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HISTORY  
OF  
THE GRAIN GROWERS

FROM  
THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE  
TENTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

JUNE 26, 1918



# HISTORY OF THE GRAIN GROWERS

*Reprinted from The Grain Growers' Guide Tenth Anniversary  
Number, June 26, 1918*

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## Through The Guide Window

This month The Guide reaches the ripe age of ten years, and in celebration of the occasion we are publishing this anniversary number. It happens to be the largest issue ever turned off our presses and we have devoted it entirely to historical articles on the Grain Growers' Movement in general. We hope it will meet with the approval of the 40,000 readers to whom it will be sent, and that it will furnish them with information and inspiration to bear fruit in even greater achievements.

Annual events naturally give rise to reminiscences. For ten short, but strenuous years The Guide has chronicled the news and views of the Grain Growers' Movement and assisted to the best of its ability in making that movement what it is today. Ten years ago the Grain Growers' associations in the prairie provinces were just beginning to realize their own influence. Of the present great commercial organizations which the

organized farmers have developed, none was in existence ten years ago save the grain commission business which was conducted by The Grain Growers' Grain Company. In this brief period the Grain Growers' associations have increased their membership to nearly 70,000 members. Their educational program has been broadened to include practically all subjects which make for a better rural life. Their influence has profoundly affected for good the entire national fabric. On the statute books at Ottawa and in the three prairie provinces are many laws partially or completely moulded by the organized farmers. In tribute to the Grain Growers it must be said that their power and influence has never been used to take from any individual or class that to which they were justly entitled. "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none" is the motto which has been their guiding star.

In the ten years which we now survey the

farmers' commercial organizations have spread out and covered the prairie provinces and reached out to the Pacific coast on one side and the Atlantic on the other. The magnitude of their transactions places them among the largest commercial institutions in Canada. Like all commercial developments they have encountered great difficulties and no doubt have made errors. But errors have been corrected and obstacles surmounted and the watchword has been "forward." Men from the farm have been trained to conduct the huge commercial business which is linked up with the occupation of agriculture. In the language of the street, the farmers' organizations and their leaders have "made good." The little plant put into the soil only a few years ago has been carefully watched and cultivated. Today it is a full-grown tree and on its branches are fruits of the organized farmers' achievements. In its shade the farmers may review the record of their past and lay their plans for the future.

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## The Road Ahead

The record of achievements of the organized farmers as told in this issue of The Guide should make every Grain Grower feel proud. There is danger, however, that some of the organized farmers may feel that enough has been accomplished and it is now time to rest upon their oars. We must not allow such a dangerous policy to receive even casual consideration. What has been done is only a small portion of what is yet to be done. The Grain Growers should determine that the record of the future shall be in keeping with that of the past. They should look upon it as the poet has said:—

"But grand as are these victories  
Whose monuments we see,  
They are but as the dawn  
Which speak of noontide yet to be."

Many of our Grain Growers who were valiant in the early days of the struggle and who bore the burden in the heat of day, have grown weary and some have gone to their rest, but in their day they laid the foundation that has been built upon by

others. The foundation is broad and substantial. Upon it there is room to erect a structure nobler than has yet been constructed in this young and growing country. The young men and young women must be trained in the organization, educated in its history and its program, and enthused with its ideals. There is today no organization in this broad Dominion which has a prouder record to its credit. No organization has a greater opportunity of serving this present generation and to aid in moulding the future nation that will populate the country. The responsibility resting upon the leaders is great. No one recognizes this more fully than the leaders themselves. They are men and women of wide experience who have given years of thought and study to the great problem which confronts this country. They should receive, as they have received in the past, the whole-hearted support of the great rank and file of the Grain Growers' army.

Like the great army of Canadian boys who are giving their lives in France and Flanders

for the safety of their loved ones at home, the future depends not only upon good leaders but upon the loyal support and faithful service of the private soldiers. We have the leaders in the farmers' organization and we have an ever-growing army of members. Let us increase that membership until it includes all the adult members of the farm population of the prairie provinces. As the strength of the Grain Growers' organization increases, so will there be a growth in the spirit of responsibility which devolves upon the organization. This country can be made one of the finest upon which the sun has ever shone. To make a country what it should be, and what it can be, will be the task to which the organized grain growers, men and women, must give themselves in the generation now before us. As the organization marches forward, keeping its eye on the future and being guided by the past, it might well bear in mind the words of the old philosopher: "May we have the wit to discover what is true and the fortitude to practise what is good."

# Ten Years at the Front

## Being a Short History of The Grain Growers' Guide and the part it has played in the Farmers' Movement

By GEORGE F. CHURMAN, EDITOR GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE.

completing of whatever has been decided is best to be done.

### Starting the Paper

The new paper was welcomed by the rank and file of the grain growers with the utmost approval. But Mr. Partridge, at that time the outstanding leader in the Grain Growers' Movement, was too actively engaged otherwise to have time for conducting The Guide. As a result the July issue of the paper was never published and The Guide very nearly died in its infancy. However, the committee in charge sent out an S.O.S. call to Rodolick McKenzie, secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, then on his farm at Brandon. He was conscripted and placed in editorial harness. Without any previous journalistic training Mr. McKenzie, nevertheless, had been for years in the Grain Growers' Movement and had a wide knowledge of the evils from which the grain growers were suffering. He put on the editorial harness and buckled down to work in earnest and The Guide continued to appear regularly each month and carry its message and its challenge to the grain growers of the prairie provinces. Mr. McKenzie continued as editor for three years, until the work of the Manitoba association became so heavy as to require his entire attention.

At the very beginning The Grain Growers' Guide was published as the official organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, and shortly after was adopted as the official organ of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the United Farmers of Alberta. Each of these associations has continued to employ The Guide as its official organ from the beginning until the present time.

### Elevator Combine Beaten

From the very outset The Guide justified its existence and proved to be an important factor in the development of the whole grain growers' organization

in all its wide ramifications. The first real struggle in which The Guide participated was in the bitter fight between the grain growers and what was known as the elevator combine. In the early days the farmers of the West were plundered most shamefully by the elevator interests who enjoyed an absolute monopoly of the grain trade. Shortly after the publication of The Guide the elevator combine realized there was a new champion in the field. The Grain Growers' Grain Company had been in operation for two years and was handling a steadily increasing portion of the farmer's grain. Some of the elevator interest developed a scheme to undermine and, if possible, destroy the farmer's company, and create suspicion among the farmers against their own leaders.

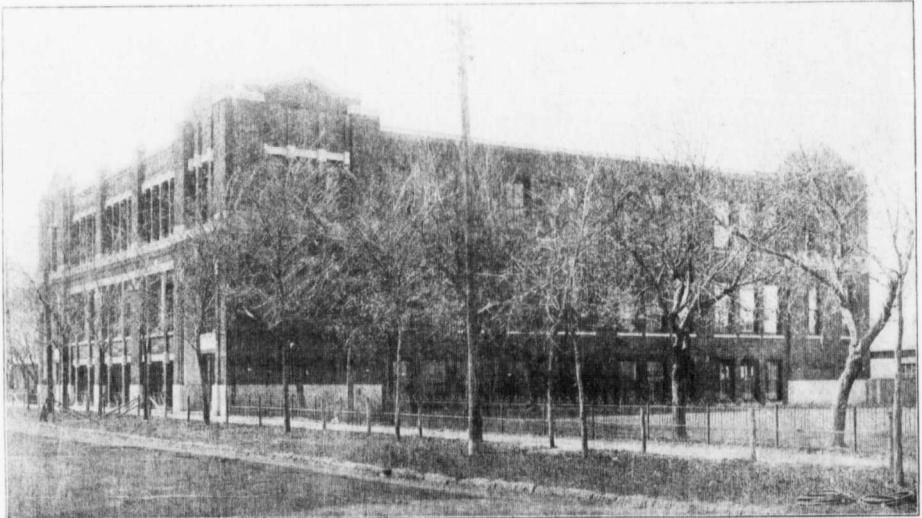
In order to do this they hired a press agent who posed as a financial broker. He wrote letters designed to create suspicion and distrust and they were published over the name "Observer," and paid for as advertisements in a number of farm journals and other newspapers circulating among the Western grain growers. The Guide immediately challenged these letters and the just played by these publications in publishing them without giving the true name of the author. The indignation among the grain growers was widespread and subscriptions to these journals were cancelled in such large numbers that they refused any longer to publish the "Observer" letters. Thus, in three weeks the scheme of the elevator interests was frustrated. A few months later The Guide had the satisfaction of publishing the whole inside story, together with the photographs of the men who employed Mr. Observer and the salary which was paid to him. From that day onward, the press of Western Canada had a more wholesome respect than ever for the Grain Growers' organizations. Had it not been for The Grain Growers' Guide in that crisis, it is quite possible the Grain Growers might have

been divided amongst themselves and their organization broken.

The next move in the fight between the Grain Growers and the elevator interests was the action of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange in cancelling the one cent commission rule. The design undoubtedly was to handle grain through the elevators at a small commission or at no commission at all in order to draw the farmers away from the support of their own company. Here again The Guide was able to expose the scheme to the Grain Growers all over the three provinces. The result was that they supported their own company more strongly than ever, and after only a year's experience the Grain Exchange restored the commission rule and has never since removed it. By this time the organized grain trade came also to have very considerable respect for the Grain Growers' Movement and to recognize the farmer's company as a real and permanent feature in the grain trade. This was another case where The Guide justified its existence in the support of the farmer's organizations.

### The Guide Won Wide Favor

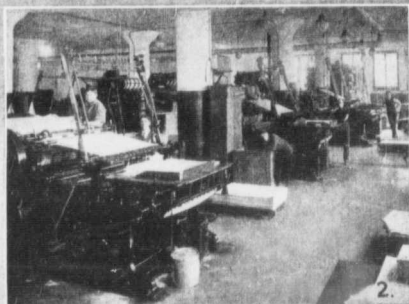
During those early years when the big fight between the Grain Growers and the elevator interests was being waged all over the country, the circulation of The Guide grew very rapidly. Friends of the paper canvassed the farmers in their own neighborhood and the subscription list jumped very fast. The farmers had great appreciation for a paper which published the facts without fear or favor and called a spade a spade every time. The Guide set out to deal fully with the grain trade from the standpoint of the farmer, and uncover the economic injustices from which the farmers suffered. The Guide entered a new field in journalism and steadily broke new ground. Scores of the problems and questions which were first agitated by The Guide and the grain growers have become common subjects of discussion in more recent years. It was however, only after the farmer's organizations took up such questions and they had been given publicity by The Guide that they began to receive attention generally in the press.



The New Home of The Grain Growers' Guide, Vaughan Street, Winnipeg. Every Brick in It Belongs to the Organized Farmers.

Woodman & Cullidge, Architects, Winnipeg.

# Glimpses of The Guide Plant



1.—View of the Main Office. 2.—A few of the big Presses. 3.—Compositors and Proof-readers. Note The Guide pages standing in type on the "Stone." 4.—Type-setting Machines. 5.—Girls assembling the "Forms" of The Guide, Folding Machines in the background. 6.—Dray-load of Mail Bags ready for Posting.

### The Siege of Ottawa

It was only made possible through having their own paper that the Grain Growers of the west were able to force the tariff question into the field of local politics. In the summer of 1910, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was preparing to appeal to the country in a general election. He mapped out a tour of the prairie provinces which he had not visited since he had been premier. It was planned as a triumphal march in which the entire country would follow the Canadian prime minister would win the support of the western voters. The leaders of the Grain Growers' Movement, however, decided it was a good opportunity to tell Sir Wilfrid Laurier the grievances of the West. They made their plans, and it devolved upon The Guide to rally the grain growers in support of the scheme. The result was that wherever Sir Wilfrid Laurier stopped to make a speech in the prairie provinces, he was met by a delegation of grain growers. They told Sir Wilfrid in the plainest words permitted by the English language, just what was wrong with the policy of his government. Sir Wilfrid's education progressed rapidly as he passed through the prairie provinces. At Brandon, he thought the tariff was all right. In Saskatchewan he had his doubts and promised to look into it. Before he got through Alberta however, he was absolutely sure that the tariff was wrong and he promised to appoint a tariff commission to investigate it. But the Grain Growers wanted no tariff commission; they wanted action. The "Siege of Ottawa" was planned by the leaders and again The Guide was effective in rallying the Grain Growers. The result was a special train carrying 500 Grain Growers to the House of Commons, where the members of the government and the members of the House of Commons listened for four hours to the farmers of the West, the farmers of Ontario and the Eastern provinces in their demand for justice.

