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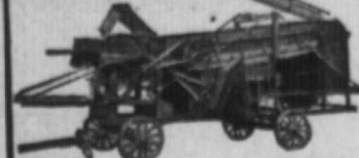
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Manitoba

This Section of The Guide is dedicated officially for the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association by W. H. Wood, Secretary, 484 Chambers of Commerce, Winnipeg, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

A LINE ON THEM

A farmer dropped in the other day with a claim which he had been following up with a powerful transportation company for several weeks, but which he had failed to have attended to. A three-minute talk from the office sufficed to state the case concisely to the proper official and to secure a promise that the matter would be adjusted at once. Next day the papers dealing with the case were presented and the claim at once paid. The farmer was astonished. "Well, that's very remarkable," he said, "I have been after this thing for weeks. You people must have a line on those fellows."

That is just the situation today. The rural population of Western Canada through the organized farmers have in a very real sense "a line on" the other interests in the country. The time is not very far past when it was quite impossible to get a line on the big corporations. The individual farmer—to put it in a commonplace way—had no show with them. Practically every time, if they were so minded, they could bluff him out of his rights. It is different today. The big companies know that the farmers are organized and represented as they were not a few years ago and that they are a force to be reckoned with, and they listen respectfully to the farmer's case presented through his organization.

A widow out on the prairie has two cows killed by a train under circumstances which she believes entitle her to payment for the loss. The railway evades her claim and she is unable to secure redress. Her case is taken up by the association and after two letters she receives her claim practically in full.

It is worth something for the rural population to have to this extent "a line on" the other interests with which they must deal. Just enough of a line to secure a reasonable degree of fair play in negotiations—for a square deal is all the farmer asks.

How much is it worth to you? Are you giving your support to the organization in proportion to its worth? Is it not your duty to help the organization to its maximum strength in order that it may help to make the square deal a universal rule.

THE ORGANIZED COMMUNITY

Who wants a community that is organized? Why shouldn't life be free, unrestricted, untrammelled, spontaneous? Who wants community machinery and regulation and officialdom? Isn't the organized community a Germanized community, and aren't we done for ever with all that kind of thing?

Such questions as these arose in the mind of an Easterner who came to Manitoba five years ago, when he was advised to go out and begin to "organize" the community in which he was to live. The questions and the objections were natural, but their point of view was a mistaken one. A community organized from without or from above (in the political sense) might be the Germanized objectionable thing which he had in mind, but when a community of its own free will and initiative organizes its elements and its forces in order that there may be fuller understanding and more perfect sympathy and complete co-operation and more satisfying life, there is no place for such objection. Freedom, initiative, spontaneity must be conserved, but these are not incompatible with consultation and collaboration, and assignment and acceptance of responsibilities in order that the common life may be enriched and enlarged.

The ideal of the Grain Growers' movement is that, that the community shall be stimulated to a social consciousness which shall issue in voluntary self organization for the common good, not in a mechanical fashion, but with full recognition of the individual and with the purpose of securing that every individual shall place himself where his particular qualifications and

aptitudes shall be most effective for personal self-realization and for community service. In this light the "organized" community is not a fear-some thing of rules and regulations, of restriction and circumscription; but just a community governed by the principles of sympathetic neighborliness, and intelligent co-operation in the spirit of willing service and the desire that, not only all things but all men, women and children shall work together for the common good.

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

Three great voluntary associations in Manitoba are doing splendidly effective work and should be better known. One is the Union of Municipalities which every year discusses a large number of practical problems of local government and during recent years has been responsible for many important amendments to municipal legislation. Every progressive citizen should follow the work done by this organization. A second is the Manitoba School Trustees' association. In its annual convention this body deals with the problems of education from the point of view of those to whom the local management of schools is entrusted. With a list of some 67 local associations this organization should be known by everyone who desires the best things for our children and youth. The third is the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association. With the other two it is the power in our provincial life and its activities should be familiar to every citizen. Find out what these associations are doing and if you have opportunity of assisting their progressive efforts do not let it pass.

It may not be out of place to add that these associations should know each other better than they do. Some of their ideals are held in common by all three. Would it not be a good thing if at the annual convention of each of them the other two should be represented, not merely in the way of formal "fraternal greetings," but by speakers who would present with some fullness the ideals cherished and the work being done by the body he represents. The three should move toward practical and efficient co-operation for the common good.

COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE

As this page goes to press an important meeting is being held in Regina following the meeting of the Canadian Council held there on March 11 and 12. This is the committee of commerce and agriculture and represents a coming together of the leaders of the farmers' movement with representative business men of Canada with the definite purpose of discussing matters of mutual interest and concern. Grain Growers confidently believe that the things they are seeking are things that may be submitted to the competent scrutiny and that will bear discussion from any and every angle. Hence they welcome the opportunity of presenting their case and the considerations by which it is supported, in the hearing of those whose interests have generally been regarded as conflicting or antagonistic. Getting together and publicity are two widely accepted principles today and Western Canada will look for practical results from the conference being conducted these days in Regina.

MUNICIPAL MEDICAL SERVICE

The following amendments were made to the Municipal act of the province at the recent session of the legislature: "The Municipal Act," being chapter 133 of the revised statutes of Manitoba, 1913, is hereby amended by inserting immediately after section 580 thereof the following section:— 580A. The council of any municipality may pass the first and second readings of a by-law providing for the engaging of a qualified physician at a salary, to care for the residents of the municipality free of charge to them

upon receipt of a petition of at least fifty of the ratepayers of the municipality, asking for the making of such appointment, and then submit the proposed by-law to the vote of the ratepayers in the manner in which, under sections 353 to 385, inclusive, of the said act, by-laws for raising money are submitted.

If such by-law is approved by a majority of the ratepayers who actually voted thereon, the council may then finally pass such by-law and, after passing same, may by by-law or resolution appoint any qualified physician at such a salary and upon such terms as may be agreed upon to give free medical attendance to all the residents of the municipality who may require the same.

A WORKING DIRECTOR

The adjective in the title should not be needed. The fact that an association has elected a man or woman to the directorate ought to be abundant guarantee that the individual is a worker and will take the director's job seriously. But it must be confessed that here and there we find people who regard the position of director as merely honorary and not involving any particular responsibility. As our associations get more experience they will gradually weed out the directors who (to use a colloquialism) "lie down on the job."

There are many—increasingly many—working directors. A little time ago a local association had been planning its work, arranging its territory for canvassing and unwittingly omitted to assign any special territory to a certain director. At next meeting he drew their attention to the omission, saying, "You didn't give me a field. But I am going to have a field and cultivate it too." And he set out to commend the association and its work and its ideals to a Ruthenian settlement lying within a few miles of his home. And he is succeeding in interesting his Ruthenian neighbors, getting them into touch with this great Canadian rural life movement as one of the things that will most effectively help them to interpret and realize the spirit of Canadian life. He is the kind of man the association needs supremely today, in order that it may come to its own. Is each of your six directors on the job of attracting the largest possible membership to your branch? Between now and seeding is the best opportunity of 1918.

RAVENSWORTH LOCAL

The Ravensworth branch enjoyed a visit from W. I. Ford, the district director, on February 26. Mr. Ford addressed the meeting on the Grain Growers' movement and its work and emphasized the necessity of strengthening the local numbers in order that the movement as a whole may have the place it should have in the nation's life. He drew attention to the fact that the association welcomes people entirely independent of what their nationality or creed may be.

MANITOBA GAME LAW

At the recent session of the legislature some changes were made in the laws governing the Manitoba Game Protection Act. The resident trappers license fee was increased to \$2.00. In order to export any head, horns or antlers the fee is 25 cents each, and a fee of 10 cents for each hide or scalp of any of the animals mentioned in section 3. Sportsmen, hunters and others making shipment of game within the province shall manifest the contents of shipment together with number of license on which game was shot. Fur traders license now expires on September 30. The section relating to non-resident license fees has also been amended: British subject: big game license, \$15, game bird license, \$10. Other than British subject: big game license, \$25; game bird license, \$25.

In order to help overcome the sugar shortage a campaign is being conducted in Eastern Canada for increased production of maple syrup and sugar. It is estimated that the resources of the country in these products are less than 25 per cent. utilized.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

To the Local Association, president or has very generous of \$50 to the largest number members during

The life membership recent convention contest. But, memberships secured by credit to life members becautions were secretary or of dition is that ment in any lo \$50 prize money members as pay for the life membership m tive of any pos made out of th

Value of

We are now create life membership make sure that become permanent association. To insure this to have these members. We interested in something into vest, the great to insure a pe need to have members life will help to of their own this special successful. 0 members on 0 March 20. Le days of March life members.

1918 Fee

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Superior

CAJ

Rosthern h 1918, already is still going Regina has one-fourth of and the Reg ting started local had 179 and they are ciency prize membership found, but of all things. Young 287 d our breath t will report. and is comi having a bi March 15, a dent Mahar other speake to even men pushing the The efforts just as muc is desired i its best wit The followi ing of espe miston, Sen ver Flat, Lake, Balca Lily Plains, Laird, Lan Blytheswoo Donald Cr Valor, Daf Normanton,