



MANITOBA SECTION

This section of The Guide is conducted for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by R. C. Henders, President

MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

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PROMPT PROTEST NECESSARY

The minister of trade and commerce has put through the committee of the whole House in Parliament an amendment to the distribution clause of the Grain Act which gives the elevator board authority to order cars contrary to the provisions of the Grain Act to places where grain is damp and thereby liable to become damaged and, whenever, after due examination, the board considers it necessary and advisable to relieve the congestion and facilitate the dispatch of grain.

The effect of that will be to deprive the farmers of the statutory right they now enjoy of securing a car by placing their name on the car-order book.

From past experience we know the railway companies can create a shortage of cars whenever they please and at any point they please. In this way they can bring into play the discretion given the board by the above amendment instead of the car-order book, with the result that the Grain Growers will be placed at the mercy of the elevator men as they were before the Grain Act was passed to meet the demands of the farmers.

Our board of directors sent the following telegram to Hon. G. E. Foster, minister of trade and commerce, but we have not yet had a reply: "Board of directors Manitoba Grain Growers regard amendments proposed in committee to distribution clause Grain Bill fatal to safeguard afforded farmers by Grain Act against extortions of elevator operators and urge delay to permit Western Grain Growers make protest against changes suggested being adopted."

Every branch of the Manitoba Grain Growers should pass resolutions protesting against any changes in section 208, that is the distribution clause of the Grain Bill. Send a copy of the same to the minister of trade and commerce, Hon. G. E. Foster, and Sir Richard Cartwright, leader of the opposition in the Senate, also to Hon. Frank Oliver, who represents the opposition from the West in the House of Commons, and to your federal member, and I would like to get a copy in the office here.

If the Grain Growers will put up a strong protest at once there is yet a chance for us to block this proposed amendment, but every branch has got to act and act quickly. These resolutions should reach Ottawa within the next ten days. The only safeguard we have against the elevator interests is in jeopardy. We have strenuously fought for this right for upwards of ten years and we should now make every effort to retain this right without which the other provisions of the Grain Act will be of very little service to us.

On February 17 a regulation became effective with the consent of the Grain Growers' delegation that was in Ottawa empowering the warehouse commissioner to distribute cars at any point where the farmer makes an affidavit that he has a car of damp, tough or out-of-condition grain for shipment. This provision was made to meet the unfortunate situation that exists largely in Saskatchewan and in some parts of northern Manitoba where on account of the early snowfall many of the farmers have quantities of grain unfit for warehousing and in danger of being destroyed as soon as the mild weather sets in.

This clause may appear as a hardship for the farmers who have dry grain to ship and cannot secure a car for doing so, but every one will admit there is much to be said in favor of giving the first opportunity for a car to the unfortunate farmers who have grain that is not fit for storing and if the privilege granted is not abused, there is not likely to be serious objection raised by any one.

The danger is that grain dealers and elevator operators will take advantage of the provision to secure cars for their grain out of turn. To guard against any possibility of that occurring I would suggest that at every point where there is a Grain Growers' association, a committee be appointed by the Grain Growers who will watch the car-order book and the shipments of grain from that point.

I believe the regulations require that any one making application for a car out of his turn must make an affidavit that he has a car-load of "out-of-condition" grain and this committee should make it a point to see that this affidavit is made by any one who makes application out of his turn.

If the number of cars so shipped was

appointing of a committee to select literature and draw up rules governing the distribution of the said library.

This branch had a successful box social on Feb. 16, at which the president and others spoke urging the necessity for more perfect organization and co-operation. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of doing away with party differences.

FARMERS' FIGHTING FUND

The Grandview branch of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association is to the front this week with the largest contribution to the Manitoba Grain Growers' association endowment fund so far received. The Grandview men send \$105.00 with a promise of more. This is a splendid example and one which should be followed by every branch association in the province. Some associations which have fewer members may not be able to reach this total, but many can easily give more. We hope that during the next few weeks a large number of contributions, both from associations and from individuals, will be sent in. The matter should be brought up and a collection taken at every meeting of the Grain Growers' association in the province. It will be a proud honor for the branch that sends in the largest contribution to this great fund—and it is going to be a great fund. And remember the more YOU send in, the more the other members and associations will send. Grandview has led the way, and we know that others will follow their example.

The secretary of the Grandview branch in sending in this contribution, writes:

"I have much pleasure in enclosing herewith money orders for \$105.00 sent by our branch of the Grain Growers' association to swell the Farmers' Fighting Fund. I hope to be able to add to this amount before the summer is over."

"I trust all the branch associations will do their utmost to increase this Farmers' Fighting Fund, as we know it is urgently needed."

Sincerely yours,

L. G. ANDREWS, Secretary.

Subscriptions Received

Amount previously acknowledged	\$118.50
A. C. Stewart	5.00
J. L. Brown, Pilot Mound	5.00
J. S. Moffatt, Pilot Mound	3.00
Grand View Branch	105.00
Total	\$236.50

sent to the office of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association at Winnipeg, by this committee, we could check the inspection on those cars, thus ascertaining any cars going through that may grade a straight grade when the contents are represented as grain "out-of-condition." This provision is made temporarily to meet the existing conditions and not effective after the new grain bill is passed.

Another important matter for shippers, especially on the C.N.R., to know is that the terminal elevator at Port Arthur is reported filled up and not likely to be unloaded before the opening of navigation as there are something over three thousand cars passed Winnipeg billed to Port Arthur. No doubt much of this grain will be tough and out-of-condition grain and liable to go wrong on the cars when the mild weather sets in. Owners of such grain should make every effort to have those cars unloaded as soon as possible at Port Arthur or make application to the railway company to have them diverted to Duluth, and farmers loading grain on the C.N.R. from now to the opening of navigation should bill the cars to Duluth rather than to Port Arthur.

R. McKENZIE,
Secretary.

MINITONAS BRANCH

The Minitonas branch of the G.G.A. held their monthly meeting on Feb. 24. Messrs. Sifton and Smith, the delegates to the Brandon convention, gave their report and opinions of the same. They were enthusiastic regarding the spirit and tone of the convention generally, and believe that greater unanimity of feeling existed this year than even on former years. They strongly urge a cultivation of the same spirit in all local branches and that our watchword for this year be "A local branch of the G.G.A. in every neighborhood throughout the province." Some pleasing features of the meeting were the enrolment of 14 lady associate members, a voluntary subscription to start a library, which met with a very favorable response, the

"Give and ask a square deal to and from all."

WM. MAIR,

Sec.-Treas.

McGREGOR BRANCH

The McGregor branch of the G.G.A. held a very successful social and entertainment on Tuesday evening, Feb. 27, a large number of country and town people were present. The program consisted of a number of songs, recitations and an address on the present aims and objects of the Grain Growers' movement. All seemed to be well pleased, and the consensus of opinion was that the association would be considerably strengthened as a result.

REFERENDUM ON SINGLE TAX

The Winnipeg City Council has decided to ask the Manitoba legislature for authority to submit a referendum to the people at the next municipal elections on the question of exempting improvements from taxation and raising all civic revenues by the taxation of land values.

SALE OF CLYDES

One of the big stock events of the season will be the big sale of registered Clydesdales by Andrew Graham and Thomas Usher, at Carman, on March 14. This sale offers inducements to farmers who need high class brood mares. The distribution of these Clydesdales throughout the West should result in benefit to the breed, as well as to the future horse business of the West.



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