Saskatchewan

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by J. B. Musselman, Secretary, Regina, Sask., to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

WAR DECLARED ON GOPHERS

In these days of scarcity of labor, high prices, food shortage and conservation of food stuffs, the enormous amount of damage done by the gopher in the grain growing areas of Saskatchewan becomes a matter which no agriculturist, nor anyone else interested in the well being of the country can afford to ignore. The gopher is a hardy little animal and exceedingly prolific. A single pair of gophers whose lives have been spared in the spring, may easily, with the assistance of their progeny, destroy several bushels of grain during one season, and probably the average destruction of grain caused by one pair of gophers which might so easily have been destroyed, and the families which they will raise if left undisturbed, might safely be placed at one bushel of wheat. Consider then what a half dozen pairs of gophers per acre may cost the farmer. Even if an average of only one bushel per acre of wheat is destroyed by gophers during the coming season, on the basis of the present high prices which obtain, the average farmer would lose about $300 by gophers alone.

It must be evident to everyone, therefore, that the farmer, even in the busy spring season can scarcely make a better investment of a portion of his time than by the destruction of this prolific rodent. With wheat worth $1.50 at the elevator it would pay the farmers of this province to destroy every gopher found living in the district in the spring even if it cost him $1.00 per head to do so. It is foolish to sow wheat worth $2.00 per bushel upon carefully prepared soil in order to feed gophers which, by a little effort and co-operation on the part of all the people upon the land, might easily be destroyed.

The Weeds and Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Regina, has instituted a gopher killing campaign in the public schools all over the province. The municipal officials are asked to take active hold of the project, and the Grain Growers' Associations are being invited to do the same. Tuesday, May 1, has been set aside as Gopher Day, and it is anticipated that practically everybody, men, women and children, will get out and do something for the destruction of the pest on that day. Not only should the farmers, their wives and children spend this day in this good work, but the people from the towns and villages also should set aside this day as one for waging war upon the gophers.

The following is copy in part of literature sent out by the Weeds and Seed Commission:

Regina, March 26, 1917.

Dear Sir:—The Minister of Agriculture has asked that May 1 be observed as Gopher Day. It is unnecessary to enlarge here upon the damage caused by gophers, suffice it to say that some millions of dollars' worth of crop is destroyed in Saskatchewan annually. And is there any valid reason for allowing this to go on? Gophers can easily be destroyed. An individual farmer, and, to a smaller extent, a single rural municipality, has some excuse for not accomplishing much alone, compared to the time and money spent for the destruction of these rodents. The unit in both cases is too small. What is needed is co-operation between all the municipalities of the province for a combined attack, which should be carefully planned beforehand. We would, therefore, urge upon you as a member of your municipal council to consider plans at your next meeting for Gopher Day. We would be pleased to receive communications from your secretary as to the conclusion arrived at.

The department is offering thirty-seven shields and thirty-seven individual prizes to the schools of Saskatchewan in order to encourage the children of the province to help the municipalities in the destruction of these pests.

Letters of enquiry pertaining to Gopher Day should be addressed to The Weeds and Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Regina.

Your faithfully,
M. P. TULLIS,
Acting Weeds and Seed Commissioner.

Regina, March 28, 1917.

Dear Madam (Sir):—Gophers destroy millions of dollars' worth of crop annually in Saskatchewan. A Gopher Day campaign is being organized for May 1. Municipal officials and farmers' organizations are being asked to give every assistance in making this co-operative attempt to destroy the gophers a success. If Gopher Day is observed as it is expected it will be, a waste to the grain crops of the province will be materially reduced and likewise production will be increased and thus a duty will be rendered when production means so much to Saskatchewan and to the Empire.

In order to encourage the children of Saskatchewan to assist in the campaign being organized for May 1, thirty-seven shields and thirty-seven medals are offered by this department as school district and individual prizes respectively. The province has been divided into thirty-seven competitive divisions, as shown on the leaflets enclosed. A bronze shield will be awarded to the school district winning the highest number of points in each of the thirty-six of the divisions and a silver plated shield will be awarded to the school district in the remaining division with the highest number of points not only in the division in which the school is situated, but also in the whole province. A bronze medal will be given to the individual competitor who destroys the most gophers up to and including Gopher Day in each of the thirty-six of the divisions and a gold watch is offered by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture to the individual competitor who destroys the most gophers in the whole province in the same period of time, thus the silver plated shield and gold watch are offered as grand prizes. A description of the shield, watch and medals, with possibly a picture of them included will be issued later.