### The Reciprocity Defeat

In February 1911 the reciprocity treaty was negotiated with United States and an act known as called R. L. Borden (now Sir Robert Borden, premier of Canada), toured the West in the summer of 1911 and was met by the Grain Growers the same as had been Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Mr. Borden, however, proved obdurate and refused any consideration on the tariff question. The result of the election is well known, and Sir Robert Borden has been Premier of Canada ever since. But the tariff still remains a live issue and will be more lively as the years go by.

It would be impossible to consider in detail the phases of the struggles in which The Guide has taken part. Through having their own paper the leaders of the Grain Growers' Movement have been able to get more closely in touch with their members and to reach them more frequently every week. The development of the cooperative movement throughout the world has been brought home and published year by year through The Guide. Thousands of articles on political social and economic questions have reached the farmers through The Guide, which would not have been available had not the farmers published their own official organ.

### The Field of the Guide

In short, the policy of The Grain Growers' Guide has been the policy of the organized Grain Growers of the three prairie provinces and down in resolutions at their annual conventions. Outside of such questions The Guide has

followed the course of progress and democracy and sought to give its readers the best thought toward the development of the highest civilization. Contributions have been received from leading writers and thinkers in every English-speaking country. There are few professions that have served their readers with such a wide range of valuable and authoritative articles as have been published in The Grain Growers' Guide. It has been so through The Guide that the rest of Canada is learning of the Grain Growers' Movement, its accomplishments and its plans. The Guide today goes regularly into the office of every important publication in Canada and is read carefully by politicians and business men throughout the length and breadth of the land. The Grain Growers Movement has become a national factor with The Guide as its chief journalistic exponent. The Guide is also subscribed for by all the agricultural colleges and most of the university libraries on the American continent, where it is closely followed by thousands of students. It also goes into every part of the English-speaking world where men are seeking to improve conditions and want to know what the Grain Growers are doing.

### As Official Organ

From the very beginning a special department in the Guide was set apart for each of their organizations who employ it as their official organ. These departments have been conducted by the practical secretaries of these organizations. Every week for the last nine years the reports of the local associations have gone throughout the length and breadth of the prairie provinces. Seven or eight years ago farmers read of the work of the Grain Growers, and scores of local associations were organized by thousands of the prairie provinces. In the last two or three years the farm women have developed their own organizations. A department in The Guide has been set aside especially for their use and for the publication of the reports of the local associations. The organized farmers have always championed the cause of women in their demand for the franchise and have given them equal representation in their own organizations. Following suit, The Guide has supported the farm women in their work and sought to aid them in every way by bettering rural conditions in the West.

### The Home of The Guide

One year after The Guide was first published, it was decided that the organized farmers should establish their own publishing plant. This plan was carried out and the incorporated name of The Grain Growers' Guide is and has been Public Press Limited. The first publishing plant was built in June 1909, on Sherbrooke street, Winnipeg. It was hoped at the time that it was big enough to serve the needs of the journal for ten years. Although three additions were made to the plant by 1917 it was found impossible to continue in such small quarters. Consequently, a brand-new, reinforced concrete plant, 100 feet by 120 feet, and three stories high, was erected on Broadway street, Winnipeg. The Guide moved into this new home in October 1917. When The Guide was first published in its own plant nine years ago, the staff consisted of six people, and in the printing plant there were 25 additional members. Today, in the new building, The Guide staff comprises 45 members, while the staff in the printing plant comprises 110 addi-

tional people. The entire plant is owned absolutely by the organized farmers. It is devoted to the publication of The Grain Growers' Guide and also to commercial printing by the farmers' companies and by the trade generally, and is one of the largest printing establishments in Western Canada. The cost of the new plant, including its equipment, was approximately \$250,000. The present growth of The Guide will make it necessary shortly to add additional merris to the building and to increase the equipment necessary to take care of a steadily growing paper. The plant is modern and up-to-date in every respect.

### The Guide Artist

One of the features of The Guide, which has always been in great favor with its readers, has been the cartoons and the illustrations by The Guide Artist, Arlo Dalrymple. The cartoonist, is the only member of the original staff now connected with The Guide. His cartoons have played a big part in the development of the organized farmers' movement, and are as popular today as they were in the beginning. Mr. Duke is still in The Guide office and a "Duke Day" is held by the Grain Growers' Movement. Recently, for the entertainment of children and some older children as well, he has developed the "Duke Day" which has become a constant delight to the youthful readers of The Guide.

### 45,000 Weekly Readers

In ten years The Guide has grown from nothing to a circulation of 45,000 weekly, which is the largest figure yet reached by farm journals in Western Canada. It is, however, covering as yet only a small portion of the field and it is hoped that in years to come The Guide will be going out to at least 100,000 farm homes every week in the prairie provinces. At the beginning it was decided not to give The Guide free to members of the farmers' organizations, as is usually done in the case of official organs. It was thought by those in charge of The Guide that it would be better for each subscriber to pay his subscription to the paper. It would help the paper more, and whatever progress the paper made would be reflected in the association and vice-versa. The wisdom of that policy has been demonstrated by the development of The Guide and of the organization. In the early days The Guide sustained very heavy financial losses. It has cost the Grain Growers organization many thousands of dollars to keep The Guide in the field. The subscription price was raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50 in 1915. The readers of The Guide have loyally paid the increased price to help put The Guide on its feet. The advertising revenue of The Guide has also grown steadily until at the present time, at the end of its tenth year, it is standing on its own feet financially. It was not the intention at the beginning, nor is it the intention at the present time, that The Guide should ever be a commercial proposition. Any money which is made by publishing The Guide will be put back into the journal to improve its service to its readers and make it, if possible, the greatest farmer's paper published in North America.

In recent years there has been a growing demand from readers of The Guide that they should be given information as to the financial condition of the financial condition of The Guide improved, it has been found possible to

extend this service and add livestock and field husbandry. The main purpose of The Guide has been and always will be, to be the journalistic medium of the Grain Growers' Movement. But the readers of The Guide are farmers as well as citizens and the purpose of The Guide is to serve them in both capacities and develop an all-round farm journal and magazine of the highest possible efficiency.

### A Proud Record

The record of The Grain Growers' Guide in the past ten years has been one of which reason is proud and its staff have good reason to be proud. Without egotism it can be said that no official organ ever developed by farmers has been better received or more loyally supported by its readers. Nor has any journal ever given its readers a better service than that which The Grain Growers' Guide has rendered. But The Guide is yet very far from being perfect. Those most closely connected with it must clearly realize its shortcomings. It has a lot more to do to publish a paper. The \$1.50 subscription price which the reader pays covers only half the cost of the publication. The other half is paid by advertising or else it must be made in other ways. It also requires a staff of well-trained men and women to publish an efficient journal. The war has affected The Guide as well as other institutions. John W. Ward, for six years associate editor of The Guide, is now in the trenches. J. E. Trevelyan, associate editor of The Guide, is doing war service in a munitions factory in London. Several other members of The Guide staff are also doing military service. The places of such men are not easily filled, but the staff has been rebuilt and the work has been kept up even under such difficulties.

### Looking Forward

What the future holds in store for The Grain Growers' Guide depends on the future of Canada. In ten years a great deal has been accomplished. In another ten years, at the same rate of progress, it is possible that we should become a journal which serves a service to its readers which has never been equaled or even attempted by any official organ of the farm journal on the continent of North America. This is saying a great deal, but the progress of the last ten years warrants it and the growth of the Grain Growers' Movement gives adequate promise of its fulfillment. The Grain Growers' organization will be one of the biggest factors in making the national life of Canada and in that work. The Grain Growers' Guide must play its part, and with the loyal support of its readers will be able to do so. The Farmers' Platform, designed to improve economic and social conditions, has already been adopted in a large measure by the provincial legislatures and the Parliament of Canada. The steady increase in the growth of the farmers' organizations throughout Canada and the educational work done by The Grain Growers' Guide and other organs of the farmers' movement in the east will bring about a wider fulfillment of that platform and a better Canada in which to live. The main aim and purpose of those connected with The Grain Growers' Guide that it shall be able to play its part well in the great work and great struggle in which the organized farmers are engaged. And when the fight is ended and the victory won, there will still be great service which The Guide can render to its readers for all time to come.

## Rural Reconstruction in Ireland

By Lionel Smith-Gordon, M.A.

Lecturer Cooperative Reference Library; Asst. Secretary Irish Agricultural Organisation Society

and Laurence C. Staples

Someone Parker Teaching Fellow Harvard University

Order

from

Book Department, The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

This volume, according to the word of no less an acknowledged authority than George W. Russell (A.E.), "contains the most complete and accurate history" of the co-operative movement amongst the farming people of Ireland. The force of economic interest in uniting a people is revealed in an informative and brilliantly written and readable book. It is some time since we have had so important a contribution to our economic literature.

Not only is it valuable as a record for future reference but it is replete with points of practical interest at the moment.

Postpaid \$2.25

# How the Grain Growers Organized

**T**HE Grain Growers' Movement in Western Canada will be 17 years old on December 18 next. It had its beginning in the little town of Indian Head, Sask., on December 18, 1901, when a group of farmers from the Northwest Territories headed by W. R. Motherwell, now the Minister of Agriculture for the province of Saskatchewan, met in Indian Head to discuss ways and means of overcoming the abuses and hardships under which they were living and working at that time. The occasion of their meeting was a debate between the Premier of Manitoba, R. P. Roblin, and the leader of the government in the Northwest Territories, P. W. G. Haultain. A large gathering of farmers and townspeople from different parts of Manitoba and the district of Saskatchewan had assembled in the municipal hall in Indian Head to hear the debate, and to learn something about an issue which at that time was agitating the minds of legislators both in Regina and Winnipeg. The speeches of the two debaters were undoubtedly interesting, but the consequences of that verbal contest are neither here nor there. Something else arose out of that gathering in Indian Head which was destined to have a greater effect upon the life of Western Canada than the arguments of the two gentlemen who since have been lauded with knightships and relegated to places of peace and quiet far beyond the scene of political strife. After Mr. Roblin and Mr. Haultain had debated their subject until they had no more to say, the crowd broke up and went home—all except a handful of Saskatchewan farmers who remained quietly in one corner of the municipal hall with their chairs drawn together in the form of a little circle. That group of serious-faced men, hardened and determined looking, did not happen to meet there by any accident. They had assembled as the result of a call which had gone forth over the whole countryside, summoning some of the most prominent settlers, to consider previous conditions which not only affected themselves, but every farmer between Winnipeg and the Rocky mountains. The man who had taken the initiative in organizing the little after-meeting at the conclusion of the Roblin-Haultain debate and who acted as chairman of the group, was W. R. Motherwell, of Abernethy, Sask., now the Minister of Agriculture for that province. When finally the little group of men drawn together at the back of the Indian Head town-hall had stood up and pushed their chairs back, they had started an organization which was later to be known throughout Canada as the Grain Growers' Association.

### Conditions Leading to Organization

The conditions at the beginning of the present century which led to the rapid organization of Grain Growers' Associations throughout the West, were characteristic of the circumstances which have stimulated revolutionary movements all through history. For nearly 20 years prior to the meeting which was called at Indian Head by Mr. Motherwell, the farmers of the West had been growing more and more restless and dissatisfied under the conditions under which the years were obliged to work. Between the early 80's and 1900 there were no regulations directing or controlling the grain trade. There was no licensing or bonding of grain buyers. Farmers had no rights in the matter of loading their grain upon the railway cars and those cars were not distributed fairly amongst the grain shippers as they are now. Practically the entire western crop in those days was forced through the elevators which, as a result, had a virtual monopoly of the grain business all the way across the plains. The agitation amongst the farmers who were so badly

## A Sketch of the Movement from the Time of Its Inception--By Norman Lambert

Secretary Canadian Council of Agriculture

handicapped in disposing of their grain products each year, became so bitter against the prevailing order of things that in 1899 the Dominion government was persuaded to appoint an elevator commission to investigate the situation.

