

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, January 12th, 1916

## THE BRANDON CONVENTION

The work of the Manitoba Grain Growers' convention at Brandon, 1916, well upheld the traditions of that great farmers' organization. More than 600 farmers and a considerable number of their wives were in attendance. The program covered a wide range of subjects, dealing not only with the intimate problems of agriculture, but also with the wider questions of citizenship which vitally affect every farm home. Thruout the whole convention, beginning with President Henders' address and cropping up in the addresses and remarks of the delegates, there was a determined spirit for the prosecution of the present war until the armies of the Allies are triumphant. Again and again delegates and officers declared that not in any way would they hamper the government in the prosecution of the war, but would lend every possible assistance. Even on the question of commandeering the wheat which a great many delegates felt was not justified the prevailing opinion was that they should take it for granted that the government had good cause for its action and therefore they would not attempt to criticise. A great many of the delegates had sons at the front "doing their bit" to maintain the principles of freedom and democracy thruout the world. The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association is represented in this war by some of the best manhood of Manitoba and tho the Association has its own problems to be solved yet the members are determined that first and foremost the nation must be freed of the danger hanging over it.

There was also a feeling of gratification among the delegates over the fact that a number of the reforms for which they have contended for many years are shortly to be placed upon the statute books of Manitoba. The Association has an enviable record in its attitude towards democratic questions that affect the welfare of the people as a whole. It was therefore very pleasing for them to know that at the present session of the Manitoba Legislature the government is pledged to enact legislation providing for Direct Legislation, the enfranchisement of women, a referendum on prohibition, local option in taxation, bonding produce merchants and regulating the produce trade and the erection of public abattoirs. On all of these questions the Manitoba Grain Growers have expressed themselves very strongly and a great deal of their energy in the past has been devoted to propaganda work in favor of these great reforms. It was quite natural therefore that as these questions seemed practically settled they did not develop as much debate as in previous conventions and this fact allowed more attention to be given to the other problems which are not yet so near a satisfactory settlement.

There was considerable discussion on the question of co-operation and the reports from local Associations indicated that co-operative buying is steadily growing among the farmers thruout the whole province. The old co-operative bill which has been on the statute books of Manitoba for many years has been found to be unsatisfactory and a resolution was passed by the convention asking that a new co-operative bill, which will permit and assist in the development of co-operative trading, be passed at the present session. It is understood that the government is favorable to such legislation and it is hoped that it also will become law during the next few weeks.

During the past year there has been a decided increase in the number of women members of the Association and this year they took a larger part in the program than ever before. The women who addressed the convention showed themselves well informed on the questions of interest to the Association and it was readily seen that the advent of the

women to the organization would be a very decided factor in the education of the farm women of Manitoba and also the coming generation of farmers and farmers' wives. The women are devoting considerable attention to rural schools and this is one direction in which there is great possibility of valuable service. As the women of Manitoba will have the vote before many months it is anticipated that there will be a very steady and considerable growth in the women membership of the Association. This has long been desired by the leaders of thought in the Association and when the women get the vote they will be even a greater strength to the Association than ever in the past.

The change in the constitution by which one director is elected from each federal constituency gives an increase in the board of directors and makes it more representative than it was under the old system. The delegates, however, showed their confidence in the work of the officials by re-electing the old board and adding on new ones to represent the new districts. One of the important resolutions passed was that in favor of doing more aggressive propaganda work in support of the policies of the Association which will no doubt result in a very large increase in the distribution of propaganda literature. It is hoped that the enthusiasm generated at the convention will be carried to the local Associations and that it will result in a large increase in membership and development of greater activities among the local branches.

