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Mrs. D. B. Neeley of Prince Albert, was the guest of her son, Mr. Cecil Neeley, of the Bank of Commerce staff, for a few days this week. Mrs. West, of Battleford, was a visitor with Mrs. Neeley.

A box party at the Empire on Monday evening for Mr. Cyril Maude's production of "Grumpy" included: Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Ferguson, Mrs. and Mr. W. P. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Coulthard, Mr. P. Armstrong and Mr. F. MacDermid.

## The Grain Growers Convention

Well Attended Meeting of District Number Nine at Wynyard—Interesting Topics Discussed.

THE Grain Growers' Convention for District No. 9, which takes in all the district south of the C.N.R. and tributary to the C.P.R. line from Saskatoon east to the Manitoba boundary, opened at Wynyard on Tuesday evening December 14. J. W. Reid, District Director, presided. Hannes Kristjanson was elected convention secretary, and J. E. Schinner, President of the Wynyard local and T. B. Baker, President of the Wynyard Board of Trade, welcomed the delegates.

In his annual address of welcome Mr. Reid briefly reviewed the work of the past year. He referred to the success of the Patriotic Acre plan and pointed out that much would be looked for from the farmers of the West this year. In this connection he said:

"The past months have revealed the fact that many of our rulers and others in high places have been unscrupulous enough to take the mean advantage of our country's misfortune to their own personal advantage and gain. Let the Grain Growers then set a high standard for the organization and ourselves."

"We believe that great good would result in the selling of our wheat upon a free market."

"As the outcome of a resolution passed at our last annual convention your executive have under consideration the taking over of the Saskatoon Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and we expect that at our next annual convention the above named company will become the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company. A new scheme of financing the central office will also be laid before the convention by the central secretary."

"Another bouquet has been handed to our organization in the appointment of our honorary president, Mr. Hopkins, on the commission to enquire into agricultural conditions, appointed by our Dominion Government."

Mr. Thomas Sales, of Langham, questioned the wisdom of having an officer of the Grain Growers' Association on this commission as he feared that much of the evidence submitted to this commission would be manufactured for the purpose by interested parties. Murdo Cameron of Floral asked why it was necessary to have Dr. Rutherford of the C.P.R. on every commission appointed

as he was on both the Agricultural Investigation Commission and the Live-stock Commission, and he also questioned the propriety of Mr. Hopkins accepting a place on this commission.

J. E. Schinner, president of the Wynyard Association, said that Hon. Pres. Hopkins should have refused a place on this committee so long as the complexion of the committee was so strongly opposed to tariff reform.

Mrs. John MacNaughton, of Piche, President of the Women Grain Growers' Association gave an address which was listened to with the greatest attention and interest and brought on a very animated discussion.

She emphasized the importance of having the women on the farms actively interested in the G.G.A., and pointed out how the Women Grain Growers of the west was the first organization in the Dominion to speak for rural women. There were a great many questions such as the pure food agitation, equal suffrage, social service, the domestic help problem, the Red Cross work which city women and farm women are all interested in or should be interested in and on which they should get together on common ground for the common good.

Mrs. MacNaughton then referred to the subject of rural education as one that should be taken up by the G.G.A. The Dower Law was referred to, and delegates were urged, if amendments to this law were proposed, to see that none of the privileges secured to women by this law should be lost by amendments proposed by the monied interests.

Mrs. MacNaughton then took up the question of medical aid in rural districts more especially in maternity cases.

Some startling statistics had been given on this subject by Dr. Rose of Regina. The infant mortality in Saskatchewan is very great, being estimated at 74.08 per cent.

The average is 36 per 1000, and in some countries like New Zealand, it is less than 10 per cent.

Another striking fact is that in Saskatchewan one woman out of every three giving birth to a child is materially injured. If one more in every three was so injured there would be a royal commission formed immediately to take up the subject.

At least 50 per cent of the children who die in infancy could be saved by proper care. A very large proportion of the women who died or were permanently injured in child-birth could be saved by proper medical and nursing attendance.

There should be a midwives act in the province, and provision made to supply properly qualified nurses wherever possible. The government should be willing to spend at least as much in preserving the lives of the mothers and children in this country as they spend in bringing new immigrants into the country.

A number of delegates heartily approved of some steps being taken to carry out the suggestions made by Mrs. MacNaughton. Among the speakers were Father Sinnott, Thomas Sales, Murdo Cameron, Mr. Moosomin, Mr. Schinner, Mr. Anderson, and other. Instances were given where exorbitant fees had been exacted by physicians, although due credit was given to the splendid service and reasonable charges of many doctors.

Father Sinnott told of how 40 years ago the Dominion Government sent doctors from Ontario to Manitoba to attend Indian women and certainly white women and their children should be as well worth saving as these Indian women.

President J. A. Maharg then outlined some phases of the proposed policy of the Grain Growers' in Saskatchewan. The leaders of the farmers' organizations are practically unanimous as to the method of procedure.

"We have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to have three distinct units. First, the local unit with almost absolute autonomy, to handle the local business; Second, it is absolutely necessary for every province to have its own organization as well; Third, an inter-provincial organization. The work of the locals must be largely educational. Through education will come the growth and success of the institution. Through this organization

the trading activities of the members should be done. The collecting of produce, such as the collection of wheat by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator, should be one of the functions of the local organization. At the present time the bulk of the profits made from handling grain in Saskatchewan now goes out of the country, although already the Co-operative Elevator had returned \$500,000 in profits to shareholders in the Province. We purpose starting on the ground floor and building up, and the organized local unit is the foundation on which to build.

"Live stock is another product which will eventually be marketed by some co-operative organization which would have to rely largely on the local units for success."

"Next comes the provincial institutions. There is a distinct field which neither local units or an inter-provincial institution could look after. Some of the questions which could not successfully be taken up by the local units are: Rural fire insurance, marketing of grain, live stock, eggs and poultry, the wholesale purchasing and distributing of supplies to the locals; the distributing of literature, and many other points which could only be dealt with by a provincial institution."

"An illustration of the difficulty of lining up the eastern farmers in co-operative work was the vote taken in the Presbyterian church on church union, which was carried overwhelmingly in the west and defeated in the east."

"There is already sufficient grain controlled by farmers to make a success of terminal elevators. The grain export question could also be handled much better by an inter-provincial organization and so could the live stock business. The milling question should be made possible by an inter-provincial organization which would provide a large market within ourselves. We are now on the verge of making arrangements for a large importing business which could only be handled through an inter-provincial organization."

"The first step should be the incorporation of every local. One of the weaknesses of the old Patrons of Industry was the lack of local autonomy and neglect to incorporate. The agricultural co-operative act gives wide powers and the cost of the charter is only \$4.50."

"The Central has been hampered by the boycotting measures resorted to by wholesalers. The Central's trading activities are going on successfully, although the grocery business has been carried on at a loss, owing to the boycott. The large majority of retailers in the country are not free agents, and the local merchant is sometimes wrongly blamed for the high prices farmers have to pay."

"We have come to the conclusion that we need more capital to successfully carry on our trading business. We propose to raise this capital in three different ways—First, is the old life membership scheme. The present life membership fee is \$12.00. Another source of raising revenue will be the issuing of \$25 debentures which will pay 6 per cent interest. One other method is to have all locals incorporated, and then make it possible for them to become part and parcel of the Provincial Central by taking shares in the Central."

### Music

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