Yours faithfully,
M. P. TULLIS,
Acting Weeds and Seed Commissioner.

It is hoped the farmers and their families all over the province will respond with zeal to this attempt at an organized and systematic onslaught upon this costly pest. In many districts it would be wise for locals to organize the gopher day as possibly something of a social event with a gathering in the evening, but whether or not, time can be found to couple a little social enjoyment with this effort during the busy time which will obtain around May 1, it will pay and pay abundantly to let the horses stand for a day and to enlist the service of all hands in this campaign. —J.B.M.

THE "OUTLOOK" IN ERROR

"The farmers of the Province of Saskatchewan in Canada have distinguished themselves in the furtherance of a plan by which they should be gratefully remembered. The scheme was launched at the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, at Regina, the capital of the province. It was to obtain promises from farmers to give the produce of one acre of grain land apiece to help Great Britain and her Allies. Hence the scheme took the name of the Patriotic Acre Fund. A canvass of the province brought promises of no less than 6,740 acres. When the contributions began to come in, it was seen that they were going to be not only of grain but also of money. The total of grain reached 84,000 bushels and the total of cash reached $29,000.

"The wheat contributed was of various grades, so a sufficient quantity was disposed of to enable the Grain Growers' Association to purchase some 80,000 bushels of No. 1 Northern wheat, which was turned into the best flour obtainable. The bags containing this flour were inscribed as follows:

"Saskatchewan Flour
Milled from No. 1 Northern Wheat
Grown and Donated to the Empire
By the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association,
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

"As will be seen, it was intended to give this flour for the use of the British Empire, but it transpired that France had a greater need, and so the flour was sent as a free gift to the French government, to be used for the army or for civilian needs, as it might see fit.

"The Patriotic Acre Fund is by no means closed. Contributions are coming in all the time. After the deduction of expenses entailed by the shipment of the flour above mentioned, the Fund shows at present a bank balance of about $20,000.

"Can an American farmer read the above without feeling that there is a hint here for himself? Why should not Kansas, for instance, follow the example of Saskatchewan and send some of its produce for the relief of Belgium."—From the New York Outlook

Editor's Note:—The "Outlook" is in error as to the disposition of the "Patriotic Acre Flour." It was presented to the Imperial authorities, not the French, and fed the British army in France. This gift won a great deal of favorable comment even outside British countries.

$172.50 FOR RED CROSS

Central Secretary:—I beg to enclose bank money order for $172.50, proceeds of a box social and masquerade held on Friday, March 9, on behalf of the Red Cross Fund. We had a most successful evening, made enjoyable to all by dancing, singing and other items.

GEORGE H. HANNANT,
Secretary, Newlands Local.

COMING INTO OUR OWN

Central Secretary:—Enclosed please find fees for one more member to our local, making us to date twenty-four members. I trust that the annual convention in Moose Jaw was a thorough success and was very sorry that we had no delegates there.

We enjoyed a very nice entertainment at the home of our president, J. F. McDonald, on February 23, having a program consisting of songs, recitations and debating. The Rev. Mr. Fletcher of this parish occupied the chair. After the program we had refreshments and then home to our much-needed beds.

Altho there are thousands of organized farmers, there are still more who should become members of the association to help strengthen the movement that is bringing us into our rights, not merely to save a few dollars on coal, fence posts and such like necessities, but to put us on a better political foundation, that we may have a stronger voice in the way this, our home country, the land where a lot of us were born and raised, is run. Farmers who came to this country thirty or forty years ago (my father being one pioneer) are only in the past few years getting what is coming to them for the great work they have done in this western country of Saskatchewan, and it's all thru the S.G.G.A. that they are getting their just rights now.

WM. A. FLAVEL,
Sec.-Treas., Buffalo Horn Local.