## A FREE WHEAT CHALLENGE

As the Dominion Government has steadily refused to grant the Grain Growers their very reasonable request for free wheat, the Grain Growers of Manitoba have decided to place the matter in a new light before the government and give them an opportunity to test public opinion on that question alone. At the present time the federal constituencies of Lisgar and Brandon are vacant owing to the resignations of W. H. Sharpe, M.P., and Sir James Aikens, M.P., to contest seats in the recent provincial elections. The Lisgar constituency is almost entirely rural, while Brandon contains Brandon city as well as a considerable area of the rural district surrounding it. The Brandon convention passed a unanimous resolution providing that if by-elections are held in these two constituencies they will nominate candidates on the platform of "free wheat" alone and the Association has pledged itself to support these candidates in every honorable way. This is an open challenge to the Dominion Government on the question of free wheat. If the government desires to test public opinion among the farmers of Manitoba on free wheat here is an opportunity to do so without the possibility of the entire government being defeated as would be the case in a general election. The Grain Growers have devoted themselves to the study of this question and they know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the opening of the American market would be of decided advantage to Western grain growers. But even greater than the actual financial advantage is the fact that it would give the Grain Growers absolute freedom to market their grain wherever they wish, which at the present time is denied them. On the statute books of the United States at the present time there is a standing offer for free exchange of wheat and wheat products. The Canadian Parliament will be in session in a few days and by passing an act placing wheat and wheat products on the free list Canadian wheat would automatically enter United States markets free of duty. The decision of the Brandon convention to contest the Lisgar and Brandon

seats on the question of free wheat is a fair and reasonable offer and it would give the Dominion Government an idea as to how public opinion stands on this question. The Grain Growers are ready for the test any time.

## MANITOBA BREEDERS' MEETINGS

The annual meetings of the Manitoba Livestock Breeders' Associations were very well attended and a great success. One of the outstanding features was the confidence expressed on all sides as to the great future ahead of the breeder of livestock. There can be no question that the importance of livestock on the farm is being realized by the great majority of farmers and it is also a fact that the country will develop and prosper as increased attention is given to the production of livestock on these Western prairie farms. A very practical discussion arose concerning some suggestions made on how to keep the farm herd free from tuberculosis. Undoubtedly this is a serious problem and the scourge of tuberculosis can only successfully be combated by a combined and continued effort on the part of all owners of livestock. The very sensible methods outlined by the representative of the Dominion Health of Animals branch whereby the least possible financial loss need be sustained by the farmer having infected animals in his herd appealed to all breeders present and it is to be hoped that definite steps will be taken by every farmer to control the spread of this very prevalent disease. The members of the committee representing the livestock breeders, which was suggested to enquire into ways and means of controlling the spread of tuberculosis, should be in a position to offer some very practical advice as soon as reasonable time has elapsed for investigational purposes. The value of having one particular breed of livestock in any single locality was emphasized on several occasions thruout the meetings. The discussion on breeders' clubs brought out this idea, but it was emphasized more forcibly still during the talk on the livestock industry as viewed from the stockyards. Dealers will pay a premium on a carload of stock which is uniform in size, color and type and well finished. In order to obtain such in any locality community breeding should be practiced. As mixed farming becomes more general the interests of the livestock men and the grain growers will become more common. As a matter of fact a large proportion of the members of the breeders' associations also belong to the grain growers, so that it was only natural that a resolution brought in by the Livestock Shippers' Association demanding that the charge of a half of one per cent made by the packers on all stock they bought to cover any losses they might sustain thru animals rejected by the health inspectors' department on account of disease, should be abolished was unanimously passed at a joint meeting of the breeders and grain growers. Thruout the meetings it was evident that by applying the principles of co-operation to every branch of farm work a very greatly increased measure of prosperity could be ensured on all farms.

## INFORMATION FOR FARMERS

In the beginning of the organized farmers' campaign for better conditions there was a wide demand for investigation concerning similar problems in other countries of the world. It is very helpful to have the experience of the other fellow who has faced and perhaps solved the problem with which you are confronted. It was partially to supply this need and to collect this information that The Grain Growers' Guide was established. During the past eight years The Guide has gathered a tremendous amount of information from every important country in the world dealing

test  
eds  
ers.

te

ractor  
the dif-  
Case  
ight, are  
out the  
reshing  
ates and  
vice is a

ompany  
ans that  
parts are  
barring  
season,  
far-away  
Help is  
ce back  
anship.

ily

If  
you

ses  
ary  
rk.

re-  
s a  
for  
ex-  
dur

All  
no  
nt.

ar-  
re-  
y.

to  
rk-

20

in-  
ld

le  
at  
m

is.  
nd

AY

e

atalog

on a  
Do

miss  
card

VIS.

300

street