

Manitoba Secretary's Report

The following report was presented to the Manitoba Grain Growers' Convention by
R. McKenzie, Secretary-treasurer

We have now on our list 226 branches, twenty of these having been organized since the last convention. Outside of some meetings addressed by members of the board of directors in February and March, and attendance by the directors at farmers' picnics and banquets throughout the summer, not much effort has been put forth in the direction of organization work. On account of the late season and the difficulties the farmers have had in securing their crop, the directors did not consider it advisable to make any expenditure in organization work in November and December, leaving it altogether with the officers of the local branches to take what steps they considered necessary for the advancement of their different branches. An attempt to hold some meetings in January was rendered fruitless through the excessive cold weather. An encouraging feature of the work of the association this year was the organizing of new branches by the established branches in the surrounding districts, and practically all the new branches were brought into existence in this way.

Members' Contributions

Our receipts for membership dues show a slight falling off as compared with last year, but make a favorable showing compared with previous years. Since the Manitoba Grain Growers' association was organized, the contributions to the central association for dues are as follows:

1903	\$ 703.80
1904	977.40
1905	1,618.00
1906	1,889.65
1907	1,847.00
1908	2,933.60
1909	2,823.80
1910	3,774.75
1911	2,548.45
Total	\$19,116.45

This is an average of \$2,124 per year, a very insignificant amount when compared to the importance of the work that occupied the attention of the board of the central association and the amount of work they have been able to accomplish during these nine years.

It would be difficult to point out any other industrial or labor organization in Canada that has had such an influence in creating public sentiment and the securing of legislation in the interests of its members at such a small expenditure of money as has been done by the Grain Growers' association. Handicapped as the executive office was through lack of funds, their greatest obstacle and that which caused the most hindrance to the usefulness of the movement, was the comparatively small percentage of the farmers who have become members of this organization, our opponents invariably pointing out that the organization is only composed of a few agitators, and not representing the views of the farmers generally. This emphasizes the importance of making increasing efforts toward extending the organization with a view of having every farmer become identified with the movement.

Profitable Co-operation

One of the features of this year's work is a marked development of the co-operative spirit amongst the members of our local branches. Many of our branches, with profit to their members, purchased some staple commodities co-operatively. The success that has attended these efforts creates a desire to dispose of their farm products co-operatively. The success of co-operative handling of our grain by our Grain Growers' Grain company leads many of our thinking men to regard the co-operative marketing of our farm products as the ultimate solution of the question of mixed farming. When farmers learn to buy and sell a few things co-

operatively, they will gradually learn to sell all their produce co-operatively and supply their needs of staple commodities in the same way.

Regular Meetings

Another commendable feature of the year's work is that a number of our branches are holding regular meetings at stated periods. These meetings are also responsible for development along the social side of farm life, and in not a few instances these meetings of the Grain Growers' association are becoming the social centre of the community in which they are held and are being made a medium for the upbuilding of character and training for usefulness.

I would specially urge upon this convention the advisability of a good deal of attention being paid by the delegates to devise a better scheme for organizing than we have up to the present time. Methods that were applicable to the needs of the organization in its early stages will not meet with the requirements of the immediate future. It is practical wisdom to adapt themselves to changed conditions.

Economic Problems

This is an age of progress. No institution can remain inactive and live, much less advance. Development can only take place where there is proper exercise of that which we already possess. If farmers, who are the main producers of wealth, are to successfully resist the encroachment of those who live without labor other than scheming to create artificial conditions that enable them to acquire wealth without contributing anything toward creating that wealth, they must study for themselves and familiarize themselves with the principles of the economic problems that enter into modern methods of doing business, and the most economic system of distribution not only of the commodities they produce on the farm, but also all the commercial commodities that they have to purchase. They must make a study of the science of government and the proper relations between those who govern and those who are governed, and the duty of each individual to the state. Such questions as public ownership and operation of public utilities, modern methods of operating public utilities through the functions of government, taxation of land values, the right of the public to the unearned increment, Direct Legislation (including the Initiative and the Referendum), the reduction of the customs tariff, the encroachment of corporations and the rights of the individual are questions which have now become acute and have to be dealt with in a public way in the near future. No class of our population are so concerned in these questions and will be so vitally affected in the proper solution of them as the farmers. It therefore becomes the utmost importance that farmers give careful consideration and become familiar with the principles underlying these problems, upon the proper solution of which largely depends our national life.

SCHOOL EXHIBIT

The Manitoba Educational Association, in preparing a program for the convention in Winnipeg at Easter, thought it well to have a general exhibition of school work from rural schools. In order to encourage the teachers to send in work for such an exhibit it was decided to offer to teachers of one room rural ungraded schools prizes of \$25, \$15 and \$10 for first, second and third places in the competition. These prizes are to be given to the teachers themselves. The exhibit may include work in composition, penmanship, drawing and geography, and handwork, such as paper folding, raffia work, weaving, sewing and wood-work.

P. D. HARRIS,
Sec'y., M. E. A.

MANITOBA OFFICERS FOR 1912

The following are the officers of the Manitoba Grain Growers' association for the ensuing year:

Honorary President:

J. W. SCALLION, Virden

President:

R. C. HENDERS, Culross

Vice-President:

J. S. WOOD, Oakville

Secretary-Treasurer:

R. McKENZIE, Brandon

Directors:

District No. 1	PETER WRIGHT, Myrtle
District No. 2	R. M. WILSON, Marringhurst
District No. 3	D. D. McARTHUR, Lauder
District No. 4	FRANK SIMPSON, Shoal Lake
District No. 5	W. H. BEWELL, Rosser
District No. 6	R. J. AVISON, Gilbert Plains

FARMERS' FIGHTING FUND

At the Brandon convention it was the unanimous opinion of the 600 delegates present that the chief need of the association was money for the carrying on of its educational work. It was evident that the problems confronting the farmers could only be solved by securing the support of public opinion. The association felt the need of educating the general public to the absolute justice of their demands. The delegates realized that in order that the Manitoba farmers might save themselves from the greed of Special Privilege it would be necessary to make further sacrifices. To this end The Grain Growers' Guide was authorized to receive subscriptions for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association Endowment fund. The money received will all be placed in the Home Bank to the credit of the association, and all subscriptions received will be acknowledged through The Guide. Any person in Manitoba who feels that the association is doing a worthy work should send in his subscription at once. It is the hope to raise \$50,000 in the next three months. Make cheques and money orders payable to The Grain Growers' Guide, and mark on the outside of the envelope, "Farmers' Fighting Fund." Don't write about anything else in the same letter. Subscriptions will be received for any amount from 25 cents up. Short letters on this subject will be gladly received and as many as possible published.

Subscriptions Acknowledged

J. S. Wood, Oakville, Man.	\$10.00
George Love, Ninga, Man.	5.00
T. A. Crerar, Winnipeg, Man.	15.00
John Spencer, Winnipeg, Man.	10.00
G. F. Chipman, Winnipeg, Man.	10.00
Cartwright Association	6.00
	\$56.00

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