

# Manitoba Grain Growers

**T**HE Brandon district campaign made a good start last week, and local workers continuing the canvass for membership and subscriptions to The Guide look for very gratifying results.

On Monday night, the meeting at Douglas resulted in the organization of a local association with an initial membership of 18, and the expectation is that the number will be doubled in a short time. W. A. Wilkie was elected president and W. A. Muirhead, secretary.

On Tuesday evening, at Kemnay, there was an attendance of about 50, and a very enthusiastic meeting. The Kemnay branch has its territory very thoroughly canvassed and a Women's Section is in successful operation.

On Wednesday evening, at Little Souris, the meeting was held in the Union Church, the Rev. Mr. Meach presiding. The attendance was about 100, with a large proportion of ladies. Mr. Fittou, of Brandon, enlivened the proceedings with three splendid solos. Little Souris also has a strong Women's Section.

On Thursday evening, at Justice, there was an attendance of about 65. The branch here is young yet having been organized in February last, but they have a number of fine workers and expect to add considerably to their membership during the campaign period.

On Friday evening, there was a good meeting at Chater, about half of whom were women. Here also most of the men of the community are already enrolled and some ten women added their names to the roll at the close of the meeting.

In addition to the regularly organized series of meetings, Miss Roe met with the Women's Section of Forrest association, on Wednesday afternoon and addressed them on the work; and on Saturday evening she returned to Douglas where a second meeting had been arranged for. At this meeting there was a very encouraging attendance (nearly 50) the majority being women. D. G. McKenzie and some of the other workers of the district spoke, and Miss Roe presented at length the claims of the women's work.

The success of the series was rendered possible by the efficient preparatory work and advertising and the transportation service arranged for by D. G. McKenzie, of Forrest. He carried the speakers from point to point throughout the whole week with his car and assisted with the program at most of the meetings. The speakers would cordially recommend to every district in Manitoba to provide itself at the earliest moment with a Donald McKenzie, or some one of his type. The success of district work, and especially the success of a special campaign, depends upon having such a man.

Two ideas are impressed by the series so far. One is the superlative advantage of combination of forces. Having a trio of speakers representing the association, the Women's Section and the Company, is unquestionably the best working plan devised yet. If the trio were made a quartette by adding a representative of The Guide it would be perfection. The second is the idea of having a conference of the speakers with the officers and directors either before or after the meeting. A ten minutes friendly conference will often help to impress the local board with a recognition of its responsibility for "going after" membership. Plans may be laid for "clinching" the results of the meeting by immediate follow-up work.

## Marquette District

The following meetings have been proposed for the Marquette district during the first and second weeks of July. It is possible that some slight changes will be made by representatives from the various points mentioned, who are to meet in Shoal Lake on Friday, June 14. Any revision that is made at this meeting can not be got into this week's Guide but will be announced the following week.

## Conducted Officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by the Secretary

W. R. Wood, 306 Bank of Hamilton Bldg., Main St., Winnipeg

**Speakers:** W. R. Wood, C. H. Burnell, Mrs. H. Robinson. July 1, 8 p.m., Cordova; July 2, 2 p.m., Tremaine; 8 p.m., Riverdale; July 3, afternoon, Shoal Lake; July 4, 2 p.m., Russell; 8 p.m., Endcliffe; July 5, 2 p.m., Shellmouth; 8 p.m., Assinippi; July 6, 2 p.m., Angusville; 8 p.m., Silverton; July 8, 2 p.m., Sandy Lake; 8 p.m., Erickson; July 9, 2 p.m., Oakburn; 8 p.m., Elphinstone; July 10, 2 p.m., Newdale; 8 p.m., Strathclair; July 11, 2 p.m., Kellie; 8 p.m., Holsgrith; July 12, 2 p.m., Birtle; 8 p.m., Foxwarren; July 13, 2 p.m., Binscarth.

## Provencher District

**Speakers:** R. C. Henders, E. E. Bayne, Mrs. J. R. Wood. July 2, 8 p.m., Emerson; July 3, 2 p.m., Lowe Farm; 8 p.m., Morris; July 4, 2 p.m., Sanford; 8 p.m., Sperling; July 5, 2 p.m., Niverville; 8 p.m., Otterburne; July 6, 2 p.m., Ardena.

Emerson will include Ridgeville. Morris will include St. Jean and St. Elizabeth.

Sanford will include Brunkild and Starbuck.

Sperling will be held for the purpose of organizing a new association.

Otterburne will include St. Pierre.

## Pine Creek Resolution

The following resolution comes from Pine Creek local association:—  
Resolved that

Whereas the action of the government in the recent draft is in direct opposition to the pledges given before the federal election that no man needed for the maintenance of production would be taken from the land,

And whereas, while we recognize the necessity for men for war and are not opposed to conscription, the necessity for increased production is still as great as ever,

And whereas, the raising of bigger and better crops is rendered impossible by the effect of the draft,

And whereas, there are thousands of men in non-essential occupations (commercial travellers, insurance agents, etc.) available for military service,

Therefore we, the farmers of Pine Creek and district, not seeking exemption as a class, but in the interests of the war necessity of food production, endorse the action of the eastern farmers in protesting against the conscription of all the boys from the farm and insist that if the big crop which is expected is not realized, the government and not the farmer must be held responsible.