START WITH 20 AT KUROKI

Central Secretary:—I take pleasure in informing you that the farmers of this district met today and formed the Kuroki Grain Growers' Association. Fourteen members paid the membership fee and six others put down their names. I have never seen a meeting in which the feeling was so unanimous, and I have no doubt we will have a membership of fifty inside of two months.

Will you kindly mail me instructions, also cost of set of books, membership cards, etc., also grocery and machinery price lists.

M. E. CAMERON,
Sec.-Treas., Kuroki G.G.A.

ALWAYS WEARS HIS BUTTON

Central Secretary:—I have received my life membership certificate and also the life membership button, for which I thank you very much. I always make it a rule to wear a G.G.A. button at all times. "Wear your button and show the world who you are." That's my slogan. I was awfully sorry I could not attend the convention at Moose Jaw this year. I know I missed a lot of good advice and pleasure, but when it is impossible to get enough help to do chores we will have to stay at home. With best wishes for the association, I am, yours very truly,

R. H. AUNE.
Broderick, Sask.

KAMSACK HOLDS ANNUAL

Central Secretary:—We held our annual meeting on January 9, 1917. There was a fair attendance. We had District Director J. L. Rooke, of District No. 10, with us and he delivered a very interesting lecture on the policy of the association. A lot of reforms were discussed, and also a resolution, re payment of membership fees. J. L. Rooke took in hand to draw up and place this before the resolution committee, to be dealt with at the coming convention, which I hope will meet with the approval of all our brother members.

The names of the officers for this association for 1917 are as follows: President, M. Wamner; vice-president, E. H. Wholford; secretary, A. Hartley; sec.-treas., Wm. L. Forshner; directors, W. J. McLaughlin, R. Falconer, Ira Greer, Wm. Finnie.

WM. FINNIE,
Secretary, Kamsack Local.

REDVERS OFFERING PRIZES

Central Secretary:—At the annual meeting of the Redvers local, January 9, the following officers were elected for 1917: President, A. R. Foster; vice-president, A. Morden; directors, F. Toms, G. McKenzie, J. Fallis, L. B. Wright, J. Toms.

The following were elected to represent the local at the annual convention at Moose Jaw: J. Fallis, A. Coleman, A. Foster. It was decided to allow any other delegates to attend at their own expense, up to the total number allowed by constitution for our membership, viz., six delegates.

Moved by A. R. Foster, seconded by L. B. Wright: Resolved, that this association offer a prize of $5.00 to the person securing the largest number of new members before March 31, 1917. No prize to be awarded unless winner has secured five or more new members.—carried.

After the meeting adjourned the members played games and danced till the wee small hours.

ALEX. COLEMAN, Sec.-Treas.

BIG ENLISTMENT FROM HARLAN

Central Secretary:—I am writing to ask you to write this association off the books as dead. There are only three or four left of the old association and we have decided we can do no good until the war is over, as so many of our members have enlisted, or left for other reasons.

The following are names of those who have enlisted: W. Thomson, Jr., killed in action; W. J. Shore, in France; R. C. Haner, in France; W. S. Hamer, rejected, medically unfit, now in England; T. Slater, 197th battalion; G. F. Stephenson, in France; M. Sorensen, in France. Hoping to again take up the work when better times return, I am,

ERNEST W. STEPHENSON,
Sec.-Treas., Harlan G.G.A.

$30.00 FOR RED CROSS

Central Secretary:—On March 2 an entertainment and social was given by the Forest Bank Grain Growers' Dramatic Society. The proceeds, amounting to $30.00, were voted to the Red Cross Fund. Please find enclosed postal notes covering this amount.

A. H. LONGTON, Jr., Secy.
Forest Bank G.G.A.

NEW LOCAL AT BJELDE CREEK

Central Secretary:—I must report the entry of a new local into the field that all farmers are laboring in. On the 8th inst. the farmers of the Red Pheasant school district met and the meeting was called to order and J. Southgate was called to the chair, and later elected president, and Syd. Williams, vice-president. After some discussion a name was chosen, being Bjelde Creek G.G.A. We feel sure that we are not only "doing it now" but that we have done it, and we intend to be a real live, working local. Please find enclosed order for $7.50, fees for 15 members. We will have some more later.

GEORGE LAYCOCK,
Sec.-Treas., Bjelde Creek G.G.A.