



# SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by Fred. W. Green, Secretary, Moose Jaw, Sask.

## CORRESPONDENCE RE POLITICS

Mr. Charles Wilson, president of Dana Grain Growers' Association, has written to this office respecting the political situation. His letter is so interesting that we thought it would not be remiss to publish same, together with our reply.

Mr. J. L. Middleton, Asst. Secy. Sask. G.G.A., Moose Jaw, Sask.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your comments in The Guide, issues of July 19 and 26, regarding the attitude of the executive towards the nomination of independent candidates, I believe every farmer will endorse the executive's decision to keep the Association entirely apart and distinct from the political movement, but I cannot see that the circular issued by the Ituna Hubbard branch asked you to involve the Association, and I doubt if Mr. David Ross would favor so doing. In the constituency of Humboldt, certainly the local associations were used at the start to advertise the movement and ascertain the amount of support likely to be received, but at the preliminary convention at Viscount on July 25 the point was discussed, and it was unanimously decided to keep the two entirely distinct and separate henceforth. Even the Viscount convention was not confined to members of the Association, but was open to all farmers, and it is quite obvious that the political movement to be a success must of necessity transcend the association and attract and embrace the support of the whole body of farmers, but while I cordially approve of the executive's attitude of non intervention in the political movement, may I say that it is equally desirable and equally important that no manifestation of a hostile attitude should be made by the executive as a whole or by individual members of that body. The Association embraces many members who are enthusiastic independents, and it would be very unfortunate if an impression was created that any member or members of the executive held a brief for the old parties. In short, I think the executive should maintain a strictly neutral position, neither aiding nor impeding, encouraging or discouraging, and that this should be made quite clear to every one.

(Signed) CHARLES WILSON, Dana, Sask., July 31.

Chas. Wilson, Esq., President Dana Grain Growers' Association.

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for your letter of the 31st ult., which I have carefully perused. I am gratified to note that you endorse the executive's finding respecting the keeping of politics out of association affairs, this view being held by a very large number of our members.

The political situation is, indeed, a critical one, and to steer our good ship The Association through the turmoil, and at the same time remain neutral, is indeed a job which calls for great diplomacy and tact on the part of those at the helm. In our midst we have a great many able Independents, Conservatives and Liberals, while a large number of our members are not declared supporters of either party. Were we to call a convention you will readily understand that we would be unable to secure a calm and dispassionate discussion, having so many members who think they ought to vote for their party through thick and thin. You will agree with the executive, I think, when I state that before we could use the Association as

a political organization, we would require the mandate of the convention; hence my argument.

Respecting the circular which Mr. Raynor distributed amongst our secretaries in the Humboldt constituency, this gentleman has done nothing out of place. Our branch associations can discuss whatever they please at their meetings; if they wish to run independent candidates or form a Western party, they are quite at liberty to do so. The executive are of the opinion, however, that our members should go into politics on their own initiative, and not commit our organization to support any particular party. We wish to be free to criticize and forward the interests of our own particular class in every legitimate way. If we, as an association, were identified with a special party, we would be obliged to support their particular projects, whether we thought them desirable or not. In this connection I would refer you to the "Patrons of Industry," which was a stronger organization than ours, and what befel them when they entered the political arena. The situation is exceedingly complex and alive with danger, and I think the resolution which appeared in last week's Guide sums the Association's safest course up in the proverbial nutshell.

For myself, I am not identified with any party. I try to emulate a "Free Lance," working for everything to benefit the farmers.

For the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.

(Signed) JAS. L. MIDDLETON, Asst. Secy.

P.S. Regarding your remark, "I cannot see that the circular issued by the Ituna Hubbard branch asked you to involve the Association," it is only fair to the executive to explain that Mr. Raynor's circular was not the only one we received. Quite a number of letters arrived at this office urging us to take the matter up. A meeting of the executive was then called at the instigation of our president and vice-president, with the foregoing result.

J.L.M.