Out of the findings of that commis-

sion, for the farmers, shipping their grain, according to an equitable arrangement between the elevator and the farmer. Cars were to be distributed with some regard for the principles of equality. But the railways at that time were in league with the elevator interests, and even after the passing of the Manitoba

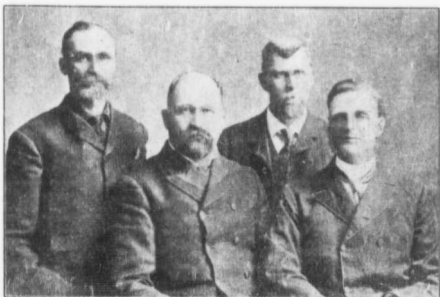
and won their first big fight and one which is still regarded by the organized farmers of the West as amongst their most treasured possessions. When it was discovered by the farmers that the Grain Act, in some respects at least, was being treated like the now proverbial "sweep of paper," they were astonished and disappointed, but above all, indignant. They were without any means of marketing their grain except through the elevators of capitalistic companies, whose chief aim and purpose was to secure grain for the smallest amount of money that the farmers could be made to accept for it.

### An Intolerable Situation

The situation was intolerable. Those were the days of 30 and 40 cent wheat and many a bitter story of hardship and trial may be heard today from many of the men who now occupy managerial positions in the offices of the numerous associations and companies belonging to the Grain Growers' Movement. Mr. Motherwell, speaking of that year, on one occasion described conditions as follows:—

"The harvest of 1901 was very heavy, and as the result of a terrific traffic congestion all over the country, indignation meetings were held everywhere, both by business men in the towns and by the farmers. A deluge of resolutions and protests were showered upon the heads of railway and governmental officials. For two years or more previous to this I had been very much impressed with the necessity of a permanent organization amongst the farmers, to represent the special requirements of the grain growing interests of the country. All branches of agriculture had their distinctive organizations in our various provinces, such as the Livestock Associations, but in the West, or in any part of the Dominion, there was no distinct organized body of farmers to look after the grain interests, which after all were, and are still likely to be, of paramount importance in Saskatchewan.

"With the farmers rightfully indignant over their inability to dispose of the 1901 crop, the time seemed to be ripe for the commencement of a movement looking towards permanent organization whose duty it would be to press persistently and insistently for an improvement in marketing conditions, transportation, warehousing, and for the introduction of new or amended legislation from time to time as the rapidly changing character of the country seemed to warrant it. With this end in view I asked Peter Davman, a farmer neighbor at Abernethy and of the opposite political persuasion, to co-operate with me in calling together a number of farmers from Wolsley, Sintulau, Qu'Appelle and other points to meet in Indian Head on the eighteenth of December. So eager and ready was public sentiment for the betterment of conditions that the meeting was unanimously in favor of a Territorial Grain Growers' Association being organized, and having before it the objects I have indicated. It was decided that local organizations of farmers should be established throughout the country for all points where an interest could be created, and that these locals should each send delegates to a convention, where a central executive representing them all should be elected. A campaign to organize local associations was undertaken immediately and entirely by voluntary workers, with the gratifying result that when the first Grain Growers' Convention was held at Indian Head two months later, no less than 38 locals were represented. It was henceforth placed on a permanent basis at that first convention in Indian



The First Grain Growers' Delegation to Go to Ottawa

The photograph which is reproduced herewith recalls one of the important events in the history of the grain growers' organization of the prairie provinces. It shows the first Grain Growers' delegation that ever went to Ottawa and demanded from the government a redress of grievances for the prairie farmers. The delegates arrived in Ottawa and met the government on May 5, 1901. The delegation consisted only of the four men shown in the photograph. They were: D. W. McInnis, president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; W. R. Motherwell, president of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; now Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan; J. W. Gillespie, executive officer of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; and R. C. Henderson, vice-president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association.

The delegation impressed upon the government the necessity for legislation amending several of the provisions of the Grain Act, particularly they urged that the distribution clause should be amended to give farmers the right to get cars in turn with the elevators.

In 1899, the farmers were met with an entire disregard of their demands for cars and shipping facilities. There was a flat refusal to comply with that section of the act dealing with the question of cars—a point, by the way, on which the grain growers waged



Some of the Leading Figures in the Organized Farmers' Movement

Upper Row—The first presidents of the three provincial organizations: Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan; first president Saskatchewan G.G.A.; J. W. Scallion, first president Manitoba G.G.A.; and D. W. Warner, first A.F.A. president. Lower Row—The present presidents: J. A. Maharg, M.P., of the Saskatchewan G.G.A.; R. W. Wood, of the U.G.A.; and R. C. Henderson, M.P., of the Manitoba G.G.A.

Head. From that time onward the Grain Growers have been an increasing power in the West."

#### First Annual Convention

Following the organization meeting of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association in the town and at Indian Head in December, 1901, a regular convention was called to assemble at the same place on February 1, 1902. This was the first grain growers' convention to be held in Western Canada. The chair was occupied by the first president, W. R. Motherwell, who made a short address, showing that the farmers were entering under a serious grievance which had led to their organization. The secretary-treasurer was John Miller of Bullfinch Head, and his report was read showing that although the organization was only a few weeks old, fair agricultural societies had affiliated and 12 branches had been formed, with a total membership of about 500. The following committees were appointed, introducing names which have become very familiar to the people of Western Canada during the past 17 years.

**President:** Messrs. Barlowe, Dider and Fitzgerald. **Resolutions:** Messrs. Snow, Decman, Lavo, Livingston, Brown, Dorrell, Ellis and Geo. Brown. **Convention and Finance:** Messrs. Lange, Snow and Spring Rice. The credential committee reported the attendance of the following duly accredited delegates: **Barlowe,** Messrs. Barlowe, Stevens, Innes and McKinnon; **Moose Jaw:** W. Dorrell, Indian Head; **Geo. Lang,** Wolsey; **D. D. McParlane,** Winkler; **M. Sasse,** W. Gibson and J. N. Sasse, Mossburn; **R. J. Palm,** Gretna; **Wright and Fitzgerald,** Ellersburgh; **W. D. Ellis,** J. B. Gordon and R. J. Campbell, Sauerbrey; **Robt. Mills,** W. F. Under and J. R. Reid, Kinloa; **Thos. Smith** and **E. Shaw,** Firdale; **R. G. Ward,** Okanogan; **W. M. Tate,** Tarble; **H. Gilroy,** Regina; **Geo. Brown,** G. Spring Rice, Big Hill; **J. A. Brown,** G.

It is interesting indeed to read the minutes of that first convention. He decided in the resolutions which were passed, were the various issues upon which the grain growers of the three Western provinces were later to make their fight. Three of the most typical resolutions are reproduced as follows:—

"That section No. 42 of the Grain Act be amended to empower the Warehouse Commissioner to compel all railway companies to erect every loading platform approved by the said commissioner within thirty days after said approval is given, and in default the commissioner shall have power to impose penalties on such defaulting railway, and collect same through the courts; and that the height of such platform be level with the door of the car, and that this amendment come into force on May 1, 1902. (Motherwell and Snow).

"That railway companies be compelled to provide farmers with cars to be loaded direct from vehicles at all stations, irrespective of there being an elevator, warehouse or loading platform at once, station or not; and that this amendment come into force on May 1, 1902. (Motherwell and Lang).

"That the Grain Act be amended making it the duty of the Railway Agent, when there is a shortage of cars, to apportion the available cars in the order in which they are applied for, and that in case such cars are misappropriated by applicants not entitled to them, that it finally become apparent that they are entitled to the cars be enforced against such parties. (Brown and Snow)."

#### Rapid Growth of the Movement

It was not until the first Grain Growers' Association was formed in the Territories that it finally became apparent that the farmers were in earnest about their grievances and really intended to fight. About the first thing that was

done to indicate the spirit of the grain growers was a local action taken against railway agents in an effort to test the validity and force of the grain act. A test case was held at Sinitauka and the grain growers won it. After that the farmers were treated differently in the matter of the distribution of cars. When a farmer wrote his name in the car order book at the railway depot he got his car in his proper turn. The elevator company was not able to get them all as previously. When the Manitoba Grain



The Secretaries of the Three Provincial Farmers' Organizations.  
H. HUGHMEAD, Secretary U.F.A. J. B. MUSELLEN, Secretary Sask. S.G.O. and  
W. R. WOOD, Secretary Man. G.G.A.

Act became the Canada Grain Act a few years ago a special grain commission was appointed to administer it, the car distribution clause was secured and retained. It is essential, indeed, to the movement as a sort of bill of rights—a state monument to their cause. From that time, up to the present day, the struggle for equal rights with other interests has continued with a measure of success, at least, to the organized farmers. They have fought the transportation companies and the financing and manufacturing institutions of the country and have flourished and grown strong on such stern diet. The grain growers of the west have banded themselves together and developed a clan spirit which would have done justice to that of the old conquerors of 800, had almost two centuries ago. Their determined and uncompromising spirit has been developed by the same deep sense of conviction and the consciousness of obstacles to be overcome. Their expression of political faith for many years was that of the first French republic, namely—"Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." The grain growers of the West, it is most important to note, have not been political agitators as has been the case with so many other farmers' movements throughout America. While living under the aegis of the French revolution, they have kept their feet solidly upon the earth. The Grain Growers' Movement, which otherwise might have become a body of revolutionists, has been ballasted by the establishment of a series of successful commercial institutions, and today the outgrowth of the whole movement are "Organizations—Education—Co-operation."

After its birth in Saskatchewan the Grain Growers' idea spread very rapidly. In April, 1902, Mr. Motherwell, at the request of J. W. Scullion, of Verdun, went into Manitoba and assisted in the organization of the first Grain Growers' Association in Manitoba. The first president of the Manitoba association was Mr. Scullion, who is still the grand old man of the movement in that province, and we hope will live for many years yet to occupy the presidential position of honorary president. D. W. McCaig, of Portage la Prairie, was the second president in Manitoba, while R. G. Henders, of Ulross was the third. Mr. Henders has since won an international honor of being elected to the Dominion House of Commons as the member for Macdonald. It should also be recorded that Mr. Motherwell remained as president of the Territorial Association until it evolved into the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. E. N. Hopkins, of Moose Jaw, was the next president, and he was followed in 1909 by P. M. Gates, of Fillmore, who remained in

office until 1912, when the honor of presidency was conferred upon J. A. Maharg, of Moose Jaw. Mr. Maharg has also taken on parliamentary honors, and now sits in the House of Commons for the constituency of Maple Creek.

#### Organization in Alberta

Meanwhile, farther west in Alberta, the grain growers' movement was taking form. In 1902, the Alberta Farmer's Association was launched as the third provincial unit in the Grain

Growers' Movement. At that time, there was also in existence in Alberta, the Canadian Society of Equity, which had been imported to Canada from the United States by N. W. Taylor, who had come across the line to settle in the far West. Their headquarters were at Edmonton, with R. C. Owens as president and J. A. Thamer as secretary. Attempts were made in 1906 and 1907 to amalgamate the Canadian Society of Equity with the Alberta Farmer's Association, but both attempts resulted in failure. The bone of contention between these two bodies which assumed the form of a difference of opinion with regard to the name "Equity," was finally overcome in 1908. Arrangements were made in September of that year for the formation of the United Farmers of Alberta which would have as its motto the word "Equity." The reason for the objection of those in the Alberta Farmer's Association to embodying the word "Equity" into the actual name of the new amalgamated body was due to the rather unjust failure of the Society of Equity in certain commercial ventures which it had conducted. It was felt that the suggestion of any connection with the old administration of the Society of Equity would prejudice a new United Farmers Association in the mind of the country, and so, finally, a satisfactory compromise was made when the amalgamation was crowned with the name, "United Farmers of Alberta," having for its motto the word "Equity." The Alberta Farmer's Association was formed in 1908 with D. W. Warner, of Edmonton, as first president, and Rice Sheppard as secretary. Joshua Fletcher was the next president, and W. F. Stevens was the second secretary. Mr. Stevens resigned in 1908, however, to become livestock commissioner for the province of Alberta, and he was succeeded in the secretaryship by H. E. Froom, who was first secretary to the United Farmers of Alberta after the amalgamation of the Society of Equity in 1909. The first president of the United Farmers of Alberta was James Bower, of Red Deer. W. J. Tregillus, of Calgary, succeeded Mr. Bower in 1911, and when he died in November 1914, James Speakman, of Fonthill, was appointed. He remained in office until his death in 1915. The present president, H. W. Wood, of Carstairs, was called to this office at the convention in 1916.

