

Saskatchewan Grain Growers

THE following interesting letter has been received from J. Cameron Smith, of Milton, by the secretary of the Educational Committee, suggesting an educational policy for the association, which we would commend to the attention of our members, viz.:

"As requested in your favor of the 13th instant, I have pleasure in submitting a few suggestions regarding the association's educational program for next winter. As I have neither a draft program nor your survey circular before me I can only offer my suggestions at random, and possibly they may not fit in very well with your general scheme of work.

"(1) In order to make local meetings more interesting and instructive, the educational department should invite a few leaders in various lines of public activity to write papers on their own theme (not exclusively agricultural), the writers being informed of the use to be made of their papers. These papers should be printed and circulated to locals undertaking to read and discuss them at their meetings. The papers should not be available any other way until the end of the season, for if members can read them in the press there will be less incentive to go to the meetings.

"In selecting those whom you would invite to write the papers I would suggest you should break new ground entirely. I do not mean that local and well-known writers should be excluded, but that you should include others not usually heard in Western Canada. For instance, short papers on the operation of the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale societies by the presidents would be a fine stimulus to co-operative effort. Australian and New Zealand methods of encouraging land settlement might be enlarged on by one of their leading men—say the Premier or Minister of Lands of one of their states—West Australia, N.S.W. or Queensland. Other matters of abiding interest, including our own national problems, could be dealt with by authorities. The papers should be printed in a uniform series, and, as some of them would contain important statistics, binding cases could be supplied to locals at cost, and the papers would form a valuable work of reference.

"(2) I think Central should make use of moving pictures as an aid to their educational work and general propaganda. I do not know what legal restrictions, if any, apart from censorship, are imposed upon operators of moving pictures, but if these restrictions or requirements are unduly onerous, some modification might be secured, as we would not operate for gain. Assuming the law offers no obstacle, Central should secure a number of machines suitable for small rural halls, with screens and complete accessories for circulation amongst locals at a charge sufficient to cover outlay. Locals desiring to do so, should be able to purchase machines and accessories from Central at cost. Central should also arrange to supply films to locals owning or hiring machines. Central could take advantage of this service to issue films featuring their own business operations. The Co-operative Elevator Company might be asked to issue a film picturing operations at the head of the lakes, and we might be able to follow the grain on its trip across the ocean to port of destination. A film of the new Hudson Bay line, if obtainable, would be quite a 'scoop'.

"(3) As a rule farmers are deeply interested in any information they can get regarding the pastoral and agricultural life of their kinsmen overseas. A foolish jealousy arising from competition in securing immigrants inclines the authorities to neglect this part of our national education. Anything you can do to remedy this deficiency will be worth while, and add immensely to the interest of your program. A case in point. A great deal of time and letterpress has been taken up in describing agricultural credit schemes in

Conducted Officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by the Secretary

J. B. Musselman, Regina, Sask.

U.S.A., Germany, and other countries, whilst the achievements of Australia and New Zealand, whose methods are recommended by many years of successful operation, and whose schemes are simpler and more suited to the British temperament, are almost entirely ignored. The terms there are such that the hired man can take advantage of them equally with the "boss." A member of the educational department should be detailed to study agricultural matters in other parts of the empire, and to make available to members the information gleaned by him. The governments concerned will gladly supply, I believe, all necessary data, and will probably send their publications regularly if requested.

"(4) A pocket book and diary designed and published for farmers in Saskatchewan would, I believe, be a welcome addition to agricultural annuals. It should be suitable for carrying in the pocket, so that farmers could take it to their meetings. Whilst it would be educational in its effects, it would be a valuable advertising medium, and the trading department should be responsible for it financially. It should be made as far as possible a pocket directory regarding our association and kindred bodies. It should contain some general information about Dominion and Provincial governments, and the usual tables found in these publications, care being taken to see that all weights, measures, and standards are those legally in force in Canada. I have not seen the annual published by 'The Scottish Farmer' for a long time, but, speaking from memory, I think that, reduced to pocket size, it would be a suitable pattern. If published at a dollar I believe it would not involve any loss.

"I have found it difficult at this season to concentrate my mind on a winter program, but hope some of these remarks may be useful in framing your educational policy for the coming season."

Bickleigh Resolutions

The following resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Bickleigh local, held at Bickleigh on August 3, viz.:

"Whereas, because of exceptionally unfavorable weather conditions the grain crops of the prairie provinces are a practical failure, and in many cases a total failure; and

"Whereas in localities where there is a partial crop there are many individual farmers whose grain has been totally ruined by wind, drought, frost, or other causes; and

"Whereas because of the above conditions the question of seed and feed grain for next year is becoming a serious one; and

"Whereas because of world conditions at this time it is imperative that not one acre of uncultivated land should be allowed to go unseeded next year; and

"Whereas the present crop failure, coming immediately after the partial failure of last year, in many localities a number of farmers being unable to meet payments due on implements, livestock, etc., are in danger of being sold out and their services lost to production and their farms left idle; and

"Whereas at this time it is essential that every farmer remaining in the prairie provinces should be enabled to continue operations next year, especially as many are cultivating, in addition to their own farms, the land of men who have been drafted for military service; and

"Whereas there are many cases of actual want, many not having the means to secure coal or the other necessities of life;

"Therefore be it hereby resolved that it is necessary that immediate steps should be taken by the government, in

conjunction with the legislatures of the provinces affected to relieve and remedy these conditions: (1) By immediately giving assurance to the farmers of the west that all cases of distress will be relieved before any vacate the farms; (2) By taking steps to hold in each province or in each municipality sufficient grain to seed every acre that may be under cultivation next year; (3) By securing to each locality affected sufficient feed grain for the teams until after seeding; (4) By providing relief for all cases of want and distress; and (5) By enacting legislation to prevent seizure for debt where the same would interfere with farming operations or create distress."

