



SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

This Section of The Guide is conducted officially for the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association by Fred. W. Green, Secretary, Moose Jaw, Sask.

SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

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THE EXPERIENCE OF A CITY MAN ON A HOMESTEAD

Having just returned from my homestead in Southern Saskatchewan, and being in the past employed by the Grain Growers' Association I thought a few remarks from me might prove interesting.

I left Mr. Green's office the latter part of March when Mr. Middleton took charge. Fine weather for some time previous, and only of city experience, I left the city rather lightly clothed for the weather which followed. We shipped to Morse and trailed from there south to our homesteads, some 75 miles. We left on Friday morning with oxen. It was snowing slightly, but increased as we went along, until we were in the midst of a howling blizzard which continued for six days, during which time we plodded along as best we could.

Arriving at "Home sweet Home" a little frame shack 8 x 10, I proceeded to make a fire, warm-up, and commence my bachelor's career. Many of the readers of The Guide will know by experience of the many hotel dishes I prepared.

The previous fall I had had twenty acres broken. In consequence of the land in our district being more or less stony, I had to "get busy" to use the expression, and roll-out-stones, and many a time before I was through with that job, I envied Mr. Middleton back in the office operating the machine.

Following seeding, I worked out breaking for my neighbors, both with oxen and horses. Many of the readers of The Guide who have homesteaded will know how patient, docile and fast these animals are, and what a time I had getting initiated as an ox-driver.

I have trailed a few trips to Morse, and also to Wood Mountain, slept out when my teeth were chattering in my head in the morning, cut my load of wood at night by the lantern light while it was raining, and done many other things I would have considered crazy while in town.

Like all new districts, we are expecting railroads in, but judging by the progress made, we shall have to wait some time. However, we are living in hope. We are not conceded as a general rule, but we believe we have a good country, and without doubt we have a good class of settlers. Some are married, some are not, and many are hoping to be. Some are French, some English and many other nationalities, but we all live peacefully together and hope to have the Grain Growers' Association started before long. After the advent of the railway, the Grain Growers' Grain Company will find many loyal supporters.

Threshing was not nearly finished when I left, as it was delayed by the extra heavy fall of snow, the same being at least 18 inches in depth. No stubble is in sight.

I came out to Morse with a neighbor who brought out a load of flax, and just here I might say that this is one point which should be an example to the farmer to organize and form a local of the Co-operative Elevator company. There are three elevators in Morse. These have all the traffic coming from the south country and consequently have considerably more grain than they can handle.

The elevator men are now paying from 15 cents to 20 cents per bushel less on flax than at other points along the line and the dockage is certainly very heavy in many cases. I have counted as high as a dozen wagons standing at each elevator waiting for them to open. They had then been closed for nearly a week waiting for cars.

Taken altogether, it is a novel experience. To any farmer or farmer's son, who may be growing tired of the farm and yearning for city life, I would say "consider." The farm is the healthiest place you can be, and after all, what is life without health?

Trusting this may be of interest to the readers of The Guide, I remain.

R. J. BROWN.

THE CURE ALL

F. W. Green, Esq., November 21, 1911
Sec. G. G. A.,
Moose Jaw, Sask.

Dear Sir:—We would like very much to have an elevator built at Mackid, a switch yard on the C. P. R. We expect to get a P.O. established there and also to get a store and a blacksmith's shop there this coming spring. Please let us hear from you as to what to do and how to go at it. We have here a good settlement of farmers mostly from the U. S., and the land is all taken up and will be a lot broken this spring, besides what is already in cultivation now. Please let us know how to go at this work as it is new business for me, but think it can be worked up without very much trouble. I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

November 23, 1911.

Dear Sir:—

Yours of the 21st inst. to hand asking how to secure elevator, switch yards, post office, blacksmith's shop, etc., at Mackid. Well, sir, the best way I know of to do that, is to organize a Grain Growers' association which may serve as a board of trade for the time being. I enclose you a constitution and a little pamphlet, which if you will read and form an organization along those lines, I feel sure there is sufficient of the initiative, brain power and genius necessary to do all these things—right in amongst you people at Mackid. I note you have a great many farmers from the U. S. A. and I feel sure that with a splendid country given you almost free, with the splendid laws already initiated and a free hand that you now have to take part in the annulling of those laws that are not right, and the establishment of all laws that you think to be right, that you people will be loyal to this country, its government and flag, and that the patriotic spirit in your men will blaze forth in such a manner, if you join this association of men, so as to make it possible for you to secure for Mackid, almost anything you desire, for wheresoever two or three are agreed as touching anything, they are almost certain to succeed.

F. W. GREEN.

REPLY TO CIRCULAR

Some days ago we sent out a circular letter. Our first reply was received this morning.

The secretary of the local, who is evidently an insurance agent in a small town, had simply answered about five of the over forty questions on the sheet, slipped it in an envelope and sent it on, writing on the sheet that the local association was not in a thriving condition.

Our reply I give below as it may be of interest to several other local officers and members at this time.

November 23, 1911.

Dear Sir:—

Our returned circular to hand today. I am returning this to you and ask you to have the gentlemanliness to call a meeting of the members that are in good standing to discuss or answer the questions in this circular. It is impossible to keep together a local Grain Growers' association with such action as this of yours. It does not matter what correspondence we send you, if you act in this manner, no organization could ever be kept together. I do not wonder that it is almost out of existence, and yet your district is one above all others where there ought to be one of the most lively up-to-date associations working for the protection of Grain Growers, which is today the biggest interest we have in Western Canada. If you will not undertake the work which you were elected to do, will you be kind enough to hand this circular and this letter to the president.