#### Total Membership of 70,000

So much for the personal history of the associations in the three provinces. These grain growers' associations, during the years since Mr. Motherwell started the movement in Indian Head, have grown until at present they have a combined membership of nearly 70,

000. Saskatchewan, as both the most largely populated province and also the outstanding grain-growing area of the Dominion, leads with a membership of upwards of 30,000. Their conventions are the real parliaments of the middle western provinces. Resolutions and recommendations of all sorts and dispositions, are debated and decided upon. Questions of far-reaching influence, socially, morally and economically, as well as other economic matters, as Western Canada is concerned, in the Grain Growers' Conventions. Long before ex-Premier Scott of Saskatchewan launched his prohibition as a policy, and thus gave impetus to the wave of temperance which has since swept over the whole Dominion, reform in this direction had been advocated and unanimously upheld in the Grain Growers' conventions of the whole three provinces. Records of these associations show that besides recommending the establishment of co-operative elevators, co-operative banks, co-operative dairies and trading societies, free trade, single tax and many other economic reforms, the Grain Growers, in convention, have advised and urged woman suffrage many years before that measure was generally recognized and accepted by the voters in Canada, of the ideas of direct legislation and proportional representation. In the federal field, too, as the representation from the West has increased, the influence of the grain growers has made itself felt with greater force every year. They have been the direct cause of amendments in the constitution. They have shown an independence in public thinking which has done much to mould the thought of the nation, and they have, in the past few years, issues rather than personalities have been their guiding impulse. Furthermore, through their organizations, the Grain Growers have endeavored to think about and discuss, questions of the day, and when called upon to take some attitude towards them, were able to consider them with mature judgment. It is safe to say that with the future problems facing the Dominion of Canada, the organized body of public opinion, which has been the Grain Growers will become an increasingly important factor in determining all national affairs.

#### The Commercial Companies

Power has been given to the Grain Growers through the successful organization of their commercial institutions, which have as their basis the authoritative voice of business men and not merely the loud complaints of the agitator. The first commercial venture was made in 1904, when the Grain Growers Grain Co. was incorporated largely as the result of leadership given by E. A. Partridge, of Sinitauka. The idea of maintaining and developing their own grain company came finally with the desire of the Grain Growers to realize all the profits that were involved in the business of handling their products through the Grain Exchange. This idea grew, and in 1911 the Grain Growers of Saskatchewan favored the establishment of a co-operative elevator company with headquarters at Regina. Then in 1913, the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company was formed following the demands of the United Farmers of Alberta. The growth of these various institutions, including schemes of co-operative dairying, co-operative hail insurance, and co-operative buying in many departments, has been coincident with the expansion of the Grain Growers' Associations which are, so to speak, the parent institution of the whole movement.

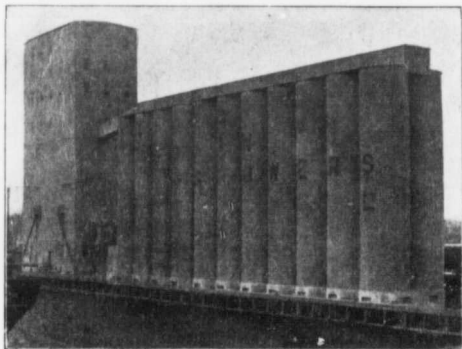
The story of the commercial enterprises of the Grain Growers is told elsewhere in this number and constitutes one of the most romantic phases in the experience of organized agriculture anywhere in the world.



# Sixty Thousand Farmers in Business

*How the Organized Farmers of the Prairie Provinces have developed great commercial organizations for the marketing of grain and livestock and the distribution of commodities used on the farm*

By GEORGE F. CHIPMAN, EDITOR GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE



Private Terminal Elevator of The United Grain Growers Limited at Fort William Capacity, 600,000 Bushels. Thoroughly equipped for Drying and Cleaning.

**A** BIRD'S eye view of the great commercial organizations built up by the farmers in the prairie provinces in the last 12 years is convincing testimony of the power of farmers to stick together. It is a further demonstration of the fact that farmers realize that business can only continue successfully on the basis of service to its customers. In this short space of years there has been built up the United Grain Growers' Limited, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. and the trading department of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association with over 60,000 farmer shareholders. Together, these three farmers' institutions are operating 606 country elevators, two large public terminals at Fort William and Port Arthur, two large private terminal elevators at the same points, and are marketing about one-third of the total grain crop of these three great grain producing provinces. In addition, the United Grain Growers are conducting a grain export business with headquarters at New York, which, prior to the war, was one of the largest grain export concerns on the continent of America, and is now in the service of the allied governments. Further than this, two of these farmers' organizations have taken up the distribution of farm machinery, lumber, flour, coal and numerous other commodities used on the farm and the volume of business in this line alone is now more than \$7,000,000 annually. Count in also a \$250,000 printing and publishing plant employing 153 people and publishing the most widely circulated farm paper in Canada, a large office building, hundreds of coal sheds and flour warehouses and several large machinery warehouses. Add to this 3,000 carloads of livestock annually, a large flour and feed department on the Pacific coast, an immense timber limit in northern British Columbia and a land company for selling and appraising farm lands, and one has a brief survey of the commercial activities of the organized farmers.

To carry on this great work, the farmers' companies have about 1,300 employees; the paid-up capital is now nearly \$3,000,000 with reserve funds of \$2,000,000. The assets of the farmers' companies are over \$15,000,000, and they have paid in war taxes to the government since the outbreak of the war, over \$1,000,000 in hard cash. It requires but a small space for this brief summary of the commercial developments of the organized farmers in the decade. The remarkable growth furnishes one of the most interesting chapters in the history of Western Canada. There is also a tinge of romance connected with the revolution of the work which has risen to such large proportions. Despite the great business

enterprises which the organized farmers are conducting, the chief responsibility in all departments was laid upon young men, most of whom are still holding these responsible positions and are still young in years.

**Grain Marketing First**  
The first commercial enterprise in which the organized farmers engaged was the grain business. Seventeen years ago the first Grain Growers' Association came into existence as a protest against abuses in the grain trade. Remedial legislation was secured through amendments to the Grain Act. It was shortly found, however, that the only hope of putting the grain trade on an equitable basis was the organization of grain growers themselves to enter actively into the marketing of their own grain. A. Partridge, of Sintulata, Sask., one of the moving spirits of the Grain Growers' Association, originated the idea of the farmers going into the grain business. The result was the Grain Growers' Grain Co., organized in the summer of 1906. The western provinces, even at that time, had numerous examples of the wrecks of farmer's companies, with manyfold more examples scattered over Ontario from whence many western farmers came. It was, therefore, difficult to sell stock in the farmers' company. Mr. Partridge, together with John Kennedy, who is still vice-president of the United Grain Growers Limited and several others set out to sell stock in the new company. Many a farmer paid down \$2.50 on a \$25.00 share of stock in hopes that the venture would succeed, but at the same time, kissing his money "good-bye." The little company opened its doors for business in September 1906 and the first ear of grain arrived on the sixth day of the month. Business steadily swelled in volume to 2,300,000 bushels at the close of the year in the following August, with a profit of \$790 on a paid-up capital of nearly \$12,000.

#### Heavy Seas Encountered

But the little commercial bark was not destined to have smooth sailing. It aroused the animosity of the elevator interests in the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and before it was more than a

few months old the company was suspended from the privileges of the Exchange. This story has been told so often that it is unnecessary here to relate that the Grain Growers' Association and the government both took the matter up and the Exchange was forced to reinstate the farmers' company on pain of losing its charter. At the first annual meeting E. A. Partridge resigned from the presidency, and on his nomination, T. A. Grear (now Minister of Agriculture) was elected president and general manager, which position he has held for eleven years, with J. R. Murray, as assistant manager. The next heavy water which the company encountered was when the Grain Exchange cancelled the commission rule. Here was where the loyalty of the shareholders was tested. Upon a referendum being taken, 75 per cent. of the shareholders replied and 98 per cent. of those who replied instructed the company to go ahead and charge the regular commission regardless of the action

and one-half cent on oats. The volume of grain handled in the second year was nearly 5,000,000 bushels and the exchange re-established the commission rule. The Grain Growers' Grain Company continued to do an exclusive grain commission business with an ever-increasing volume of grain until the year 1912, when its receipts were 27,000,000 bushels. In that year the company embarked in several new enterprises.

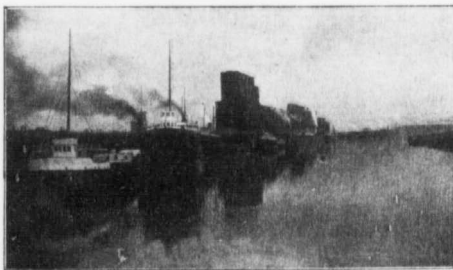
In 1910 the Manitoba government in response to the steady demand on the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, accepted the policy of government-owned inferior elevators. An elevator commission was appointed by the government, consisting of D. W. McCuaig (president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association) as chairman, F. B. McLennan and W. G. Graham. The government took the purchase of elevators out of the hands of the commission and purchased a large number of inferior elevators, in most cases at far more than they were worth. In all, the government secured 176 elevators and operated them for two seasons at a heavy loss. It was quite evident to the grain growers that the government was determined to make a fiasco of publicly-owned country elevators. At any rate, in 1912, the Manitoba government abandoned the publicly-owned scheme and leased its elevators to The Grain Growers' Grain Company, and that company still continues to operate them, though a few have been burned down or torn or sold. In addition, the company erected a number of new elevators in Manitoba each year on its own account and in 1916 secured by purchase and construction 30 elevators in Saskatchewan, making the total country elevators operated by The Grain Growers' Grain Company 199.

The character of the grain trade was undergoing continual changes, and in 1912 The Grain Growers' Grain Company entered the terminal elevator business by leasing the 2,500,000 bushel C.P.R. terminal at Fort William, which it has since continued to operate with outstanding success. The volume of grain passing through this terminal elevator under the operation of the grain growers has varied from 11,000,000 to 28,000,000 bushels annually. In 1912 The Grain Growers' Grain Company secured a 300,000,000 foot timber limit in northern British Columbia on the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway east of Port George. On account of unfavorable conditions in the lumber trade, the company did not begin operations until 1917, when the erection of a \$250,000 plant was begun at Hutton, B.C. This plant is rapidly nearing completion and will have a capacity of 75,



The Show Rooms and Warehouse of the United Grain Growers Limited, Winnipeg.

of the Exchange. The company charged one cent, per bushel on wheat and flax and three-quarters of a cent on barley



Public Terminal Elevator of the United Grain Growers Limited at Fort William. Capacity 2,500,000 Bushels.

600 feet of lumber per ten-hour day. It is the intention to supply this lumber to the grain growers on the prairies.

#### Co-operative Supply

Very shortly after the grain growers began to organize, an agitation grew up against the high prices which were paid for staple commodities used on the farm, such as lumber, coal, flour, fencing material, etc. In order to reduce the cost, local associations throughout the three provinces began to purchase their requirements in these lines in various lots in order to secure the lowest prices. The saving was very great and the business steadily grew but was handicapped because many dealers and manufacturers declined to supply the farmers direct but insisted upon their orders going through the regular retail channels. In order to meet this situation, The Grain Growers' Grain Company, in 1912, opened its co-operative supply department, which has been steadily increased and developed until prior to the inauguration, the annual turnover was approximately \$2,000,000. The chief lines handled are farm machinery, lumber, wire, coal, lumber, flour, fencing material and similar heavy commodities.

The Grain Growers' Grain Company in 1912 purchased a private terminal elevator at Fort William. This elevator was burned in 1913, and the company immediately began the erection of a much larger and more modern private terminal at Fort William, at a cost of \$450,000, and which is now a fine building, capable of unlimited expansion. The new house has been in operation since the beginning of 1917.

#### The Export Business

When the Grain Growers' Grain Company started in business, it was in the minds of the farmers who started it that they should eventually handle the grain grown by the farmers and place it on the European market before it left their hands. With this in view, the company very conscientiously in the export business and in learning how to export heavy losses were sustained, totaling more than \$200,000 up to the end of the business year in 1911. In the following year, however, the export business was reorganized and The Grain Growers' Export Company was incorporated. Henry Stempier, one of the oldest and most experienced grain exporters on the continent, was engaged as manager. The greater part of the grain export business of the continent has always been conducted from New York City, and Mr. Stempier made his headquarters at that place. The Grain Growers' Export Company rapidly developed a very large business, the volume of grain exported in the first year being over 4,000,000 bushels. In the next trading August, 1916, the export business of the company amounted to over 30,000,000 bushels, making it one of the largest export businesses on the continent of America. Since United States entered the war the active export operation of the company has been taken over by the Wheat Export Company and is now working in the service of the allied governments. The profits on the export business were not large on the volume of business but showed a large income in aggregate.