## NEWSY BRIEFLETS

Mr. F. W. Green, our secretary, is expected to arrive in this city on Wednesday, the 9th inst., from the Old Country. We hope the change has done him good, and that he will be able to go about his duties with renewed vigor.

Percival—A grand picnic was held at this point under the auspices of the local Grain Growers' Association on the 22nd ult. Everything passed off successfully. Prominently displayed on handbills was the notice that there would be "Lots to eat; lunches all day."

Dilke G.G.A. has sent us membership fees for this year, along with a request for literature.

Cut Knife—Secretary Dion has written us for membership cards. This looks like business.

Meadow Bank—This association held a very successful picnic on the 20th ult., when great crowds congregated to witness sports, etc., and to enjoy a bounteous dinner catered for by the ladies. Mr. H. C. Pearce, the local member of Parliament, addressed the crowd on local issues, viz.: roads, bridges, co-operative elevators, Thunder Hill extension of C.N.R. and reciprocity. Secretary Lloyd is very much alive, and wishes us to send him a supply of membership cards.

Plymouth—Secretary Emigh has forwarded his membership fees for 1911.

Victoria Plains—This local held a successful gathering recently, when Mr. F. C. Tate, M.L.A. spoke on association matters. Everything passed off nicely, says Mr. Tate.

Moose Jaw—The annual fair passed off with great gusto. Races and sports of all kinds were indulged in. The var-

ious exhibits were great and reflected great credit on the enterprise of our local farmers in the way of stock raising, etc. The Grain Growers' Association was in evidence with their tent, distributing literature, etc.

Young—Secretary Young has sent us membership fees for this year.

Laird—This association has also sent us membership fees. They are also interested in the purchase of wagon scales at their point.

Oban—Secretary Ellaby informs us that the literature we sent proved a great help to the members in the way of organizing their local. We trust the members will rally around the standard and go ahead.

Regina Exposition—The Sask. G.G.A., Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., and the Grain Growers' Guide are to co-operate in the way of having a tent at the fair to advertise these three organizations. Executive Officer A. G. Hawkes, of Percival, is in charge.

Political Situation—Quite a number of callers have made enquiries in reference to the Grain Growers' stand on politics. They have all, without exception, endorsed the executive's finding in this connection.

Hillsley has sent us membership fees for this year.

Stockholm has also sent fees.

North Star G.G.A. has sent us a donation towards our coronation fund, and a remittance in payment of the convention reports sent them recently.

Kipling has sent us fees for twenty-three members for the year 1911.

Sylvania—This local is very much interested in the elevator question. They have organized a branch themselves and are exceedingly anxious to have an elevator built at their point, Tisdale, this fall.

KerRobert and St. Hippolyte—These two locals are interested in the elevator company. We have passed their communications to Mr. Dunning, secretary Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., Regina.

Ryerson—This branch held a great picnic recently, when Mr. Maharg addressed the members on the new elevator company and Association matters. Our president was successful in establishing or collecting sufficient stock to build an elevator at Ernfold.

Excelsior—Secretary Salmond has sent us a donation on behalf of his members towards our coronation fund.

Balmoe G.G.A. held a fine picnic at Millet's Crossing last month. The gathering was attended by the members of Eagle Creek, Dreyers and Arelee branches. Everything passed off successfully.

Swarthmore Grain Growers also held a great gathering on the 20th of last month. Sports were indulged in, and one of the features of the gathering was a tug-of-war match between teams representing Canadians, English, Irish Scotch. The Scotchmen pulled off the honors, and were presented with a straw hat each. Perhaps it was the porridge which made the men from the Land of the Heather come out of the fray with flying colors. After defraying expenses the secretary reported a neat balance to the good.

Newberry—Organizer Conlan is a very busy man and has been doing yeoman work for the association this year. Another gentleman in this district who deserves special mention is Mr. Brockley. The members of Ada association were loud in their praises of his singing and the great arguments he put forth inducing many farmers to place some dark horses in the field this year and again defeat Coburg. They will no doubt make the men west of Moose Jaw go some.