We are certainly glad to get your own individual answers to the circular, which are valuable, but what we want is, you can readily understand, sir, the voice of the body, and there never will be an association at your point unless there is work for those men to do, and we have work for them; there are very many important questions in this circular vital to the life of the association. Many people think that were it not for the efforts of the association and kindred institutions developed

by the association, today farmers all over the West would be receiving several cents per bushel less for their grain than they now are. Evils that exist, exist because the people permit them to. Remedies will be applied when our people wake up and take a lively interest in questions affecting their welfare. We are very anxious that your branch shall have strong representation in our next big convention. Very important matters will doubtless be before the convention, and to get your association in working order, the putting up of these questions to each individual member, we think will start the ball a-rolling.

Trusting you will be good enough to place this in the hands of some interested officer of your local association.

Yours truly,

F. W. GREEN, Sec.-Treas.

A JOB FOR WOODLAWN

F. W. Green,
Moose Jaw, Sask.

Dear Sir:—

Please find enclosed Post Office Order to amount of (\$6.00) six dollars, being membership dues for 1911.

This makes 22 paid up members of Woodlawn Association for 1911.

Yours truly,

N. F. SCOTT,
Sec.-Treas. Woodlawn Ass'n.

Juniata, Sask.

November 23, 1911.

N. F. Scott, Esq.,

Sec'y, Woodlawn G. G. A.,
Juniata, Sask.

Dear Mr. Scott:—

Yours of the 20th inst., containing Order for \$6.00 membership fees to hand. We are enclosing our receipt, and while we thank you very much for the good work done it occurs to us that if your members were thoroughly seized with the importance of our association, very many more members could be secured. I note a large tract of country east of Woodlawn with no association in it. Is there no missionary spirit abroad? Are the men fully alive to the fact that were it not for the Grain Growers' association and kindred institutions it has brought forth, today grain would be anywhere from 1 cent to ten cents per bushel less in price than it is. Do you know that every time a car of grain is sent to the Grain Growers' Grain company, that company receives \$10.00 commission, while our institution only gets 50 cents per member from those whom you persuade to join, and our association has five times the influence with the powers that be, and if its membership was widely extended, doubtless its power would be much increased. Then it is important that we should have life members, to put into our association something of the nature of a company, to give it continued stability and certainty of continuation. I am sure, Mr. Scott, you see the importance of this, but cannot your members be organized in such a way as to make a lively canvas in your immediate neighborhood and secure more members, secure life members, hold regular meetings, study the questions more fully, make it a live wide-awake institution that will stir things round about you and your doings will be noised abroad and will be an incentive far and near to others.

Trusting to hear from you again with a wide-awake report of recent doings in your neighborhood.

Yours truly,

F. W. GREEN, Sec.-Treas.

Southminster G. G. A.,
Lloydminster, Sask.
Nov. 21, 1911.

Mr. F. W. Green,

Dear Sir:—

Enclosed you will find \$1.15, for two membership fees and three convention reports. As yet I have only sold three copies of the reports.

The crops around here are generally conceded to be the worst yet, and the misfortune is further aggravated by the inability of a large percentage of the farmers to get threshed.

We should like some one from the central to come and stir some new enthu-

siasm into us. Since organizing nearly two years ago, we have not yet had an outsider address us.

Yours truly,

E. H. DAVIES.

November 23, 1911.

E. H. Davies, Esq.,

Sec.-Treas. G. G. A.

Southminster Branch,
Lloydminster, Sask.

Dear Sir:—

Yours of the 21st inst. with enclosure \$1.15 for two membership fees and Convention Reports to hand for which we thank you and enclose receipts. The Convention Reports, in my humble opinion you should have distributed long ago to the members if you could not sell them, and you could have sent us the pay for the whole bunch out of the funds of the association. It is up to the local association officers to make the local association go. If the members in your locality are not interested enough to fight in their own defense and to look after their own interests, how can men 300 miles away, be supposed to do it? Further, if the local association is not able to look after its own, how shall it be able to assist in looking after larger things? Mr. Davis, I covet for you and your association, regular meetings, rousing times, school houses around you packed with eager throngs, searching out the evils that exist and the remedies that should be applied as men and women who are occupying a self-governing community, as people who are responsible for the thing that exists and for the non-existence of things that ought to exist. To my mind, nothing will save a community, unless that community saves itself. Such a body of men as I have described, joined together by a chain-like institution such as we have in this Grain Growers' association, would be a mighty force in the establishment of a set of conditions which would make this province lead every province instead of following in old ruts.

Sorry your crop is not good. Nothing would please me better than to come and meet you men around about Lloydminster. If I thought your people would gather together to meet me, I would certainly be most happy to go to considerable trouble to meet your people.

I shall expect to hear from you again shortly with a long list of paid up members for 1911, amongst them a lot of life membership fees, and a report showing that a new determination has taken possession of the officers of your association and things are doing at Southminster.

Yours truly,

F. W. GREEN, Sec.-Treas.

WELL DONE ARLINGTON BEACH

Arlington Beach, Sask.

Nov. 15, 1911.

Fred W. Green, Esq.,

Sec'y Saskatchewan G. G. A.
Moose Jaw.

Dear Sir:—

Our association at Arlington Beach discontinued their meetings during the summer, but are about to take them up again soon. Our account with the central association is in arrears. So you will find enclosed herewith the following amounts: Coronation fund \$4.50 1 dozen convention reports .60 Membership fees for 14 members 7.00

Total \$12.10

MATTHEW WHITE,

Sec.-Treas. Arlington Beach G. G. A.