In 1913 the company secured The Grain Growers' B.C. Agency and through

this company, is carrying on the business of flour, feed and grain merchants in New Westminster and several other Pacific coast points.

#### Aiding Educational Work

This covers the activities of The Grain Growers' Grain Company from the time it was organized in 1906 until it was amalgamated with the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company in September, 1917. In the 11 years of operation the company had built up an enormous business and performed a very wide service to the grain growers on the prairie and had over 20,000 shareholders. The company faced active competition of the keenest kind in every branch of its work. It charged competitive prices for all services rendered and made nearly \$2,000,000 in profits in 12 years. These profits were distributed to 10 per cent. dividends to the shareholders each year and also in very generous grants to the provincial associations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and for educational work generally. These grants from the company have totalled nearly \$100,000. Furthermore, the company has paid out in war taxes to the Dominion Government since the outbreak of the war, over \$500,000, and still had an accumulated surplus of over \$1,000,000. It was through the financial assistance of The Grain Growers' Grain Company that it was possible for The Grain Growers' Guide to be started in 1908. The paper was placed at the disposal of the three provincial organizations and was immediately employed by each one of them as official organ. The story of The Guide is related on another page of this issue and needs a further reference here.

#### Saskatchewan Farmers' Company

The second of the big farmer's companies to enter the field was the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company. The Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan, with the sister



Farmers' Building, Regina, Headquarters of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company Limited and of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.

associations in Manitoba and Alberta, was pressing its provincial government to acquire and operate as a public utility the country elevators of Saskatchewan. To effect this agitation the government proposed a commission to investigate the whole elevator question and recommend a solution. A commission was appointed on February 28, 1910, and comprised Dr. Robert Magill, professor of political economy in Dalhousie University, Halifax, as chairman

(Dr. Magill was later chairman of the Canada Grain Commission and is now secretary of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange). The other members of the commission were Honorable George Langley, director of agriculture in Saskatchewan; Association, and Fred W. Green, secretary of the same organization. The commission travelled over Saskatchewan, took evidence and studied the entire grain trade throughout Canada and in Europe.

The report submitted to the government within a year recommended the incorporation of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company as a farmer's company, the government to assist in the construction and purchase of elevators by advancing 55 per cent. of the cost. The government immediately drafted the legislation, drafted a bill and the legislature was in session when the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association held their annual convention in Regina in February, 1911. This was the occasion of the biggest debate in the history of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. E. A. Partridge, the son of the grain growers' movement, led the forces in favor of public ownership of country elevators, while Mr. Green and Mr. Langley were both present and led the debate in favor of accepting the government's bill for the co-operative company. The debate lasted all day long and the 600 delegates present were swayed by the power of the best speakers in their



One of the 300 Country Elevators of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company Limited.

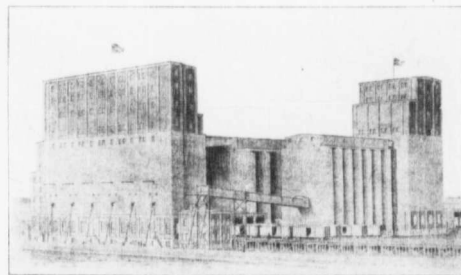
been placed to a reserve fund which is now more than \$600,000. In addition to this, the company has paid to the Dominion Government in war taxes nearly \$600,000.

#### Entering Terminal Business

As the volume of its business increased, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company directors found it necessary to have their own terminal elevator at the lake front. In 1917 they erected at a cost of \$1,400,000, a splendid modern public terminal at Port Arthur with a capacity of 2,500,000 bushels and with room for expansion to 10,000,000 bushels. The Saskatchewan Co-operative Company in 1917 also began the erection of a large private terminal elevator in conjunction with its public terminal at Port Arthur. The private elevator will cost, when completed, about \$600,000 and will be ready for operation about the first of November this year. The number of shareholders in the company the first year was 2,565, which steadily grew as new elevators were built until at the present time there are more than 25,000 farmer shareholders. In order to carry on the business through the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, the company opened an office in Winnipeg in August, 1912. The total number of employees now with the company is 475. Many of the original directors are still on the board with J. A. Maharg, M.P. as president. Charles A. Dunning, who was the original manager and to whom much of the success of the company is due, became provincial treasurer in the Saskatchewan government two years ago. His place as manager was taken by Fred W. Bidwell, assistant manager, and he has shown himself quite capable of continuing the successful operation of the business. The company, unlike its sister companies, has confined its efforts exclusively to handling grain.

The next in order of age among the farmers' companies was the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Limited, with headquarters at Calgary. This company was modelled after the Saskatchewan company and received practically the same financial assistance from the Alberta government in the construction of its elevators. It was incorporated by act of the provincial legislature in 1913 and the first board of directors were the chief officers and directors of the United Farmers of Alberta; W. J. Tregillus, president; J. Quinsey, C. F. Henry, vice; Sheppard, E. Carwell, P. P. Woodbridge and E. J. Froom. The company at once set itself actively to erect elevators at points where they were most needed in the province, local No. 1 being at Coutts, Alberta. At the end of the first year's operation, the company had 10 elevators which number increased year by year until in 1917 the company had 136 elevators. Like those erected by the other companies, they were of the most modern kind, provided with every equipment necessary for handling farmers' grain expeditiously and economically.

The paid-up capital of the company in the first year was more than \$100,000 and at the end of 1917 was over \$560,000, the subscribed capital being



Public and Private Terminal Elevators of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company Limited at Port Arthur, costing \$1,400,000.

organization. When the vote was taken in the evening, the majority favored the cooperative company and those in the minority loyally accepted the situation. The bill was immediately passed and the first board of directors elected were the chief officials and directors of the Grain Growers' Association; J. A. Maharg, James Robinson, A. G. Hawkes, C. A. Dunning, George Langley, J. E. Dwyer, N. E. Baumann, Dr. E. J. Barrick and W. C. Sutherland. The first elevator was erected at Indi, Sask., in September, 1911, and there were 46 elevators opened for business for the handling of that crop. Each year the number of elevators was increased until for the 1917 crop the company was operating 313 elevators. The best office was established at Regina and a handsome building erected in 1915 at a cost of over \$160,000.

In the first year the company handled 320,000 bushels of grain which steadily increased in volume to 42,000,000 bushels for the 1915 crop. The paid-up capital has steadily grown until at the present time it is approximately \$1,000,000 with reserves of over \$600,000, and the total assets of the company total nearly \$5,500,000. In the six years of operation the company has made profits amounting to \$1,500,000. These profits have been applied on the unpaid stock of the shareholders and in each dividend, in grants to the educational work of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and a large balance has

\$1,290,000 and the total assets of the company nearly \$3,000,000. From the outset the company worked in close conjunction with the Grain Growers' Grain Company and employed the latter company as its selling agency. The volume of grain handled in the first year was 3,770,000 bushels, which increased in the year of the big crop (1915) to 19,320,000 bushels. The profits made by the company in its four years' operations have totaled over \$570,000 which have been turned back to the shareholders on their unpaid stock and in cash dividends and grants to the United Farmers of Alberta. The company has also paid in war taxes to the Dominion treasury over \$132,000. C. Rice-Jones became president and general manager of the company in 1915 and is now vice-president and acting general manager of the amalgamated company.

#### Livestock and Supply

At the beginning the Alberta farmers' company entered into the livestock and co-operative supply business. The company, in the first year, marketed 141 cars of livestock, which totaled 977,000 lbs. of livestock, which marketed 1,232 cars. The co-operative supply business was carried on much the same as that of The Grain Growers' Grain Co. and comprised carload shipments of flour, feed, coal, hay, fruit, lumber, etc. In the first year this business totalled an even 100 cars, while in 1917 it had grown to over 1,100 carloads, in addition to a large volume of farm machinery business. This was the approximate position of the company at the time they decided to amalgamate with The Grain Growers' Grain Company and form the United Grain Growers Limited in September, 1917. The Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company in carrying its co-operative supply business, has erected a large number of flour warehouses and coal sheds alongside its elevators. The amalgamated company now has 105 flour warehouses and 164 coal sheds as well as five machinery warehouses, two in Winnipeg, one in Calgary, one in Saskatoon and Regina. The total

amount of dividends declared by the two companies since their foundation has been \$738,000.

#### A Land Department

The only new activity undertaken by the United Grain Growers Limited since the amalgamation, has been the inauguration of a land department. For this purpose the company has organized under Dominion charter, the United Grain Growers' Securities Company Limited. The system of selling farm lands in Western Canada has for some years been subject to very considerable abuses. Farmers with land for sale have frequently listed with agents who have disposed of it at a high price and secured not only the extra profit but the commission as well. For this reason the United Grain Growers decided to embark in the land business on a purely commission basis. At the present time there is considerable demand for Western Canada land from American farmers. The United Grain Growers' Securities Company Limited, make a business of listing all the farm land offered for sale and securing desirable purchasers, and charge only the regular commission rate for the transaction.

#### Saskatchewan Co-operative Trading

The fourth of the farmers' organizations to enter commercial business was the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. The Saskatchewan Association itself was the pioneer of all grain growers' organizations in Western Canada, having been founded in 1900 by W. R. Motherwell, now minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan and a

few other men as a protest of abuses in the grain trade. Up until 1914 the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association remained as a purely educational and propaganda organization. It had built up a very large membership with approximately 1,000 local associations scattered over the province. A large number of these local associations steadily developed collective buying by carlots in order to reduce prices on such commodities as binder twine, fencing, flour, coal, lumber, etc. In 1914 the association decided to establish a central wholesale trading department for the service of the local associations. Business was begun in 1914.

The chief business handled is binder twine, coal, fencing material, lumber, trading supplies, apples, flour, feed, potatoes and groceries. When the business began the staff consisted of J. B. Musselman, who is still secretary and managing director, and one stenographer. Today the head office, which is in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator building at Regina, comprises an office of the association, opened only a few months ago, has a staff of eight members. The business is confined to Saskatchewan.

At the end of 1914 the sales were \$302,000 and the profits approximately \$9,000. In the year 1915 the sales increased to approximately \$850,000, with a profit of \$13,000. In 1916 the sales passed the million dollar mark, with a profit of over \$15,000. In 1917 the sales were \$1,600,000 and the profits nearly \$36,000. For the calendar year 1918

the sales have increased by 60 per cent. over the previous year.

#### Rochdale Dividend System

Under the Agricultural Co-operative Association Act in Saskatchewan, the association has encouraged its locals to incorporate and there are now 372 incorporated under this act. Most of these locals are holders of carload debentures of the central association at Regina and share in the surplus earnings on the patronage basis, similar to the Rochdale system. It has been the purpose of the association to make all its business activities lend their support to the work of the organizations of the farmers in the association. Each local association has complete self-government and it is not a shareholders' organization. It has been developed to meet the demand of the local associations in Saskatchewan for a wholesale supply department of their own, and is building up a steadily growing volume of business through these channels. The association now has 40,000 members.

In conclusion, it should be remembered that it is not possible in the brief space of one article to give more than a sketch of the activities and developments of the organized grain growers along commercial lines. The farmers' companies have had to fight every step of the road in their development and it was no doubt long that they should do so. The result has been that they are built on a firm foundation that is bound to endure. These farmers' companies came into existence to meet the need and the demand of the farmers in the prairie provinces for service which they felt they would not get elsewhere. The basis upon which these companies will continue is that of giving high-class service to their customers. Young men are steadily being brought into the ranks of the organization and trained in the fundamentals of business. It is from these ranks that the commercial leaders of the farmers' organizations of tomorrow must be recruited. The future can only be judged by the past but it promises to have a bright store for the organized grain growers.

## Nationalizing the Farmer Movement

### The beginning of the Canadian Council of Agriculture and what it stands for

By NORMAN LAMBERT, SECRETARY CANADIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

secretary, following the retirement of Mr. Drury, was held by E. J. Prent, of Calgary, until 1914, when Roderick McKenzie took the office, which he has held up till the present time.

