

Manitoba Grain Growers

Conducted Officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by the Secretary

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HAS your opportunity come yet—the opportunity through which your mark upon the life of your time is to be made? Without being like Micawber, waiting for something to “turn up,” you have watched for the day when you might “take occasion by the hand” and effect something more, something greater than merely the day's grind with its meagre return—when you might by linking up your life energy to some “tide in the affairs of men” have share in something large enough, something lasting enough, something of enough advantage to humanity to stand as a life work. Has your opportunity come yet?

Others Find Theirs

Whether it be for you or not I cannot say, but of this I am unalterably convinced that within the next ten years a very large number of young men and women are going to find in the rural life movement of the Grain Growers' and United Farmers' their chief opportunities of life-service and of personal development and self-realization. May it not be that this movement is for you too the “occasion” which you may take by the hand, the tide which “taken at the flood” may be the very making of your life? May it not be wise for you to look closely at the movement in the light of the possibility of its being for you, personally, your life's supreme opportunity?

A Reasonable Prospect

Its demands are not unreasonable. You do not require special talent or education. You will require training but the service of the movement will furnish that. You begin with just what you have and offer to your own community through your local association, just whatever service you can render. It may be drumming up members for a meeting or making a contribution to a program; or going to the station to meet a speaker; or driving a car over to an adjacent local meeting; or commending some phase of the work; or acting on a committee; or taking part in a debate; or formulating a resolution. These things are not trifles. The local association that has a dozen members that can be counted upon, that are always ready to do things of this sort is a local that is enviably rich and likely to be more than ordinarily effective. This big opportunity gives you a chance to begin today and with the equipment you have at hand.

Right Where You Are

Again it will not interfere with your work as a tiller of the soil. You need not leave the farm. Indeed it will help to make you in every sense the most out of your life on the farm. You will become genuinely progressive in your thinking about seed and soil and implements and methods and business. You will be led to observe the methods of others and to apply the knowledge gained to the betterment of your own operations. It will make you so familiar with what is being thought and said and done by others that it will be your own fault if you are not ultimately a highly trained expert. All the experts are not college trained. Intelligent experience and trained observation and practical common sense often afford all that is required.

Better Business

Beside helping you to better farming, the movement is designed to help you to better business success. Farming needs business knowledge and training as well as acquaintance with seeds and soils and seasons. The farmer must know where and how to get his supplies most economically and how to market his products most effectively. The Grain Growers' movement has already done much to improve the business of farming both as regards distribution of supplies and as regards disposing of products. There is room for improvement still. Now is your opportunity of getting into the movement for the opportunity it affords of bettering your business.

Better Living and Better Life

And further its design is the affording of a better living and a better life to the rural population. Better in material comfort; household comforts and labor-saving devices and the conveniences which in city life have come to be regarded as the common place and indispensable necessities of every day life. Better in social and intellectual development; giving the people opportunities of transcending their isolation and their individualism and coming to share the thoughts and views and aspirations of their fellow men, training them to think in terms of community life, and to live in order that all life's best things may be shared with others, so that no life may be deprived of or exploited to the losing of its share of the things that are more excellent. Better in regard to economic, moral and political principle; insisting upon and exalting the ideal of simple and even-handed justice, practising and requiring the principle of clean hands and a pure heart, and living to set up and make universal a type of citizenship which shall ensure the establishment and maintenance of a righteous and humane democracy.

Is it not reasonable to suppose that in the scheme of human life, your own life was designed to find its great opportunity in relationship to a movement which is setting itself to labor for the well-being of the rural population and through them of the whole population of Canada? It feels you; it calls you today. It may be to the rank and file of its workers, to be one in the many ten thousands who shall locally live to apply its principles and to exemplify its ideals, one of these whose personal life force joined with that of others shall build up the power by which it shall attack the evils of the time, and by which it shall impress its constructive teachings upon the national mind. It may be to local or wider leadership. The movement is calling insistently for such today. They are needed in every district, in every province and their work awaits them now. It may be to stand in the more difficult places where special demands are made upon foresight and insight and judgment and initiative and patience and courage and integrity, but where there are glorious opportunities of directing the course of the movement toward the higher levels.

Canadian men and women, youths and maidens, this movement calls you today. It offers you your opportunity. It points the pathway of service by which it may be yours to reach the only greatness worthy of human desire, the greatness of a life that does what it can to make better the lives of human kind.

Successful Livestock Selling

Three points on the Winnipeg-Yorkton line—Gladstone, Keyes and Arden—are having conspicuous success in handling the co-operative selling of livestock during the last six months. Albert McGregor has been handling the business for Keyes, L. G. Thomson for Arden, and Mr. Fehr for Gladstone.



