

PROVINCIAL CONVENTION January 9, 10 and 11

The Annual Convention of the Provincial Grain Growers' Association will be held in the City Hall, Brandon, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 9, 10 and 11, 1918. Every branch should endeavor not only to be represented, but to have its full representation, one delegate for every 10 members or part thereof. In addition to the delegates thus appointed as representatives any branch may send associate delegates, who will have all privileges of the convention excepting that of introducing motions and voting. Each delegate should get a standard certificate when purchasing his ticket to Brandon. Fuller announcement will be made in next week's Guide, and the regular convention call will be in the hands of the secretaries in a few days.

W. R. W.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

Notice of Motion.—It is hereby announced that at the annual meeting to be held at Brandon on January 9, 10 and 11, it will be moved that the section in the constitution presenting the objects of the association be amended to read as below, and that a number of other changes, especially of arrangement in order to facilitate reference, be made in the constitution of the provincial association.

1.—Objects. The objects of the association are:

- (a) The all-round development of rural life with a view to making it as satisfying and as effective in the commonwealth as possible, and the establishment of right relationships between rural and urban communities.
- (b) To forward in every honorable and legitimate way the interests of the rural population, but in cordial cooperation with all.
- (c) To establish libraries, literary societies, reading rooms, arrange lectures, and to further extend knowledge along economic and social lines, with a view of elevating the standard of living in rural communities.
- (d) To educate and stimulate the populace to fuller exercise of the powers and responsibilities of citizenship in order to the realization locally of a more genuine and efficient democracy.

To promote independent personal thinking upon questions of the time, to create public spirit and to quicken the public conscience in regard to evils that persist in our present life, in order that so far as possible they may be abolished.

(e) To watch legislation relating to the Grain Growers' interests, particularly that affecting the marketing, grading and transportation of their grain and other rural products.

To suggest to parliament from time to time as it is found necessary through duly appointed delegates, revision of existing laws or new legislation to meet changing conditions and requirements.

(f) To promote the securing by local country and village communities of suitable halls or meeting places and the equipment and furnishing of such as social and educational centres.

(g) To foster and encourage the co-operative method of distribution of farm products and supplying of staple commodities.

It is hoped that local officers and others who may have suggestions as to the improvement of our constitution will be prepared to present their suggestions either by letter to the Central office or at Brandon, when the question comes up.

W. R. W.

W. S. G. O. A.

The above formula is steadily becoming significant to a wider and ever wider circle in the province of Manitoba. For those who may yet be uninitiated it may be stated that the letters represent the Women's Section of the Grain Growers' Association. An increasing number of branches are coming to think practically about establishing the co-operation of the women, and in some branches fully organized women's sections are being established. During the recent visit of Mrs. E. C. Wieneke to the western part of the province,

two such sections were organized—one at Dropmore and one at Angusville. At Dropmore, 17 new women members enrolled and organization was at once proceeded with. At Angusville eight members signed up and an enthusiastic beginning was made. These two new women's sections will doubtless be heard from in future, and will give a good account of themselves in helping to promote the welfare and in assisting the activities of the women grain growers.

TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

The fourth report of this association shows it still to be in a flourishing condition. The paid-up membership for the past year was 26, while for the coming year there is a prospective membership of over 30—practically all new comers to the district having joined the movement. Receipts for the year, including the balance carried over from 1916, totalled \$39.55 and expenditures were \$22.80, leaving a balance on hand of \$16.75. The branch bought co-operatively during the year a car of seed wheat, a car of coal and lesser quantities of binder twine and frozen fish, at an approximate cost of \$3,836, making an estimated saving of about \$150.

The report concludes: "During the past year two of our charter members have passed to the Great Beyond. It is only a short time since F. W. Collier lost his life fighting in the trenches in France. Last spring, our late president, H. G. G. Willock, died so suddenly that his death came as a real shock to the community. Now that he has gone, we can, perhaps, best estimate the value of his services to the district. His education and ability were placed freely at the public service, and in school and association affairs, not less than in athletic and social events, he labored unselfishly. As for Mr. Collier, it is no light thing for any man to leave home and family and all their ties to face death on the field of battle, but no man wants a nobler epitaph than the words: 'He died fighting for his country.' Thus, of these two men, one lived in the service of the community, the other died in the service of the nation. Let us hope that their example will inspire us to go forth on another year's life of our association, each resolved to work a little more unselfishly, a little more devotedly than ever before. It may cost something in time and trouble and money, but I am confident that such work will never go unrewarded. Somewhere in the great unrevealed laws of the universe is written compensation for all these things, and it is true now, as it has ever been, that 'Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you.'"

JAS. MORTON,
Sec'y Two Creeks G.O.A.

SWAN RIVER DISTRICT

In spite of extremely severe weather, a faithful few were in attendance at the district convention at Kenville, on December 13. Beyond general discussion of current topics and the present Dominion situation, the only business undertaking was the election of officers for 1918, which issued as follows: President, Geo. Dickerson, Kenville; vice-president, W. H. Cotton; secretary-treasurer, J. Livesay, Swan River. Mr. W. I. Ford was again nominated as district director. With this staff, Swan River will give a good account of itself throughout the New Year.

DECKER ANNUAL MEETING

Decker association, at their annual meeting on December 8, decided to contribute \$65 from their co-operative balance in aid of the Halifax sufferers. The election of officers issued as follows: President, Chas. Brooks; vice-president, H. Rosenberger; secretary-treasurer, P. N. Davidson; assistant secretary, John White; directors, Messrs. E. Allingham, E. Laws, Jno. Norton, D. Whyte, F. Wyatt and R. Richardson.

Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henderson, President, 404 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

The following resolution was passed: "That owing to the very high and unreasonable wages that alien laborers are asking the farmers for the coming season, we, the Decker Grain Growers' Association, request the Dominion government to conscript farm labor and to regulate the alien wages in accordance with our soldiers' pay."

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT

The following resolutions were passed at the Springfield district convention, held at Dugald on December 12. They show that the workers of that district are alive and alert in reference to the problems of the time.

1.—Abolition of the Liquor Traffic. Whereas, the present world conflict is demanding the strictest conservation of food-stuffs and man-power in the interests of national efficiency and the cause of human liberty, and whereas, the manufacture, sale and consumption of alcoholic liquors still continue to exercise a baneful influence, thus involving a waste that largely neutralizes the sacrificial efforts of our people, be it resolved that we, the District Grain Growers' Association of Springfield, in annual convention assembled, petition the Union government to enact a War Measure prohibiting the manufacture, importation, sale and distribution of alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes. That said law remain in force until repealed or confirmed by Dominion referendum.

2.—Free Implements. Whereas, the geographical position of Canada renders her products of peculiar value to the Empire in these days of national peril, and whereas, frequent appeals are being made to the agricultural classes to increase their production of human necessities, and whereas, the present tariff laws render the prices of agricultural implements grievously burdensome and the direct cause of limited production; be it resolved that we, the District Grain Growers of Springfield, petition the Union government to place all machines and implements required in the production of food-stuffs on the free list.

3.—Farmers' Representation. This District Grain Growers' Association of Springfield respectfully suggests to the Union government that henceforth, in appointing boards of bodies to deal with questions directly affecting the interests of farmers, representatives of agriculture be accorded a position on such bodies.

4.—Extension of time for loading. That this District Grain Growers' Association petition the Board of Grain Commissioners for extension of time granted farmers in loading over platform.

5.—Cleaning Grain in Elevators. That this District Grain Growers' Association petition the Board of Grain Commissioners for authority to compel the elevators to instal grain-cleaning machinery in their elevators, thus retaining all small grain and feed to be fed on the farms.

6.—Labor and Production. That while the members of this district convention are fully aware of the military necessity, yet we have been assured that necessity of provisioning the Allies and the Allies' armies is the paramount obligation of Canada, therefore, trained farmers, farmers' sons and farm help, in view of the food situation, are of greatest national service if allowed to remain in their present occupations.

That the labor crisis can best be met by the registration and organization of all labor resources, and the financial situation by the conscription of wealth, and that this should at once be proceeded with in the name of national service.

7.—That this convention recommend that every branch in the district appoint volunteers to co-operate with Mrs. A. A. Wilson, district lady director, in connection with the Food Resources Committee.

HARLINGTON RESOLUTIONS

At a meeting of the Grain Growers' Association held at Harlington on November 30, the following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, the national cry for production and more production is on indisputable authority absolutely as essential as men in winning the war, and whereas, the Canadian food controller is urging the western farmers as a patriotic duty to produce the largest crop possible for 1918, and whereas, the shortage of labor and up-to-date farm machinery at a reasonable price, together with the inactive attitude of the Dominion government in not rendering every possible assistance by conscripting labor and abolishing the tariff on farm implements, has already seriously menaced the crop of 1918. Therefore be it resolved that we urge the Dominion government to grasp the seriousness of the situation and appoint a labor controller, who would see that no men are employed in non-essential occupations. And also to see that the farmers have the necessary labor to produce a maximum crop for 1918. The controller should have power to bring men from every source available, even the training camps as other countries have done, and fix a fair wage if deemed necessary. And furthermore we look upon it as disastrous to production to conscript experienced farm labor for the army and replace them with inexperienced men at exorbitant wages. It also should be made a criminal offence for alien labor to loiter and curtail the hours of labor and hold the farmers up for excessive wages, as was done in 1917, and we submit that all essential industries and labor should be mobilized for greater production, without which a maximum production for 1918 is absolutely impossible."

W. H. COTTON,
Secretary.

Get Bulletin No. 23

Every officer of a local branch should have a copy of Bulletin No. 23 of the series now issued periodically by the Manitoba Agricultural College. It is entitled "Debating Clubs," and gives a great deal of splendid practical information and suggestion for this line of work, as well as presenting a series of 40 topics suitable for rural associations. Copies will be sent free of charge on application to the President, Manitoba Agricultural College, or Publication Branch, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Every branch ought to try to work in two or three debates into its winter's work. If specially difficult to manage it within your own circle, it may be possible to arrange for a joint debate with a neighboring branch. That will accomplish two things. It will give you wider acquaintance with association work in promoting contact with adjoining branches and it will call forth the best efforts of your local debaters to have them go up against contestants from outside. Try a debate before the winter passes.

The members of the South Bay branch of the G.O.A. have forwarded the sum of \$36.50 which they subscribed in their branch for Red Cross work. This is very creditable as coming from a branch only recently organized. We hope they may have continued success in their branch.

The Red Cross department of the Oakville W.G.O. Auxiliary has contributed the sum of \$41 to be used for relief work of the French wounded, a fund which appeals strongly to our sympathies.

ORGANIZE A SEED CENTRE

The Grain Growers' Guide has arranged to give absolutely free of charge to every local association in Manitoba sufficient of world prize winning registered wheat, oats, or barley to provide foundation stock for every member of the local. By securing this grain and organizing a seed centre, the yield of the entire community can be increased by at least five bushels per acre. Information is being forwarded to every local secretary. We will be pleased to forward full details to any member of any local making application. Address, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.