Discussion was resumed the following day.

President Henders in reply to a request on the matter of relationship said the idea was that the executive of each large central organization should act in an advisory capacity on the other executive. Where there are local elevators all the members of the local association should have a voice in its administration the of course only shareholders would have a voice in the control of the central trading body. All could meet together on the management of local affairs. The resolution was then adopted.

Amendments to Grain Act

R. McKenzie, Secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, introduced amendments to the Canada Grain Act. The grading on the 1915 crop was very unsatisfactory and 1916 is worse. Too much responsibility is being left with the officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce on "no grade" grain. No. 1 Northern containing 2 per cent. wild oats was rejected, a ridiculous proceeding. The moisture content on "no grade" is too low here in comparison with American Markets. Last summer, after visiting in Minneapolis he had sent samples of Canadian grades put up by the inspection department at Winnipeg to the inspectors at Minneapolis. They wrote him that these grades would have gone at least one grade higher in each case in Minneapolis. The terminal elevators at Duluth cleaned out wild oats and graded the wheat. Our terminal elevators answered they could not do this. A delegate said the interior terminals were equipped with such cleaning machinery and there was no reason why the lake terminals should not be. J. Alison discussed the question at some length also. The following resolution was then adopted:—"Whereas much dissatisfaction and much loss to the farmers is caused by the grading of grain, especially 'no grade' and 'rejected grade,' therefore be it resolved that this convention instruct the executive to take such steps as they deem expedient to bring pressure to bear on the department of trade and commerce to amend the Canada Grain Act so as to provide for the appointment of a permanent board of appeal, consisting of three members with an office in Winnipeg, and if necessary, a similar board with an office in Calgary, whose duty shall be, first, to perform the duties now performed by the standard board and the survey board; second, to hear appeals from the decision of the chief inspector; third, to formulate rules and regulations for the guidance of the inspector in grading of 'off grade' and commercial grades; fourth, to cause milling and chemical tests to be made at the commencement of each crop year of certain types to determine the grade that they should properly belong to; fifth, that the remuneration of the members of the board of appeal be made up by a fee on appeals made; sixth, that the appointment of the board of appeal in Winnipeg be made; by the minister of agriculture in each of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta by each appointing one member; seventh, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the secretaries of the United Farmers of Alberta and Saskatchewan Grain Growers and to the Canadian Council of Agriculture. A further resolution asked that clause 100 of the Grain Act be amended by striking out the words 'dirty' and 'wild oats.' This also carried.

Hospital Elevators

A resolution from the Hospital Elevator men was brought before the meeting by Mr. McKenzie. These elevators under present regulations are due to lose their license on February 1 but he doubted very much if this would be desirable. He thought himself that they should be allowed to continue mixing but not contract grades. To put them altogether out of business would work a great hardship this year when there was so much low grade grain for which

it was almost impossible to find a market.

Dr. Robert Magill, secretary of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and former chairman of the Grain Commission was asked by the president to give the meeting the benefit of his extensive acquaintance on this subject. Dr. Magill lucidly explained the advantageous position of Canada in marketing her best grades of grain this year. The Russian supply is cut off. India, the Argentine and Australia are too far away. Several trips could be made to America for one to the former countries. The Allies Wheat Commission in London do all the buying on this continent and have only one buyer on this side. Everything must pass thru his hands. The Allies want no wheat but that which will make the most loaves and the lack of tonnage makes it imperative they take only the higher grades. Thus no market is left for our grades below No. 4 and the spreads are enormous between these and the higher. Even at that, many companies are losing money.

He believed it desirable the hospital elevators be continued especially this year but under strict supervision and they should be allowed to handle only those grades below No. 3. He suggested that the convention leave this matter in the hands of their executive who had already done much investigation work and who were in the best position to take the matter up with the Board of Grain Commissioners. This suggestion was acted upon.

Dr. Magill also showed the necessity at present of selling grain on futures to ensure against losses. It was the only way hedging could be carried on and hedging was insuring against loss rather than speculating.

The Farmers' Platform

The meeting on Thursday night was entirely given over to the discussion of Free Trade and the introduction of the Farmers' Political Platform already published in The Guide. This would be taken up more in detail in next issue.

Section of Press Censured

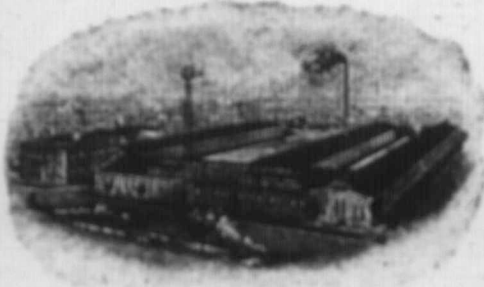
Friday morning saw a discussion in no uncertain terms regarding reports that had appeared in certain sections of the press on the attitude of the convention on hearing P. J. Dixon, M.L.A. There was only one dissenting speaker but on a vote this resolution moved by J. L. Brown, and seconded by C. H. Burnell was passed unanimously:—

"Whereas the interests of the public demands that the press furnish accurate information in regard to all matters of public concern and whereas it is desirable that the most cordial relations should exist between the Grain Growers' Association and the press; Resolved that while recognizing the general accuracy of the reports in this connection we protest against such false and misleading reports as appeared in the Winnipeg Tribune of January 11, 1917, regarding the proceeding of that day's meeting and against such a false interpretation of the policy of the Grain Growers' Association as is contained in the editorial of the Brandon Sun of January 10, 1917."

It was inferred at the previous day's proceedings that had the women, who were in a separate meeting at the time, been present the resolution regarding the speaker at the Thursday evening meeting might have been lost. The women, however, passed a resolution endorsing the action of the general convention on that matter. The Free Press reporter protested that the papers should be named but the president stated had he seen the Friday morning edition of that paper he would have had it included with the others named in the resolution. The president at the same time strongly voiced the appreciation of the convention of the great general service and co-operation of the press to the convention and the farmers movement as a whole and his regret that such misstatements of the attitude of the convention should have been made.

The balance of the resolutions passed, together with the Free Trade discussion at the Convention will appear in the next issue of The Guide.

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