A Sea of Oats on the Bench Lands of the Assiniboine. Photographed on August 9, on the farm of Jas. Mitchell, south of Roblin, Man. Hon. Edward Brown, John Arnott, Reeve of Shell River Municipality, Mr. Mitchell and his son are shoulder high in the promising crop.

Keyes has shipped about a dozen carloads, Gladstone something over half that number and Arden three or four. Sometimes the one point is able to fill a car alone. Frequently there has been an arrangement to have part from one point and part from another when the stock immediately available for a shipment at one place is insufficient to fill a car, thus adding to the practical co-operation of the branches one with the other.

Among the practical advantages which accrue from this enterprise are the following: In the shipment of hogs especially the farmers are able to get their animals to market at the exact time when they ought to be forwarded. Since with a fairly complete organization shipments are made frequently, no one is required to wait the whim or the particular necessity of the individual buyer. The working of the system with its lucid and practical reporting of the details of every transaction is itself an education in business methods for every man who participates. The individual finds that even if he has only one or two animals he has a chance to get full market value just as if he had a carload. The speculative element which plays so large a place in the older method is practically eliminated and men who have hitherto been indifferent are led to look into the co-operative method and to regard with favor the farmers' movement which has made such results possible.

Among remarkable returns secured during recent shipments two are spoken of as especially remarkable. One was that of a hog which netted its owner \$92.50 and the other a steer which brought in \$208.00 after all charges were paid. When men compare these figures with others which they have been receiving, they are inclined to conclude that there is something very much worth while in the co-operative shipment of livestock.

Pine Creek Resolution

Resolved that we, the Pine Creek Grain Growers, hereby strongly protest against the 20 per cent. increase in freight rates, now granted to the railways, and that in our opinion we, the farmers, would be justified in holding our wheat and not shipping a bushel out, until the freight rates be adjusted, as we do not want the price raised for our wheat, as in that case the poor people would have to pay the increased price caused by the increased freight rates asked for by the railways.

At MacGregor Fair

The local fair at MacGregor was held on Wednesday, August 7, and was easily the best fair ever held in the locality. The exhibits were all of a high standard and over 3,000 people are believed to have entered the grounds during the day. The managers accorded to the Portage district grain growers the privilege of a free site on the grounds for a tent, by means of which

the work of the organized farmers was kept in evidence before the people of the community throughout the day. The tent secured was about 14 feet square and many times during the day proved too small for the visitors who crowded in. It was amply demonstrated that there is specially deep interest in the work of the movement at the present time. The necessity for organization is probably more fully realized than ever before.

C. H. Burnell, president of the district association, was on hand with a good supply of literature, which was distributed and accepted in large quantities by visitors. He was assisted by Ben Richardson, the district secretary, and by Donald McKenzie, of Brandon, who came down for the day and gave valuable assistance in entertaining the visitors at the tent and in giving information with regard to the work of the movement. Mrs. J. Bennett of Pine Creek, was present, representing the women grain growers, and met the ladies who came to the tent in considerable numbers.

The officers are well satisfied with the results of this first experiment of a Grain Growers' tent at a local fair and when another fair day comes at MacGregor it is expected that the district grain growers will be there again with a tent considerably larger than the one used at this time. As a rest room for the ladies, as a meeting place for friends, as a base from which literature may be distributed, and as affording an opportunity for discussion of rural life problems and affording visibility to the movement in the local community, the plan is commended to other districts and to grain growers who may have the opportunity of using the plan in connection with their fairs.

Halifax Blind Relief

The Otterburne Literary Society recently held a successful concert, the proceeds of which, with some other moneys on hand, were donated to the relief of those who were rendered blind by the Halifax catastrophe some months ago. Receipt of the amount, \$35.00, is hereby acknowledged.

"Good Morning, Neighbor"

Since the parable of the Good Samaritan was spoken, the word “neighbor” has been in good standing among the words of men. The use of the word as a term of address has not been general but the other morning as I was boarding a train in the early dawn I was accosted on the platform by a breezy countryman, whose salutation was “Good morning, neighbor, you are out early this morning.” It was so unmistakably cordial that one was on a neighborly footing with the speaker at once. He didn't say “comrade”; that might have sounded like affectation. He didn't say “friend,” that might have been considered as presuming too far. But “neighbor” included something of comradeship, something of friendship and presupposed a kindly but unobtrusive interest and a desire for the continuance of the neighborly relationship which could scarcely be taken amiss.

The Grain Growers' Association stands for the development of neighborliness. It insists that neighbors belong to one another and that in order to satisfying human life there must be acceptance of the duties of neighbors toward their fellowmen. There must be cordial recognition of relationship and obligation and a no less cordial carrying out into the every-day practice of that recognition. Thus the wilderness will be transformed into a neighborhood and no one will need to ask “who is my neighbor?” for all men shall be as brothers and the poet's aspiration will be attained that one should

“Dwell in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.”