

ERIKSDALE CONCERT

The Grain Growers of Eriksdale in co-operation with the ladies of the Home Economics Society held a concert in the Orange Hall in that town on the evening of Wednesday, March 27. Several prior gatherings and functions, and the state of the roads combined to lessen the attendance, but at the hour of opening there were well up to a hundred and fifty people present, a very large proportion of whom were young and some of them of whom appeared to be old. The energy and buoyancy of youth seems to be in the air at Eriksdale, and mere years are not supposed to be counted. The khaki color here and there and the trim sleeve badges and dainty caps of the Home Economics ladies gave a little military air to the company and the presence of half a dozen little curly heads, in arms (though not in the military sense of that term), reminded one that Grain Growers are concerned with the rural home and aims to raise its standard as well as that of life generally.

Under the efficient chairmanship of the local president, a musical and literary program was given which was followed by an address from W. R. Wood, of Winnipeg, on the Association and its work. After some informal discussion on the matter of increased production and local difficulties in increasing the acreage the following resolution was moved by Mr. Fred Yarnold, seconded by Samuel Houston, and carried by a unanimous vote.

Whereas one of the imperative needs of the present Empire situation is increased production.

And whereas there is every reason to believe that the shortage of food-stuffs will continue on till 1919 if not later.

And whereas there are in the Eriksdale district twenty-five or more farmers who have small clearings sufficient for the ordinary support of a family but insufficient to give them a chance to launch into any extended clearance.

Therefore, this meeting representing the local Grain Growers' Association and the community generally resolves that we request Mr. W. R. Wood, the general secretary of the provincial Grain Growers' Association, to present the situation to the Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture, and urge the adoption of a system whereby additional breaking of land shall be undertaken in this district during the current year so that a large additional acreage shall be prepared for the 1919 crop, the financial burden to be borne by the Government with such security on land or crop, or both, as shall guarantee against loss and afford reasonable terms of repayment to the farmers.

It was directed that the resolution be forwarded to the provincial and federal representatives of the district, to the provincial treasurer and the minister of agriculture, to the Dominion minister of agriculture, to the prime minister and to the Grain Growers' representatives at Ottawa.

Following this, a dainty lunch was served, and the floor being cleared the young people enjoyed themselves with dancing till the new day was approaching dawn.

Eriksdale is an ambitious little town with three stores, three boarding houses, two churches, two schools, a livery stable and a number of residences. The co-operative store, established somewhat over a year ago, is having a successful career and reports a turnover of \$58,000 in the past twelve months. A number of residences are projected for the coming summer, and when the Oak Point line becomes a section of the great provincial direct route from Winnipeg to the Hudson Bay, Eriksdale expects, as the centre of a prosperous farming community and a convenient halfway house on the journey between the 'Peg and the north, to be several degrees more metropolitan, substantial and enterprising than it is to-day. Watch it grow.

THREE BUSY DAYS

From Pilot Mound as a centre, a successful series of meetings was carried out in the week beginning March 18. The plan which has worked with conspicuous success in other districts—that of having a representative of the United Grain Growers Limited and a

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representative of the Association working in co-operation with an officer of the Provincial Association—was again followed and with satisfactory results. Mr. E. E. Brown, of the Company, and Mr. D. G. McKenzie, representing the Association, collaborated with Mr. J. L. Brown, the vice-president, by whom the local arrangements were made.

Effective work was accomplished and the prospects are that in every local association visited there will be not only renewed and increased interest in the movement generally, but a substantially increased strength in actual membership.

The attendance in one or two instances was somewhat disappointing, but this was not altogether unexpected as the weather was very fine and the farmers were beginning to work on the land. At all these meetings the general work of the association was reviewed. The social and community advantages discussed, the relationship of the Association and Company fully dealt with.

