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Saskatchewan

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

District Directors:
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 Andrew Knox, Prince Albert; Dr. Henry,
 Mildner; John W. Burrell, Gerowville;
 and Thomas Conlon, Archie.

Answers In Brief to Questions From Our Correspondents

C.M.B.—No, the Executive of the Saskatchewan G.G.A. are not all subject to the Liberal machine (so-called). Neither am I aware of any that are subject to a Conservative machine, but I daresay they all claim the right to belong to either. But, personally, I think that a man has a right to belong to neither. If an officer of this Association is after butter for his bread he would certainly associate himself with either one or other of the parties. Position and preferment seem to be in the hands of politicians and are only given to those who can deliver the goods in the interest of the party, and it is most astonishing in how many ways politicians can sidetrack any man who will not be subservient to them. But we are living in hopes that Western farmers will yet deliver themselves from the yoke of bondage and become free enough to select men to represent them who are independent of either of present day party dominances.

W.L.—1: No, I am no longer an elevator inspector. I trust this will be satisfactory to all elevator companies. Neither do I hold any stock in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, and know absolutely nothing as to the inside workings of that company's business. I have had absolutely nothing to do with it since its permanent directors were appointed. I took no stock because we already had an independent farmers' elevator and trading company at the point from where my grain is shipped; selling our grain, purchasing our supplies, and I did not think it wise for men to occupy chief positions as permanent officers who were not personally interested in the co-operative operation of its plant.

2: Yes, I presented the petition to the government asking for government elevators. Yes, I was one of the commissioners who drafted the plan provided for in the Saskatchewan Elevator Bill. In fact, I did take an active part in framing the specific details in the plan adopted, but it is not all in operation. The important part of the bill, namely, the provision for co-operative trading, has not yet been put in operation. I do not think the government was, or are now in favor of those powers being put in operation. Business interests are antagonistic to its operation.

3: Yes, it could be made the most useful organism. Its powers possibly might be extended to operate banks as you say, distribute every commodity used in the production of crops and erection of buildings to its locals as well as market our products and do this all co-operatively. If the local boards were given sufficient scope it could become the intermediary between producer and consumer so far as farm life is concerned, which would revolutionize conditions on the prairies.

C.C.W.—Yes, the Manitoba Grain Growers' constitution sets forth that members of parliament and the legislature are not eligible as executive officers or directors in their Association. They assume that once a grain grower has become a member of a parliament or a legislature it does not look well, neither is it advisable, to place him in a position to control the legislature, the Grain Growers' Grain Company, the Grain Growers' Guide, and the Association, and be the head of several commissions all at once, and give him power to operate the whole in the interest of a political party; and thus make a colossal autocrat whose limbs stretch from pole to pole, who would be sure to play either a Caesar or a Brutus. Manitoba Grain Growers seem to assume that a man true to farmers' interests who has risen to the highest places in the confidence of the government through the influence of the Grain Growers' Association, would still sympathize with the farmers even though he could not continue to occupy all the

smaller chairs as well as the larger ones. They take it for granted that he would not cut them altogether because he could not hold the sceptre and sit on the throne in a convention as well as in the legislature.

B.C.—Re picnics—Replies coming in would indicate the picnic to Fort William does not meet with the approval of a sufficient number to warrant any further consideration being given to the matter. Local picnics are being arranged by the score and it would appear district directors will have their hands full in making the necessary arrangements. Every secretary should communicate with the district director re picnics, and at the same time send dates to the Central office, so that the Executive may arrange for some of its officers to attend as many of these picnics as possible.

M.L.—Yes, during our recent trip to Ottawa Mr. McKenzie and myself did go to Montreal. We visited the docks and terminal elevators, also the inspection department. We might fill pages regarding the work of the Harbor Commission there and the facilities provided for handling western grain, deepening of the channel, extension of wharves, berths for ocean liners, building elevators, providing equipment for transferring grain from barges and lake boats to elevators and ocean liners and to the elevators, both from cars and from boats; miles and miles of conveyor belts, powerful floating marine legs, as well as the great double marine tower connected with the latest and perhaps last and most modern concrete terminal elevator in the world. The Commission certainly deserves great credit for the boldness of their enterprise. The construction, the magnitude and rapidity with which the multitude of the various functions for transferring grain can be carried on at one and the same time; the general finish and completeness of the mechanical devices; the smoothness of their operation, together with the general solidity and outstanding characteristic magnitude of this plant are sufficient to enthuse and command the admiration of anyone, let alone to western farmers like myself and Mr. McKenzie.

