

Manitoba Directors' Report

The following report, showing the work accomplished by the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association during the past year, was presented to the Brandon Convention by J. S. Woods, of Oakville, Vice-President, on behalf of the Board

Ladies and Gentlemen:—Your directors in presenting this, their fourteenth annual report, are pleased to report the continued prosperity and good standing of our association. The past year has been a very difficult one to carry on to the best advantage the work of the association—last winter with its abnormal snowfall and severe storms made railway travelling so uncertain that no person could make appointments with any reasonable expectation that they would be able to keep them. During the summer months, owing to the scarcity of efficient farm help, we have all been so busy, many of us trying to do two men's work, that it has been hard to devote the time to our Grain Growers' organization that it requires and deserves, but, notwithstanding all this, judging from reports coming to the central office and from the enthusiasm prevailing at meetings we have been able to attend, the prevailing spirit is one of confident and encouraging optimism, while on the part of the railway, banking and other organizations, there is a growing disposition to treat us with respect and confidence. During the year we have met in conference with representatives of various business interests, which we believe tends towards a better mutual understanding and in some cases are confident will result in better terms and conditions for the farmers.

Cheaper Money for Farmers

Carrying out a resolution passed at last annual convention, your directors waited on the provincial government immediately after the convention and laid the matter re cheaper money for farmers before them. They promised careful consideration, and they apparently took the matter seriously. In the early part of the summer we were again called to meet the government, together with the executive of the Municipal Union, and the principles of a bill providing for long term mortgage loans were placed before us, which seemed to meet the approval of all present. Since then the details of the bill have been worked out, and the provisions thereof will be fully explained to this convention by the Hon. Edward Brown, provincial treasurer, who prepared the bill, which we expect will be placed on the statutes at the coming session of the legislature.

Farm credits are of two sorts, long term or mortgage loans and short term loans for current expenditure—that is, money to provide for the farmer's requirements from the time the resources of one crop are exhausted until he can realize on the next. The bill already mentioned is intended to provide for the first—long term loans. In connection with the short term loans, we believe that George Prout, M.P.P. for Rockwood, intends to introduce a bill in the provincial house which will provide for the formation of rural credit associations in all municipalities, these associations to be endorsed by the municipality and the provincial government, the funds to be supplied by the chartered banks, which

of short term loans. We asked first, that farmers be granted loans for a term of one or two years to provide for the purchase of livestock so that they could mature, fatten and market this stock to the best advantage, with perfect security that their loan would not be called before they had reached this stage. Then, we also asked that the farmer's credit be extended further into the fall or winter, so that he would not need to rush his grain on to the market all at once to meet his liabilities, and so glut the market and depress prices. We also asked that especially where security was gilt edged the rate of interest should be reduced. The bankers received us courteously and seemed to be very sympathetic to our requests, and these conferences are already bearing fruit in better terms and better

to give the farmer grain of the same grade, but not necessarily the same grain, and if the thing had stopped there there would have been no particular harm done, but there being no necessity for them to preserve the identity of the grain some elevator companies acted as if they had a proprietary interest in the grain, shipped it to the lake front and, without orders from the farmers to sell, sold it and used the money to finance their business, and we believe that in some cases where the farmer wanted to hold his grain for a rise in price, and he asked for an advance on it to meet some pressing liabilities, when he did order his car sold they substituted another car of the same grade and they charged him interest on whatever advance he had received, interest on the freight on his car and storage for whatever time had elapsed over the statutory time after his car arrived at the terminal point, notwithstanding the fact that they had had the use of his money from the time his car was sold and that their action in selling defeated the purpose for which he was holding. We have believed that this sort of thing was being practiced for some time, and complaint was made by Saskatchewan men to the Board of Grain Commissioners, who ordered that the practice should be suspended until they had an opportunity of hearing evidence on the matter. The executives of the farmers' associations of the three western provinces and representatives of the Grain Exchange met before the Grain Commission in July last, and presentations were made from both sides. There were papers read by two representatives from Saskatchewan setting forth the farmers' viewpoint and by two representatives of the Grain Exchange, in which the members of the exchange not only admitted having made use of the farmers' money, but defended it, saying it was only a fair remuneration for the services they rendered.

Elevators Simply Custodians of Grain

The Grain Commission reserved their decision, and it seems that they placed the matter in the hands of the Department of Justice at Ottawa, and in the public press of December 27 last their finding was given to the effect that the elevator operators had no proprietary interest in the grain, but that their interest was only as custodian for those who hold receipts issued therefor. The Department of Justice also states that it is competent for the Board of Grain Commissioners to insist that elevator operators shall comply strictly with the statutory requirements and regulations prescribed for governing their operations.

We again have the privilege extended to us by the railroad companies of getting seed grain carried at half the usual rate, with this additional advantage, that, instead of starting as it has done in former years in the middle of January, it has been in force since the beginning of the crop movement. This was done at the suggestion of Mr. Henders.



DIRECTOR R. J. AVISON
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banking facilities for the farmer. We understand that the banks have issued instructions to their managers giving effect to the requests laid before them.

Permanent Board of Appeal

Regarding the appointment of a permanent board of appeal, your directors laid this matter before the Canada Grain Commissioners, urging them to recommend to the Dominion government that such a board be appointed, and we also made the supplementary recommendations that, in the event of a board of appeal being appointed, the Ministers of Agriculture of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta be constituted a board to appoint the members of said board of appeal, such appointment to be made from names submitted by the Grain Growers' Associations of the above named provinces, but up to the present time there has been no response from the "Powers that be."

For some years there has been a demand for a more adequate Co-operative Act than that existing in Manitoba up to a year ago. Carrying out your instructions as given by resolution at the last convention, your directors took up this matter with the provincial government, and at the request of the Minister of Agriculture a bill was prepared by the late G. G. White, professor of rural economics in the Agricultural College, whose untimely death saddened the hearts of all who knew him. As a result of Mr. White's work, we have now on the statutes of Manitoba a workable act, sufficient to the needs of the province and which will stand as a monument to the ability of Mr. White and to the interest he took in the work of the Grain Growers' Association.

The "Hybrid Ticket"

There is a matter on which the Grain Growers' Associations of the West have been at variance for some time with members of the Grain Exchange. For the past ten years or so elevator companies have been in the habit of, in grading grain, using a ticket guaranteeing the grade as well as the weight of the grain. In some cases the farmer and the elevator operator might not be able to agree as to the grade, and in this case they would agree to abide by the inspector's grading. A sample would be drawn in accordance with the provisions of the Grain Act and forwarded to the inspector, who would report his decision. The ticket in this case would be made out "subject to inspection" and was known as the "hybrid ticket." This was supposed to give the farmer all the benefits of special binning, only the identity of the grain was not preserved. The elevator company was bound

who realized that there are large districts in which there is little or no grain suitable for seed and that the quantity of good seed grain available is limited, and that it would be a good thing if farmers had the opportunity of securing seed grain

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VICE-PRESIDENT J. S. WOODS
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we are told are friendly to the scheme. We are not familiar with the further provisions of the bill. Your directors, thru the Canadian Council of Agriculture, have held two conferences with representatives of banking institutions, with a view to securing better terms and conditions in the matter



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