#### Reorganization in 1916

At the session of the Canadian Council of Agriculture in December, 1916, a certain amount of reorganization was effected in order that representatives of the Grain Growers' different commercial companies should be admitted to its membership. The council thus composed was made up as follows: The executive officers of the United Farmers of Alberta, Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company, The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, The Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, The Grain Growers' Grain Company, The Grain Growers' Guide, The United Farmers of Ontario and the United Farmers' Co-operative Company of Ontario, representing over 90,000 farmers in all, affiliated with the organization at that time. Certain changes from accuracy since 1916. In the first place, the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company and the Grain Growers' Grain Company have been amalgamated and are now known as Co-operative Grain Growers' Limited. In the second place, the membership in 1916, provided for "not more than five" representatives from each Association. It was decided just this year, that provision was changed reducing the unit of representation to "not more than four." At the meeting in 1916, it was decided to establish the headquarters of the Canadian Council of Agriculture at Winnipeg, where they are still located, in charge of the secretary, Mr. McKenzie.

The first big undertaking with which the Canadian Council of Agriculture was identified, was the famous siege of Ottawa when 300 farmers from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta visited the Laurier Government in December 1910, and demanded more equitable legislation for the people of Canada. The farmers asked for no special privileges, but only that national interests be prevented from levying tribute upon them. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier visited the prairie provinces in the summer of 1910, he was met at every point by the organized Grain Growers who demanded tariff reduction. Shortly afterward, The Weekly Sun of Toronto, the organ of the Ontario farmers, suggested the advisability of sending a large delegation of farmers from all parts of Canada to Ottawa to lay their cause before Parliament. The suggestion was endorsed by The Grain Growers' Guide, the organ of the Western farmers. Other journals also advised the same idea and it rapidly found favor throughout the Dominion. No movement of the same character and magnitude had ever been seen before in Canada. In the following year the effect of the Siege of Ottawa was revealed when the Laurier Government declared itself in favor of reciprocity with the United States. That trade proposal suggested free trade in natural products and the reduction in the duty on agricultural implements. The demand of the farmers was for entire free trade in agricultural machinery as well as free trade in natural products, and also a substantial increase in the British Preference. The story of the election of 1911 is well

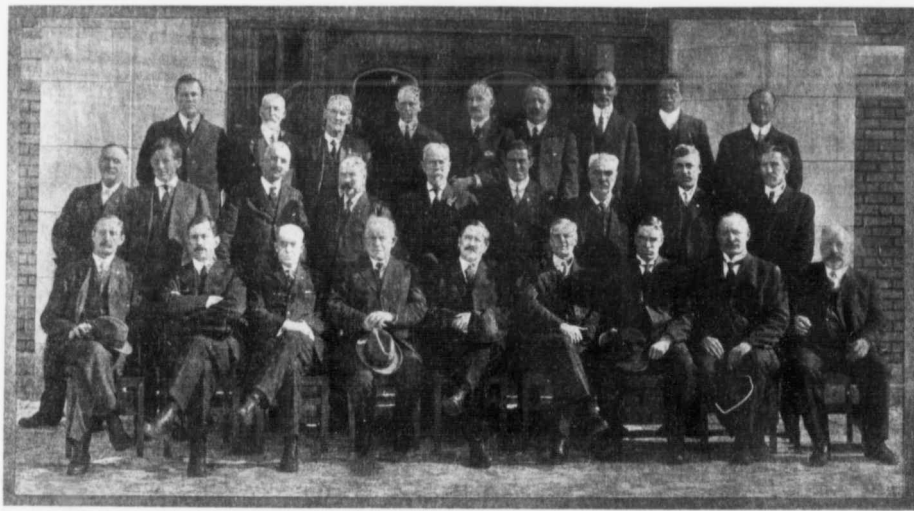
known. The farmers lost out on that occasion, but the result served the very good purpose of strengthening their various organizations, through out Canada, and to lay the voice of the farming people is more influential than it has ever been since Confederation.

#### The Farmers' Platform

In 1916, when the headquarters of the Canadian Council of Agriculture were established in Winnipeg, steps were taken to construct a policy which was expressed later in the "Farmer's Platform." This platform was drafted by the Canadian Council and was adopted separately by The United Farmers' Association, The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association and the United Farmers of Ontario. It was the result of a long and arduous and equitable to all the different interests represented in the community of Canada, and all these interests must be represented in the making of the legislation, and that until such time as the rural population could be adequately represented in parliament by men having the necessary training and a true knowledge of agriculture, there need be no expectation of legislation that would be just to the farming industry. The delegation to the national meeting in 1916, having regard to this situation, decided that the time was ripe for them to direct a course of political action which would indicate to the legislators appreciating their responsibility as citizens. To this end, the Council adopted a platform designed to place the country first, and the individual farmer second, on a basis that would be in the interest not only of farmers, but of the citizens of Canada generally. The members of the Canadian Council of Agriculture realized, as they do now, that the wage earners, artisans, professional men and tradespeople are effected equally with the agricultural classes by the fiscal ad-

WESTERN Canada, during the past sixteen years and a half, has witnessed the gradual growth of a new co-operative movement amongst its farming people. That movement is represented today in the various branches and institutions of the Grain Growers' organizations. Canada, during the past eight years and a half, has seen extended through all her provinces, the far-reaching influence of that vital principle of co-operation which had its origin in the agricultural life of the West. The representative institution of this nation-wide idea of co-operation is the Canadian Council of Agriculture. What the Grain Growers' Associations have done and will continue to develop for the farmers of the West, the Canadian Council of Agriculture hopes to accomplish for all the provinces of the Dominion.

In December 1909, at Toronto, on the occasion of the annual convention of the old Dominion Grange, the Canadian Council of Agriculture was organized. Roderick McKenzie and E. A. Partridge, well-known grain growers from the West, attended the convention of the Grange in 1909 as delegates, and they drafted the constitution of the new Council of Agriculture. The first president of the Council was elected in the person of D. W. McNaig, then president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, and the first secretary was E. J. Drury, of the Council of Ontario. R. C. Henders, of Culross, Manitoba, succeeded Mr. McNaig as president of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and he was followed by A. Maharg, of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Just last year, Mr. Maharg's place was taken by H. W. Wood, of Carleton Place, Alberta, and this year the presidents of the Grain Growers' Associations of the three Western provinces have had their turn in presiding over the affairs of the national organization. The position of



The Canadian Council of Agriculture in 1917.

economic system prevailing in Canada and that they are just as much interested as the farmer in economic and social reforms. It is a noteworthy fact that at the big political convention held in Winnipeg in August, 1917, the Farmer's Platform was adopted on that session practically in toto, and since the election last December when the Union Government was returned to power, the farmers of Canada have had the pleasure of seeing many of the measures, advocated by them in their platform put into effect by the Parliament at Ottawa.

#### What the Platform Says

With the exception of those measures which have already been adopted, such as woman suffrage, prohibition, abolition of patronage, income tax and other incidental reforms, the Canadian Council of Agriculture still stands on its platform of 1910, and for that reason the recommendations made at that time and put into the form of a resolution, may very appropriately be reproduced here, as follows:

Whereas, the war has revealed the amazing financial strength of Great Britain, which has enabled her to finance not only her own part in the struggle, but also to assist in financing her Allies to the extent of hundreds of millions of pounds, this enviable position being due to the free trade policy which has enabled her to draw her supplies freely from every quarter of the globe and consequently to undersell her competitors in the world's markets, and because this policy has not only been profitable to Great Britain but has

greatly strengthened the bonds of Empire by facilitating trade between the Motherland and her overseas dominions—we believe that the best interests of the Empire and of Canada would be served by reciprocal action on the part of Canada through gradual reductions of the tariff on British imports, having for its object a closer union and a better understanding between Canada and the motherland and by so doing not only strengthen the hands of Great Britain in the life and death struggle in which she is now engaged, but at the same time bring about a great reduction in the cost of living to our Canadian people.

And whereas the Protective Tariff has fostered combines, trusts, and "gentlemen's agreements" in almost every line of Canadian industrial enterprise, by means of which the people of Canada—both urban and rural—have been shamefully exploited through the elimination of competition, the ruination of many of our smaller industries and the advancement of prices on practically all manufactured goods to the full extent permitted by the tariff.

And whereas agriculture—the basic industry upon which the success of all other industries primarily depends—is almost stagnant throughout Canada as shown by the declining rural population in both eastern and western Canada, due largely to the greatly increased cost of agricultural implements and machinery, clothing, boots and shoes, building material and practically everything the farmer has to buy, caused by the Protective Tariff, so that it is becoming impossible for farmers generally to carry on farming operations profitably.

And whereas the Protective tariff is the most wasteful and costly method ever designed for raising national revenue, because for every dollar obtained thereby for the public treasury at least three dollars pass into the pockets of the protected interests, thereby building up a privileged class at the expense of the masses, thus making the rich richer and the poor poorer;

And whereas the Protective Tariff has been and is a chief corrupting influence in our national life because the protected interests, in order to maintain their unjust privileges, have contributed lavishly to political and campaign funds, thus encouraging both political parties to look to them for support, thereby lowering the standard of public morality.

Therefore be it resolved that the Canadian Council of Agriculture, representing the organized farmers of Canada, urge that as a means of bringing about these much needed reforms and at

the same time reducing the high cost of living now proving such a burden on the people of Canada, our tariff laws should be amended as follows:—

1.—By reducing the customs duty on goods imported from Great Britain to one-half the rates charged under the general tariff and that further gradual, uniform reductions be made in the remaining tariff on British imports that will ensure complete free trade between Great Britain and Canada in five years.

2.—That the Reciprocity Agreement of 1911, which still remains on the United States statute books, be accepted by the parliament of Canada.

3.—That all food stuff not included in the Reciprocity Agreement be placed on the free list.

4.—That agricultural implements, farm machinery, vehicles, fertilizers, coal, lumber, cement, illuminating fuel and lubricating oils be placed on the free list.

5.—That the customs tariff on all the necessities of life be materially reduced.

6.—That all tariff concessions granted to other countries be immediately extended to Great Britain.

#### Taxation for Revenue

As these tariff reductions will very considerably reduce the national revenue derived from that source, the Canadian Council of Agriculture would recommend that in order to provide the necessary additional revenue for carrying on the government of the country and for the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion, direct taxation be imposed in the following manner:—

1.—By a direct tax on unimproved land values, including all natural resources.

2.—By a sharply graduated personal income tax.

3.—By a heavy graduated inheritance tax on large estates.

4.—By a graduated income tax on the profits of corporations.

#### Other Necessary Reforms

The Canadian Council of Agriculture desires to endorse also the following policies as in the best interests of the people of Canada:—

1.—The nationalization of all railway, telegraph and express companies.

2.—That no more natural resources be alienated from the Crown but brought into use only under short term leases, in which the interests of the public shall be properly safeguarded, such leases to be granted only by public auction.

3.—Direct legislation, including the initiative and referendum and the right of recall.

4.—Publicity of political campaign fund contributions and expenditures both before and after elections.

5.—The abolition of the patronage system.

6.—Full provincial autonomy in liquor legislation, including manufacture, export and import.

7.—That the extension of the franchise to women in any province shall automatically admit them to the federal franchise.

It may be seen, in the light of the reforms which have been brought into effect in Canada during the past few years, that many of the recommendations contained in the foregoing platform have been adopted and thus a revision of the agricultural policy for the Dominion becomes necessary.

#### Committee of Commerce and Agriculture

A worthy development in the relationship of the Canadian Council of Agriculture with the interests of the country at large occurred in March 7, 8, and 9, in the year 1916. In the previous November a proposal was made to establish "A Joint Committee of Commerce and Agriculture" to be composed of representatives of the business interests of the Western provinces and representatives of the organized farmers' associations. The object of the organization, expressed in broad terms, was to bring the western farming and business interests together from time to time to discuss problems affecting their mutual welfare, "in order that in matters where an agreement of opinion is reached, joint action

(Continued on page 11.)



R. H. Halbert, President United Farmers of Ontario.



R. W. E. Burnaby, President United Farmers Co-operative Company Limited, Toronto.

# A MADE-TO-ORDER PAPER

Have you ever stopped to consider that The Guide has not grown after the manner of the ordinary paper in Western Canada, but is a paper fashioned by you and for you? It is, in fact, a real made-to-order paper. When the great farmers' organization had its beginning it was a small thing and it suffered from many setbacks, not the least of which was the fact that it was refused fair publicity through the press of that day. Because of the interests which dominated them, some papers were afraid (yes, actually afraid) to espouse this cause. In this dilemma the farmers were forced to establish their own paper and so was started The Grain Growers' Guide. It was established to fight the farmers' battles and to shed the light of pitiless publicity on the activities of those interests which were opposed to the position taken by the organized farmers. Thus, you see, it was a paper formed for a definite purpose, in fact a made-to-order paper. The work for which it was intended it has endeavored to do to the best of its ability week by week and year by year. Its success will be evident by the facts which follow.