The meeting at Pilot Mound, on Monday afternoon, was a very encouraging one. The attendance was not large, but very marked attention was paid to the discussion, and all present promised to do all they could to increase the membership and stimulate interest in the community. The same evening a splendid meeting was held at Marringhurst. A large number of ladies and young people were present. Much work is being done here along literary and social lines and interest is well maintained in the activities of the Association. At Crystal City, a splendid crowd turned out on Tuesday afternoon, and the opinion was fully expressed that the Association at his point would continue to grow and expand. On Wednesday the meeting at Clearwater was very small but enthusiastic. All present promised to make a systematic canvass of the community for members and make an effort to build up a strong local association centreing either at that point or a few miles south at Cypress River, as may be found advisable.

FORREST SOCIAL NIGHT

The local association at Forrest has been building up a reputation for outstanding success along the line of co-operative merchandising for several years. But the social and economic ideals have not been forgotten. In order that should not even temporarily be side-tracked, a motion was put and passed at a recent meeting that the Association put on an Oyster Supper for the members with a view to stimulating the social spirit and helping to bring the members into closer touch.

On Friday evening, March 22, the function materialized, about a hundred and thirty sat down at 7 p.m. to an excellent supper provided by the ladies of the Association. When ample justice had been done to the good things of the table, an interesting program was provided. After an opening piano solo by Miss Buchanan, Mr. J. M. Allan was elected toastmaster, and the toast of the King was duly honored. The second toast was Our Boys, ably proposed by Clarence Cole, and responded to by W. P. Middleton, in a way that did credit to the Canadians in the great world contest. After a solo by Mrs. George Brockie and a reading by Miss Leybourne, the toast of the Grain Growers' was proposed by H. K. McKenzie and responded to by J. M. Allan, who gave a short synopsis of what the Association stands for, what it has accomplished and what it aims to do. A solo by Miss Cuthbertson and a reading by Harry Leybourne, followed after which the toast of the sister organizations was proposed by vice-president John Webster, and replied to by Rev. Mr. Whitney on behalf of the church, and Clifton Watkins on behalf of the Curling Club. Each of whom emphasized the relationship of the organization represented by him to this great movement. After solos by

Mr. George and a reading by Miss Leybourne, the toast of our Caterers was proposed by Harry Leybourne and responded to by the president of the Womens' Section, Mrs. J. Grey, who spoke in a way that reflects the greatest possible credit upon the splendid work the women are doing and that referred particularly to the service being rendered in the direction of sending comforts to our boys and nurses at the front. After a solo by Mrs. Geo. Brockie, the entertainment was brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

FOR YOU TO QUOTE

A consideration of our daily experience proves to us that no church has any monopoly of genuine followers of Christ, nor is any church exempt from flagrant sinners by reason of its orthodoxy. Nay more, we find, amongst many who cannot assent to any of the various creeds in their entirety, the genuine spirit of Christ, a sincere love of truth, an uprightness of life and willingness to live for the common good which are at any rate a large part of Christianity.—Herbert Symonds.

Since confederation economy has been unpopular, and politicians could win more votes by squandering a million dollars than by saving a million dollars. I am quite certain this will not be the case five years from now.—J. Murray Clark.

THE IDEAL GRAIN GROWER

The ideal grain grower is a person—and henceforward in the world's history it must never be doubted that women have all the rights and privileges of personality—who lives in the country and believes in it; one who is confident that the cultivation of the soil and of human life upon the soil will yield ultimately satisfying results.

The grain grower is a practical individual. He looks steadfastly at actual conditions. He persists in recognizing things as they are. And where things as they are are wrong, he insists that that condition shall not continue. He will not be satisfied without knowing the nature of the wrong and its source. If social life is barren and cold, if economic life is un-renumerative or wasteful, if intellectual life is shallow or fantastic, if church life is spiritless or hypocritical, the grain grower will be likely to "size it up," to express himself upon it, and to make some effort to set it right.