## Geysir Resolution

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the local association at Geysir at a recent meeting:—

Whereas the acute food shortage of the world indicates approaching famine, and,

Whereas the farmers are nobly endeavoring to answer the call for increased production, and,

Whereas the ruthless drafting of farmers and farmers' sons is draining the country of experienced farm hands, to the ruin of numerous farm homes and the depletion of food production;

Therefore, be it hereby resolved that we, the members of the Grain Growers' Association of Geysir, protest emphatically against the policy of the Union government in regard to its drastic measures in drafting farmers and farmers' sons for military service, and be it also resolved that we urge the executive of the Grain Growers' of Manitoba to take this matter up as immediately and effectively as possible.

## Lining Up With Others

That is the ideal we hold. Practical combination of energies, intelligent pull-

ing together, achievement of the unity which is strength. And if ever it was needed it will be still more during the coming period of reconstruction. Dread forces of disintegration have been loosed upon mankind. There is an impatience, an irritability, a recklessness abroad which bodes ill for the future peace of communities. It is high time for those whose fundamental interests are one, for those who believe in freedom and justice and the doing of good to all, for those who would fain see the world move forward—it is high time for all such to bury petty differences and unite in order that right may be done, that violence and oppression may be banished and that for weakest as for strongest a better day may dawn. The association invites you into its union for such aims as these.

## Removal of Rubbish

The association seeks your co-operation in the removal of outworn ideas, which still occasionally hamper progress. Some of them may evaporate in the clear sunlight of modern intelligence, or melt in the strong solvent of practical common sense, but most of them should be carted along the back road of forgetfulness and dumped into the lake of oblivion. Among them are the following views and opinions; that whiskey will always be manufactured and that drunkenness will always prevail; that women's interests are confined to the kitchen, the kids and the kirk; that graft is a permanent element in public life; that there are no honest public servants; that the people on the land will always be individualists; that new things are always to be regarded with suspicion; that people must always accept things just as they are. Grain Growers hold that all these are bunkum. Out with the rubbish.

## Scouting in the South-West

Preceding the Souris district campaign of last week that district had a flying visit from Colid H. Burnell, of Oakville, acting as advance agent of the combined campaigners. Piloted by O. A. Jones, with his racing Hop, and H. Chapman, with his flying Ford, he visited almost every corner and adorned town and country with announcements of the campaign. Here and there two or three benighted individuals who have not realized the value of the movement refused to have a poster exhibited on their particular and exclusive walls but generally there was ready and cordial co-operation. A new feature was the "wind shield" poster which seemed to "take" universally and scores of motorists have borne the announcements of meetings wherever they have gone. Mr. Burnell's trip meant much for the success of the series.

## The Good Time Coming

What will it be like? The better time for which grain growers are preparing will be a time when every family will have a comfortable home, when social fellowship between homes will be more complete, when the schools will prepare for satisfying and effective country life and for adequate discharge of the duties of citizenship. When the churches will value practical righteousness more than theological opinion or ecclesiastical formula. When the municipal machinery will be efficiently operated for the well being of the people. When the marketing of products and the distribution of necessities will pay no tribute to parasites. When the average man in rural life will be qualified to stand as a representative of his community. When robber systems of manufacture and transportation and taxation and judicial machinery will have been abolished. When

men in the spirit of the golden rule shall live together in equity and happiness.

## Your Opportunity

Has your opportunity come yet—the opportunity through which your mark upon the life of your time is to be made? Without being like a Micawber waiting for something to "turn up" you have watched for the day when you might "take occasion by the hand" and effect something more, something greater than merely the day's grind with its meagre return—when you might by linking up your life energy to some "tide in the affairs of men" have share in something large enough, something lasting enough, something of enough advantage to humanity to stand as a life work. Has your opportunity come yet?

## Others Find Theirs

Whether it be for you or not I cannot say, but of this I am unalterably convinced that within the next ten years a very large number of young men and women are going to find in the rural life movement of the Grain Growers' and United Farmers' their chief opportunities of life-service and of personal development and self-realization. May it not be that this movement is for you too, the "occasion" which you may take by the hand, the tide which "taken at the flood" may be the very making of your life? May it not be wise for you to look closely at the movement in the light of the possibility of its being for you personally, your life's supreme opportunity?

## A Reasonable Prospect

Its demands are not unreasonable. You do not require special talent or education. You will require training, but the service of the movement will furnish that. You begin with just what you have, and offer to your own community, through your local association, just whatever service you can render. It may be drumming up members for a meeting or making a contribution to a program; or going to the station to meet a speaker; or driving a car over to an adjacent local meeting; or commending some phase of the work; or acting on a committee or taking part in a debate or formulating a resolution. These things are not trifles. The local association that has a dozen members that can be counted upon, that are always ready to do things of this sort is a local that is enviably rich and likely to be more than ordinarily effective. This big opportunity gives you a chance to begin today, and with the equipment you have at hand.

## You Must Do It Yourself

"One cannot get one's thinking done vicariously." This sentence from a recent magazine expresses one of the fundamental principles of Grain Growerism. The manufacturers, the railway corporations, the implement dealers, the loan companies have been doing our thinking or rather "doing" us by their thinking. They "thought" early in the war that a seven-and-a-half per cent. tariff raise would help them. They "thought" later that a 15 per cent. raise in railway rates would be of real assistance to them. They think today that "Canadian Reconstruction" would be a good appellation for the new special privilege propaganda association. We, the farmers, hadn't thought early enough or widely enough to prevent them. And while today we bear our bondage and pay our tribute we have several more "thinks" coming. The Grain Growers are organized to help to clear and effective thinking, and "one cannot get one's thinking done vicariously."

What we hope for is the substitution for the clash of competing ambitions, for groupings and alliances, of a real European partnership based on the recognition of equal rights, and established and enforced by the common will.—H. Asquith.