## A Paper with an Ideal

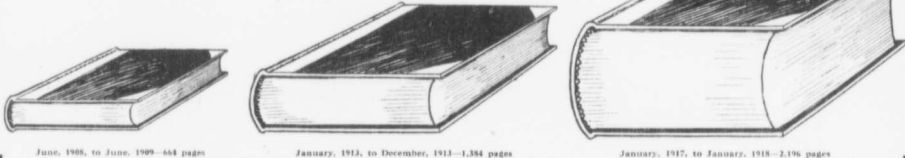
Because of the very way in which it was started it was essential that The Grain Growers' Guide should set for itself a high ideal and to strive ever to attain to that. This ideal was laid down by the farmers of Western Canada and many points in their program of progress have already been accomplished. Reforms in the grain trade, in railroad service, in banking, in temperance, in suffrage, etc., might be cited. These, however, are too well known to require further explanation. In all of them The Guide

has played a prominent part. What should not be overlooked is the fact that other reforms of just as necessary a character require accomplishment, and that difficulties arising out of the war and unthought of when The Guide was started will require solution. To these The Guide is giving its best thought. Its present function, while broader in scope than at the beginning, is just as high in purpose and just as necessary to the bettering of farming conditions on the prairies. Its prospects of success may be judged from its past performance, the details of which are given below.

**Achievement** Below is shown in graphic form the growth of The Guide in the ten years since it was started. From a small monthly publication it has grown to be a large agricultural weekly. The size of the reading matter pages has been increased over fifty per cent, and the number of pages given in a year has increased over three

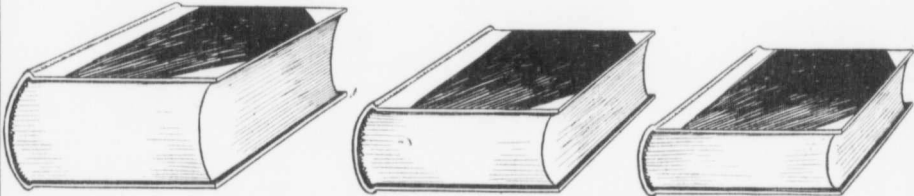
hundred per cent. Nothing could more strikingly demonstrate the fact that The Guide was established on sound principles. Nothing could be more gratifying to those farmers who have the interest of the organizations at heart than to know that this, their own paper, is year by year bettering its service.

## Illustrating the Growth of The Grain Growers' Guide



**A Record Second to None** Apart from the fact that The Guide has shown such a healthy growth to date it is also gratifying for Guide friends to know that it occupies today the first position among Western Can-

adian farm papers. The diagram below illustrates what this means to Guide subscribers. From January 1 to December 31, 1917, The Guide printed 2,196 pages, which was seventeen per cent. more than the next nearest paper and fifty per cent. more than the third paper.



**The Service We Give** While we point with pride to the record of The Guide, both from the standpoint of its growth to date and the leading position which it occupies among Canadian farm papers, we are really more proud of the quality service it gives its subscribers. This may be divided under two heads, namely, organization work and practical agriculture. Under the heading of organization work The Guide keeps all its readers informed as to what is being done in each province to further the interests of the organizations. It continually watches for any outside movement calculated to injure the organization or decrease its effectiveness. It sees that due attention is paid the farmers' cause in Provincial and Dominion parliamentary circles. It intercepts political movements for its readers and fearlessly and independently

criticizes both parties where this criticism is warranted. In both political and manufacturing circles The Guide is acknowledged to be a power to be reckoned with, and one which champions the farmers' cause first, last and all the time. In the field of practical agriculture The Guide is also playing its part. It conducts departments in charge of experts for all farm and home activities and interests. Livestock, grain growing, dairying, poultry, horticulture, etc., are subjects for regular attention. For the farmer's wife and children it has special departments, among which might be mentioned The Country Homemakers, The Country Cook, Farm Women's Clubs, Young Canada Club, etc. The Guide's cartoons and the Doc Dad series need no introduction to Guide readers. Special mention should be made, however, of The Guide's market page, second to none in Western Canada, and its farm financial page, where practical information is given on all phases of financing.

**A Reputation to Maintain** CO-OPERATION THE KEY-NOTE TO SUCCESS. It will be seen from the foregoing that The Guide has a reputation to maintain. Its past success has been due to the loyal support it has received from its readers. One of the practical ways in which they have demonstrated this support has been by introducing The Guide into homes where it has not been known. If there are people in your district who do not know what The Guide stands for, lend them a copy

and urge them to get behind this paper which means so much to every farmer. Tell them to send their subscription in to us, or give it to you to send for them. You can assure them that they cannot anywhere invest a dollar and a half more profitably. We need your co-operation to make The Guide the bigger success it deserves to be. The more readers The Guide has the more power it has to fight the farmers' battles and the better paper it can make itself to you. The Guide was started by co-operation. Give us that co-operation now and we will make even more progress in the future than we have in the past.

The Grain Growers' Guide

# Women as an Organized Force

Through their Clubs they are making Country Life more nearly Ideal--By Mary P. McCallum

Associate Editor Grain Growers' Guide

EVERY great movement must have a beginning somewhere. Perhaps it is not always easy to trace the causes that lead up to that beginning. But there is no doubt that back of opportunities for farm women to meet with each other for social affairs or to work for those things to which women in the last few years have been giving their attention led up to the organization of the Women Grain Growers in Saskatchewan. This largely influenced the women in Alberta to organize also. Later, Manitoba women saw the advantages to be gained from being part of a great organization such as the Grain Growers' Association and they too became a part of it. In the days before organization of women's clubs if women were fortunate to live within driving distance of a church they saw their neighbors occasionally on Sunday. In many cases there were not even the churches to make things more companionable. When there were churches there were very often too many churches. They divided the people then into cliques, sometimes none too friendly with each other. There were the Methodist women, the Presbyterian women, the Anglican women and other denominational women. Each denomination attended its own ladies' aid and missionary societies, little coming in contact with those women of other denominations. There wasn't provided a common meeting ground for each and every woman in the community.

Those things which are now generally interesting women were not mentioned in polite society, let alone discussed. Women were given little encouragement to consider their political status. Farm women did not generally trace through the farmer's difficulties to their own. They did not see that the farmer's problems were their own and that their lines of thought and endeavor were inseparable.

### The Farmers Organize

Some years before this thing had been going from bad to worse with the farmer. He was having extreme difficulties with the grading, marketing and pricing of his grain. Distribution facilities were in a deplorable condition and there seemed little encouragement to continue in the business of feeding the nation. They saw that the thing they most did was to unite and together fight the common battles of the farmer. Before women realized the value of organization for themselves they were evaluating the values of the organization to the farmer. They could see his gradually improving condition and were fast learning that in unity is strength.

Farm women began to see that those Grain Grower meetings were not the smallest words to be. Although they took the men folks over to the schoolhouse or to town and kept them there until all sorts of quarterly hours they realized that through this meeting together men were getting their neighbor's viewpoint, and the focusing of the farmer's mind was gradually and constantly changing farming conditions. Better farming conditions and distribution of farm products were being achieved through the farmers' organizations.

Then women began to take stock of their own condition. They could see that the reason that they did not have the modern conveniences and comforts on the market was because they could not afford them. They should not afford them just as a protective tariff kept them just out of reach of the ordinary farm people. As someone has aptly described them: "Women began to see that back of their special department and problems, the efficient management of the home and the care and training of children lay the eco-

nomie problem. Labor-saving devices, conservation of health, better rural schools and higher education were directly connected with better markets, co-operative buying and selling, and better agricultural credit. In other words the farmers' problems were their wives' problems too. What could be more natural than that she should assist the farmers' movement, and that is exactly what she did."

### The Very Beginning

There is no gaining that the club movement among farm women grew primarily out of a pronounced need for some form of social intercourse. The monotony and isolation of farm life with its consequent restricted opportunities for recreation, and development of service was the despair of many a thinking woman. How was she to obtain the advantages which life on the farm and offered to her, the privacy, the simplicity, the joy and restfulness

on the part of Mr. Green brought about a successful convention of farm women in Saskatchewan in February of 1913.

At that first convention there was great discussion as to whether they should become Homemakers' Clubs or evolve an organization of their own. The preponderance of opinion was that they should become a part of the farm people's organization and so strengthen the hands of all concerned. Their problems were identical, and what concerned one as much concerned the other. Then why not, they reasoned, belong to one great family organization, which might be made to include every man and every woman. The lectures of that first convention were held in the convocation hall of the university. Over 50 women registered, although there were many more in attendance. Among those who addressed the convention were, Mrs. A.

own local executive and charge of their own funds. It being impossible to organize on a unit basis, a definite by-laws were passed by the men's convention, it was decided to form a nucleus for a future organization by appointing a steering committee to carry on the work for the ensuing year. The personnel of that committee was, Mrs. A. V. Thomas, Mrs. Hawkes, Mrs. S. V. Haight, Mrs. John McNaughtan, Mrs. Hilton, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Lefebvre, Mrs. Plaster and Mrs. Wesson.

### The Second Convention

The second convention was larger and better in every way. The women had more definite ideas along lines of organization. There were over 80 women registered. Being paid for and addressed by farm women, its success was a proof of their ability to accomplish and carry on the work of organization of a provincial association. The following committee was appointed to plan for permanent organization: Mrs. Haight, Mrs. McNaughtan, Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. John McNaughtan, Stocking and Miss Heyron. The amendment to the constitution of The Grain Growers' Association having been passed, the formation of women's auxiliaries and giving women full standing in the association, it was possible to proceed with the work of the organization. Provincial officers were elected, following as nearly as possible those of the men's organization. The particular difficulty of the meeting was that of lack of funds to carry on the coming year's work. Having resolved to become an integral part of The Grain Growers' Association, it was decided to wait on the men's convention and ask for an appropriation to finance the work of the women's organization, instead of asking for control of and using their own funds, which would make them a distinct association and cut them off from the privileges of the main association. A committee was delegated to ask the men's convention for a grant of \$250 to carry on the work for the year.

### Beginnings in Other Provinces

A perusal of the history of these farm women's organization now is to be seen and are not the result of a single mind, or of a few minds, but of a large number of farm women. It wasn't formed because someone thought, "we must help these farm women." It was gradually evolved by farm women who wished to help themselves. It reminds one of that comparison of government which a modern writer made. He said, "There are two kinds of governments—the kind that 'does things for the people' and the kind that makes the opportunity for the people to do things for themselves." Certainly the whole farmers' association, including that of the farm women, has been one of the most carefully planned and evolved its organizations in the Dominion of Canada. Each step in its growth has been the direct outcome of careful planning of what went before. It is built on a sound foundation, and is built to stand the test of time. It cannot remain as it is, it must ever be the expression of the thousands who make its membership, and in that case it will change as times and demands change, and will be always in step between the farm people and better farming conditions.

The movement in Saskatchewan stimulated a similar movement in Alberta, and it is now being organized in Ontario are even now ready for movement. The whole field seems alive to the great need of union and solidarity among the farm people of all the Dominion.



Some of the Builders whose Handiwork is the Women's sections of the Farmers' Organizations. Top row: Mrs. A. Tooth, Eli. Man, first president of the W.S.G.G.A. and present vice-president; Mrs. Violet McNaughtan, Harris, Sask., ten year, W.S.G.G.A. and for four years provincial president; Mrs. Jess Ford, Elk. Dist., ten year, F.P.W.A., first provincial president; Lower row: Mrs. S. V. Haight, Keele, Sask., provincial president W.S.G.G.A. and for four years vice-president; Mrs. Walter Farley, Alta., provincial president U.T.W.A.; Mrs. J. S. Reed, Okaville, Man., provincial president W.S.G.G.A.; formerly vice-president.

of the life lived close to nature and at the same time effectively assist social movements for the betterment of community and national life. As an individual she could accomplish little. She must become a part of an organization.