The grain grower is an optimist. He believes that better conditions are coming and that it is part of every man's job to bring them. He does not despair of his community because it is backward. He is sure that there is some good and some good will in every individual and he sets to work to find it and to enlist it in the cause of better conditions. He believes in working with the tools at hand. It is part of his task to absolutely convince his neighbors that they can do, that they want to do something to help and then to get them at it. Often it is difficult. Frequently he is tempted to wish he could get to some place where people could be more easily inspired. But he does not give up. He tries again and again, changing his mode of approach, varying his methods till he at last wins out.

The grain grower is a co-operator—if not by birth then by inspiration. He will not work alone—for any long period. He is convinced that the man who works alone, long, is almost, if not quite, a fool. He finds the principle of co-operation at work. "All things work together." The sun and the cloud and the wind and the soil and the seed and the people and the animals—and all in co-operation with Him who is the Great Worker. And he knows that in life's work one and one always make more than two. So he sets himself diligently to cultivate the co-operative relationships of life. He hates the waste and

loss of segregated individuality. He loves the increasing life-gain of being "laborers together" with others round about him. His meal does not taste as well till it is shared. His thought does not mean so much till it is reflected upon his brother's mind. His business is not satisfying when its gains are all for his own pocket. His religion is poor until he prays for his brother as for himself. And so in all his life he seeks collaboration, co-operation with others.

The grain grower is a democrat. He is pre-eminently "of the people." He believes in the people getting together through freely chosen representatives in order that matters of common interest may be discussed and issued along lines that shall be for common welfare. He is growingly impatient of any "governing class" of any "special privilege," of any encroachment upon fundamental right. He hates autocracy, and if possible he hates a little more the thing he is coming to know as "plutocracy." Class titles, especially of the hereditary variety, he regards as a mischievous species of medieval mummery which may have to be banished. He knows that democracy has its dangers and accepts as a great part of his mission the safeguarding of our public life from the evils that threaten. Ignorance and inertia he takes to be the greatest immediate menaces and to overcome them he pledges himself and his organization to the utmost.

The grain grower is a business man. He recognizes that farming may fail from inefficiency in labor, but that it is far more likely to fail through inefficiency in the handling of its business, the procuring of its raw material, the maintenance of its "plant" and the disposal of its varied "product." He is unalterably opposed to hampering restrictions upon his buying and selling. He is a free trader first, last, and always. He is ready to contribute his quota to public revenue, but declines to pay it through a tariff provision which permits his neighbor to rob him while he is kept in ignorance of how much he pays. He is more than suspicious of the methods of big business and the intricacies of brokers and bond dealers and their ilk. Simplicity and directness are the prime business virtues in his estimation and he expects to insist on them having fuller place in business generally in times to come.

The grain grower is a servant of his community. He does not work for himself primarily. He works for the people with whom his life is lived. His family, his neighbors, his municipality, his association, his nation. He regards it as a duty and an honor to respond to the call of the community's need. He does not shirk office if he is called thereto. He prepares himself intelligibly to represent the views of his group. He seeks to stimulate others to do their part. He believes that every man should be a representative man, a public spirited man, a citizen voluntarily bearing a citizen's responsibility. He holds that every man in the community should be capable of acting effectively as chairman of a community meeting, or of discussing with others matters of common concern. And so believing he sets himself with all whose co-operation he can secure to attain such efficiency for all his neighbors by the training and the experience which association and community service afford.

The grain grower is one who believes that the world moves and who, believing that his community is an integral part of world-humanity, insists that it keep pace with the advance; insists upon it not as a master who commands but as a member, whose life interests are bound up with those of his fellow men, as one who devotes his powers unstintingly to furthering the common purpose and attaining the common goal.—W.R.W.

AFTER THE GOPHERS

The Manitoba Department of Agriculture is setting young Manitoba off on a grand spring gopher hunt. It offers one cent per gopher tail to all one-roomed schools getting over 500 gopher tails, brought in to the teachers by the pupils before May 10, 1918. Full particulars regarding the contest will be mailed to any teacher by the Biology Department, Manitoba Agricultural College.