In a covering letter the secretary of the Bickleigh local says, "While the farmers of this locality realize that the government has many very difficult problems to handle at this time, and is determined to do all in its power to remedy present conditions due to crop failure, they are nevertheless under the impression that had agriculture been given the recognition and support in past years that it deserves, and had fewer restrictions been placed upon the industry generally, and on the price of wheat in particular, the farmers would have been better able to weather the storm in the present crisis, and would have had less need to ask for assistance."

Ed. Note.—While the Central association does not necessarily endorse everything contained in the above resolution, we may assure our members in all parts of the province that everything possible is being done by the association and the Canadian Council of Agriculture to secure the relief that is necessary to carry farmers over and enable them properly to seed their land next season.

Damming of Fife Lake Creek

A serious position has arisen for the farmers of the Fife Lake district owing to the damming up of the creek which flows out of the lake at that point. About the year 1916 a number of farmers, in order to cut hay at this point, placed a number of rocks in the stream, and allowed the mud to wash up until the stream ceased to run. For the last two years the district has not had any local showers. As a result those who have stock are placed in a most difficult position, some of them having to go many miles in order to pasture their stock for the summer, whilst others have to draw their water in tanks. It can be easily understood that a good deal of feeling has been created in the district, and but for the possibility of causing trouble those who are suffering from the shortage of water would open up the creek again.

They have done what is perhaps the best thing under the circumstances, having forwarded a petition to the government asking that the obstruction be removed. The matter is a serious one for the farmers along the creek, and we trust the government will see their way to act at once.

A Golden Opportunity

A golden opportunity is presented by the dry farming exposition which is to be held at Kansas City, on October 16-26, for our members who took part in the recent Seed Grain Contest at the Regina Exhibition, to gain some splendid prizes at small cost to themselves, and at the same time to bring honor to our province. The Department of Agriculture of the Provincial Government, has decided to pay all transportation charges, both out and return, on exhibits of exceptional merit.

Intending exhibitors should forward their exhibits to the Weeds and Seeds Branch of the department not later

than October 1, fully prepaid, and it is desirable that not more than 200 pounds be sent by any one exhibitor. All exhibits which comply with the regulations set down will be examined by the officials of the department, and those of sufficiently high standard, and only these, will be sent to Kansas. Copies of the prize list and other particulars will be sent on application to the Weeds and Seeds Branch at Regina. The prizes include a \$500 silver trophy cup, given by the Canadian Pacific Railway, an eight-foot binder or its equivalent in other I.H.C. machinery, f.o.b. the nearest branch warehouse, a \$100 trophy cup by the Exposition committee, and numerous cash prizes of considerable value, for fresh grain, grain in the sheaf, forage plants in sheaves or bales, or other soil products.

We hope to see some of our local who were high up in the list at the recent exhibition bring some of these prizes to Saskatchewan. We believe that Saskatchewan is the premier wheat producing country in the world, let us act as if we believed it, and prove it beyond all doubt.

A Warning Message

A few days ago the Central office received a letter from a correspondent which reads in part as follows:—

"There has been formed here a farmers' co-operative company. It was floated by city people who canvassed and collected notes and cash for same. The farmers now realize that they have been duped and robbed of their hard earned cash, and those who gave notes are being harassed and threatened with writs. They are confronted in many cases with absolute crop failure, and know not how to make ends meet, nor how they will procure seed for 1919. They are laboring in an uphill fight, and are helped in no way by the representatives of this company, who travelled around in motor cars getting what they could from those they could scare into giving. Surely in these war times when men are supposed to be engaged as much as possible in industries and works essential to the winning of the war, it makes farmers damn the country, and wonder if there is no protection from legalized swindlers. There are many thousands of farmers' money at stake, dollars that would be well spent in securing seed for next year, or feed to preserve their livestock, this coming winter."

Ed. Note.—We are glad to give publicity to this letter in order that it may act as a warning to others. Long before the receipt of this letter the central warned our people to make exhaustive enquiries into such projects before parting with their money. We fear there is no redress for these people, as promoters of these and similar schemes take good care to keep within the law. We would point out that we have at the Central office a legal department to which all such cases should be submitted before any money is invested in them. If our people would only hold on to their money until the status of the promoters of such schemes is decided in a case of hardship would be avoided.

Lindsay Local Picnic

A picnic under the auspices of the Lindsay local Grain Growers Association was held recently. The weather being ideal and the people in good humor, the event proved to be a big success. Before the sport events took place Mr. McKinley arrived, and though unexpected, was most welcome. During the afternoon he delivered two very interesting and instructive addresses. He also entertained the children for 20 minutes, a part of the program which they thoroughly enjoyed. Before Mr. McKinley concluded his address, I received two new members, which goes to prove that every Grain Growers' picnic should have a speaker to explain to the farmers what the association has done and is trying to do for them. The proceeds are to be used for patriotic purposes.—Thos. H. Adams, secretary, Lindsay Local.