Atwater Grain Growers held a very successful picnic recently, when great crowds attended. This is going to be an annual affair.

Chamberlain intends having a picnic on August 5. We hope that it will be a

## SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Hon. Life President:

E. N. Hopkins

President:

J. A. Maharg - Moose Jaw

Vice-President:

Charles A. Dunning, Beaverdale

Secretary-Treasurer

Fred. W. Green - Moose Jaw

Directors at Large

E. A. Partridge, Sintaluta; F. W. Green, Moose Jaw; George Langley, Maymont; A. G. Hawkes, Percival; F. C. Tate, Grand Coulee; John Evans, Nutana.

District Directors

No. 1, Jas. Robinson, Walpole; No. 2, J. H. Symons, Fairville; No. 3, T. Wood, Covington; No. 4, C. A. Dunning, Beaverdale; No. 5, W. B. Fels, Dundurn; No. 6, Dr. T. Hill, Kinley; No. 7, Thos. Cochran, Melfort; No. 8, A. Knox, Prince Albert; No. 9, A. J. Greensell, Denholm.

great success. They have also sent us a donation for our coronation fund.

Drummond Creek—Secretary Phillips writes us that the farmers of this district have formed an association at Battleford to be known as Drummond Creek. Officers have been elected with Messrs. J. Manse and E. Wilson as president and vice-president. We welcome this new organization into the fold and hope that it will become a real live organization.

Clarke Hill—The meeting turned out a splendid success and we hope that their picnic will turn out likewise. Secretary Goodburn has the Association's welfare at heart and is quite enthusiastic.

Guide Subscriptions.—We wish all our members would purchase this paper. We have received a few subscriptions this week and hope to boost The Guide during the Moose Jaw fair. There is no mistake about The Guide being the best farmers' paper in the Dominion.

Borden.—This association is very much alive. The following resolution was passed at their last meeting: "Resolved, that the executive be requested to call upon the Dominion government to cancel the C.P.R. tax exemption which is now causing the whole burden of taxation in agricultural districts to be borne solely by homesteaders, farmers and others, to the great hindrance of general settlement, while the C.P.R. are holding their lands at high values purely for speculative purposes, thereby rendering nurgatory (insignificant) the original aim and intention of the tax exemption, and keeping the land from passing into cultivation as was originally anticipated."

Dilke.—Secretary Cappel has sent us membership fees for this year, also a request for more literature.

Plymouth.—This association has also forwarded their membership fees for 1911.

Ryerson.—Secretary Silvester informs us that their picnic, which was held on the 20th inst., was a great success from start to finish. Mr. J. A. Maharg, our president, gave a stirring address on the work of the association and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company. Mr. Maharg also wrote up shares for a forty thousand bushel elevator to be built at Ernfold. The Grain Growers in this district have indeed demonstrated in a practical way that they are alive, and we expect to hear that things are booming out Ryerson way in the near future.

## TRACTOR VS. HORSE.

As the years advance, farming becomes more and more a matter of business rather than a means of existence. The modern agriculturist figures his costs and profits as carefully as does the merchant, and he is just as alert to avail himself of cost-cutting systems as is the business man. Perhaps the best instance of business-method farming is shown in the harvesting of grain crops on the great ranches of the American Northwest. Not many years ago, these vast harvest tracts were a problem to their owners oftentimes thousands and thousands of dollars going to waste, because of the lack of men and facilities to gather the harvest at the right time. In its day, the three-horse-and-a-man binder was welcomed, but still it was not sufficient to cope with the gigantic task. Then came the big 20 to 30 horse outfits and the steam tractors for propelling the massive combined harvesters. Today the gasoline and kerosene tractors are now also coming into general use.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company has removed its headquarters to the capital of this province. Secretary Dunning's office is now located in Regina.

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