C.B.M.—No, your Executive is not yet in favor of the establishment of a sample market at Winnipeg, which will permit either selection from or mixing of our standard grades of One, Two and Three Nor. They are still of the opinion that the base price of our grain is set from the quality of the grain arriving at Liverpool under the Canadian inspection certificate. Anything that permits lowering or deterioration of that quality will most assuredly lower the base price of every bushel of export grain grown in Canada. Moreover, your Executive have been sent time and again to ask the government for Dominion ownership of the terminal elevators for the purpose of stopping mixing and manipulation on the part of grain dealers after inspection. We impressed it on Sir Wilfrid Laurier on his tour through the West. We impressed it on the government at our big delegation to Ottawa. We impressed it on R. L. Borden on his tour through the West. It was reiterated at the conventions in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, and it is generally acknowledged that to run a sample market and the general mixing proposition—which is an essential feature of a sample market—not government ownership but private ownership of the terminals is the outstanding necessary factor. In addition to this the president, vice-president and the secretary, with others, have been sent to investigate conditions at Winnipeg, Fort William, Montreal, Liverpool, Manchester, Minneapolis and Chicago, have conversed with inspectors, shippers and dealers at these various centres; have taken samples and studied statistics to the best of their ability. These men are not convinced it would be wise at the pre-

sent juncture to establish a sample market at Winnipeg and permit this general mixing of our best with our worst 3,000 miles away from our ultimate market and thus prohibit the men who buy the most of our grain and establish its price, from competing for or securing any of our best product. There is a sample market at Liverpool. The price is paid for the grain that is received. Millers like to do their own mixing. Mixed wheat can never be separated. If grain was all mixed 1,000 miles west of Minneapolis as it is on arrival at Minneapolis, Minneapolis sample market would be a thing of the past.

F. W. G.

An organization meeting was held at the residence of Syver Elgie, on April 1, and a branch of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' association was formed in this district. The name selected is Kincaid. The following officers were elected: President, Charles P. Lee; vice-president, W. P. Ross; secretary-treasurer, W. L. Sawyer; directors, E. H. Seed, D. H. Anderson, H. Theis, J. McFarlane and S. Eggin. The secretary-treasurer was authorized to purchase stationery, such as minute book, membership tickets, etc., and any information you may have which will assist us. I enclose herewith \$2.50 membership fees.

W. L. SAWYER.

Meyronne P.O.

Expecting 100 Members

The Grain Growers' association at McNutt held their first meeting on March 22, at 3 p.m., and have decided to hold meetings the last Saturday in each month. The following officers were elected: President, James Anderson; vice-president, Jacob Fuhr; secretary-treasurer, F. Furtney; directors, James Christie, J. C. Saunders, P. Kennedy. We have 34 paid-up members so far. We expect to have a hundred be-

fore long. Enclosed find \$17.50 membership fees. Kindly forward me 50 membership tickets.

F. FURTNEY,
Sec. McNutt Association.

Much More Alive

Enclosed find postal note for \$15.50, being \$15.00 fees and 50c for tickets. We had a good meeting last evening when we had with us President Maharg, who gave a very interesting address. We were indeed glad to have him with us and hope that we may be favored with visits of other prominent men in the work whenever it is possible. Our Association is much more alive this year than last.

F. J. PEVISS,
Sec. Spring Valley Association.

New Branch at Boulder Lake

An organization meeting was held in the Boulder Lake school house, and the Boulder Lake association was formed. The following officers were elected: President, D. Caswell; vice-president, O. Ready; secretary, H. Ruedig; directors, G. Thoeson, E. Plageman, Wm. Ready, E. W. Fenton, W. J. Casterton, H. Kane. The meeting was well attended and the members of the older associations gave interesting addresses on the work of the Association. The movement is by no means dead in this section of the country and we will see that it don't die.

H. RUEDIG,
Sec. Boulder Lake Association.

On March 29 we organized a Grain Growers' association at the Oasis school house, Richmond, and we have adopted the name of Richmond. Enclosed find \$8.50 for fees and 50c for tickets. Kindly forward us samples of literature that you think would assist us in the work.

L. J. FREEMAN,
Sec. Richmond Branch.

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