In June of 1912 Miss Frances Marion Beynon came to the staff of The Grain Growers' Guide. From the first she wrote vigorous articles advising the farm women to organize that they might better their status, socially, politically and economically. At that time women were just beginning to raise their voices in demand for the franchise. Miss Beynon emphasized the fact that it could never be granted to women unless women themselves organized and worked for it. This continued until the winter of 1913, just a few weeks prior to the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association. The late F. W. Green, then secretary of the association, wrote Miss Beynon, asking her for suggestions for a convention for the women who annually attended the convention with their husbands. This happy inspir-

V. Thomas, of the Winnipeg Free Press; Miss Beynon, of The Grain Growers' Guide; Mrs. Nellie L. McCallum, Miss Clelandman, of the Farmers' Advocate; Miss Cora Hind, of the Manitoba Free Press; Mr. Chipman, of The Guide; Secretary F. W. Green; Mrs. Burdette, then of Saskatoon, now of Minneapolis; Mrs. F. G. Spurling; Miss 'ene Moore, of the Morning Phoenix; Miss Bertha Willoughby, of the public school staff, and Miss Jean Grant, now editor and proprietor of the Market Examiner, in Calgary. As Mrs. McNaughtan has said many times since, the women at that convention endeavored to cover every subject in the universe. Only experience could teach them the value of concentrating on a few of the most needed reforms instead of dissipating their energies by attempting everything.

But it was a beginning. The women were unanimous in approving of holding future conventions of like nature and of organizing a Women's Grain Growers' Association. A resolution was also passed asking the men to pass by-laws allowing the women to have their

In 1913 the constitution of the United Farmers of Alberta was amended to admit women into the organization with the same privileges as men. In 1914 farm women assembled with the men in annual convention. In 1915 a still larger number of women were present, and at the same time the majority of women met in separate convention.

In 1916 the women who attended the annual convention of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association with their men met for a separate session by themselves. In 1917 they elected a board of directors to carry on what work arose for the coming year. It was not until 1918 that the constitution of the association was so amended as to provide machinery for the Women's Section. An absolutely unanimous standing vote in favor was the appreciation the Women's Section received from the men of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association. Since that time the little but long-continued work has increased many fold, and there is every indication that before another convention there will be 100 Women's Sections.

**Interprovincial Council**

At the 1918 conventions of the Women Grain Growers and of the United Farm Women steps were taken to nationalize the organizations. Since the United Farmers in three provinces only the women's sections of the nationalized organizations were naturally not extended beyond those three provinces. The Interprovincial Council, however, is preparing to take in the representatives of the other provinces as soon as they organize. The personnel and the representation on the Interprovincial Council of Farm Women is to follow as closely as possible the lines already followed by the Canadian Council of Agriculture. Provision is made for two representatives from each provincial organization and one from the Grain Growers' Guide. This board has not yet become fully organized, but when it is it will have the purpose of unifying work and objects of the women's sections, and to direct the activities of all the farm women along similar lines. Many times in the past there has been demonstrated a directness of such unity. Before next winter's conventions this board may have something to do in standardizing still more the work of the women's sections of the associations.

**Some Achievements**

The most lasting achievements are not those which can be described adequately. They are the increased interest of women in one another and the sympathy and understanding for the other woman's position. The monthly meetings are looked forward to because they relieve the loneliness of the prairies. Last winter the writer attended the three provincial conventions of farm women. When one heard of women driving 30 miles to attend a meeting then one realized that the value of the club was beyond our understanding. One who is in close touch with the changing viewpoint of farm women cannot but be conscious of the influence of the farm women's clubs.

But there are many very real and tangible achievements of these farm women through their club work. Three conventions are outstanding: franchise work, temperance work and the public health campaign. In 1914, when the Saskatchewan women became thoroughly organized, they sent the most convincing work for the provincial and municipal franchise. The Women Grain Growers, therefore, recommended to the W.C.T.U. who recommended to the franchise, and to the suffrage associations then in being, that they with the Women Grain Growers, appoint representatives who see the need of continuing to have charge of this work. This was considered advisable by all and the first meeting of the Board was held in February of 1916. The writer was the Women Grain Growers' representative on that board, and has given long and faithful service in that capacity, being still a member of the board. In May of 1916 the board, with other representatives of those organizations which

were advocating that the franchise be extended to women, waited upon Premier Scott regarding such extension. The Grain Growers' Association was represented by Mrs. Haight, Mrs. McNaughtan and Mr. Musselman. In this representation, Mrs. McNaughtan said, "As I am sure that you are all of the large and influential gathering, it came to me that, were it not for our association, the country women would have been unrepresented that day."

In Alberta the U.F.A. co-operated with the W.C.T.U. The petitions were circulated were taken over by the U.F.A. and the U.F.W.A. for the country districts, with the result that more than 40,000 names were secured to the petition. At various times, when delegations waited upon the government to ask for the franchise, the president of the U.F.A. was a member of the delegation and spoke for that organization. It is doubtful if Alberta could have sufficiently assured the provincial government of women really wanted the franchise had it not been for the farm people's organization there.

Nor have they ceased work along the lines of extension of citizenship when the bills were passed. The farm women's organizations are vigorous in organizing for a higher standard of citizenship and have put on a big educational campaign to this end. At this 1918 convention all of the associations with resolutions were passed asking that the federal franchise be extended to women on the same terms as men.

**Temperance**

From the beginning both the Saskatchewan Women Grain Growers and the United Farm Women of Alberta gave their untold support and assistance to those organizations which were already working for temperance. Saskatchewan's representatives were on the front communally in the campaign which did such effective work in that campaign. When it was discovered that the dispensary system was not working out as well as it should, the Saskatchewan women again the Grain Growers' Association led the weight of its influence against it. During the campaign against the dispensaries, culminating in the referendum of Dec. 11, 1916, the Women Grain Growers co-operated with the Equal Franchise Board and with the W.C.T.U., as well as with the Committee of One Hundred, in campaigning and arousing public opinion against any form of retail trade in spirituous liquors. The overwhelming majority for the referendum in country districts particularly illustrated the influence a moral force like The Grain Growers can exert.

Alberta also co-operated with those organizations already working for temperance. President Speakman of the United Farmers was a member of at least one delegation which waited upon Premier Sifton in regard to temperance. Many of Alberta's speakers assisted in the lecture campaign in that province in the temperance experience. Resolutions were passed at annual and district conventions, all of which convinced the government that the province of Alberta was the overwhelming majority for the liquor traffic which it did in 1915.

Nor were Manitoba farm women behind those of the sister provinces in fighting the evil of the traffic. Manitoba had some excellent arrangements in that campaign especially in the country districts, and in these our farm people co-operated to the utmost of their ability. The result in Manitoba again evidenced the influence so independent and powerful an organization can exert when directed in channels for the betterment of its people.

When the agitation was afoot for the intervention of the Dominion government our farm people were not less zealous working for Dominion measures than were the other organizations. On the whole our farm organizations may take to themselves a great deal of the credit for the very advanced temperance legislation which is now on the statute books of Canada and particularly of those of the Western provinces, which has been unrepresented that day."

**Public Health Campaign**

Perhaps the women's parts of the organization have never and never will again achieve such notable results as they have along the line of better medical facilities for rural districts. And yet the campaign is merely in its infancy. The women in the two Western provinces have undertaken very definite and explicit work and recent legislation in both provinces would lead one to believe that it has not been in vain. Manitoba women are living up well behind their endeavors in which they better attention to the health of the Manitoba rural people.

As early as in 1914 the United Farmers of Alberta discussed this question in their annual convention. When the United Farm Women became organized they took over this part of the work. Rural hospitals became the keynote of their endeavors in this line. At the session of 1916 in Saskatchewan a bill was passed providing for the erection of hospitals in municipalities or in unincorporated municipalities. The result is that there are twenty hospitals in Saskatchewan, either already in operation or in course of construction.

The following year the act was amended to make it more workable. In 1917 the Alberta legislature passed a bill to provide for rural municipal hospitals. It was found that the municipal divisions of districts was not always best and this year the act was amended to make hospital boundaries more flexible and the act more workable. The act in Alberta was the direct outcome of agitation by the United Farm Women of Alberta, the United Farm Women and the Local Improvement associations. For two years at least the women of Alberta have asked for public health nurses and for the formation of a board of health with wide executive powers. This year such a board was formed under the provincial secretary's department. Already the board has in the field five public health nurses. They are not as yet assigned to particular districts but are to go where the need seems greatest for them. They are largely in the nature of an experiment and the United Farm Women are even now making sure that they shall be a permanent institution and that their success will be so marked that their numbers will shortly be greatly augmented. Gradually these women's organizations are seeing the things they are striving for being placed on the statute books of their respective provinces. It is easily seen that the goal they will ultimately reach will be free medical treatment and hospital treatment for every man, woman and child on the prairie.

In Manitoba there has been a distinct agitation for free child welfare clinics. Mrs. E. C. Winecke, the recent secretary of the Manitoba Women Grain Growers, has been working on this for some time. It is gratifying to know that public opinion in that province is now strong enough to encourage the department of health in its advanced schemes for free clinics. A number of them are now in operation and others in course of preparation. Nurses and doctors will be in charge. They will be not only for the benefit of the school children, but for every child who can reach its doors.

This is only a beginning. There is much ahead for Manitoba in this line.

**Rural Education**

Our farm women have been giving a great deal of their attention also to the betterment of the rural schools. Many sections are directly responsible for conducting the work for improved school grounds and buildings. Others have worked and have established hot lunches at school. Still others are installing play ground equipment. Many rest rooms have been established in towns for the benefit of the farm women. Many have provided permanent libraries. A number of the sections have actively participated in co-operative buying. Others have beautiful cemeteries, have built community halls, have promoted the social side of farm life by having picnics, debates, literary evenings, lectures and amateur plays. But through all this diversity and variety of work runs the common thread of striving after greater economic freedom. The women are not losing sight of the fact that they included themselves to become a part of the men's organization, and they thought such a course was best because they wished to hold their shoes on the wheel that will eventually farm round to better farming conditions in the Canadian West. The Women's Sections have recently provided a very interesting program for the women members of the association to discuss those things in which men do not generally interest themselves, but which are a part of the scheme for better rural conditions.

**Increasing Recognition**

Each year sees the women's section of the organized farmer's association growing in influence and recognition. At the recent convention of women held in Ottawa on March 1 our farm women were perhaps as well represented as any other organization of women in Canada. Four of our women were there, Mrs. Farley, Mrs. McNaughtan, Mrs. Haight and Mrs. Wood. Perhaps no representatives contributed quite so much to the success of the conference as did our own representatives. That confidence provided the opportunity for our farm women to fill such a place of importance and prominence as they little dreamed of before. It has focused the attention of all Canadian women on the women of our Western farm homes. Nothing of moment in national affairs can ever again be considered by Canadian women without our farm women taking their full and just share.

Perhaps no movement is so much a democratic evolution as that of the organized farmers in Canada, including the women. The movement has been quite so good for those who are a part of it as has been that of the organized farm women. Those who were in attendance at that first convention were far from being the self possessed, efficient, public-spirited women citizens that they are to-day. They were in most part unaccustomed to taking their rightful share in public affairs or discussions. Many of them were unused to organization routine and form. Many had never voted in an open meeting before. To-day we have in our farm women's organizations those women who are leaders of Canadian women as a whole. We have those women whose opinions are respected and whose suggestions and thought is nothing public opinion and which to-day as it has never been molded before. The hearts of Canadian women are open and attracted to it. It is a new thing and guidance to those among our farm women who have in the past few years risen from obscurity to the first place in national things. They have risen not of themselves, but of a consuming impulse and desire to make rural life in the west, safe and secure, and just, for themselves, for their own children, and for those generations that shall yet people our wide prairies. They see that organization was the open door to that security and betterment. They entered only to find greater possibilities than they dreamed of, and having entered they went on and on till they had reached the goal they had believed that social, economic and political freedom, which belongs by right to those who make up the world's basic industry,

# A Grain Growers' Census

The following information was compiled to show the superior standing of the organized farmer over the unorganized

**B**ASED on the record of conditions as they prevailed throughout the west in 1917, an investigation was launched from The Grains Growers' Guide with the idea of ascertaining, if possible, the value of the organized farmers' movement to its individual members. The results of that inquiry have been tabulated and issued in circular form, and they show beyond dispute that the organized grain grower, on the average, is much "better off" in the material sense of that expression, at least, than the western farmer who remains outside of the organization. The investigation, it should be explained, was carried on mainly through the local secretaries of the Grain Growers' Associations in all three prairie provinces. One phase of the investigation, namely, that concerning the worth of The Guide's subscribers, was conducted through the managers of some 113 branches of the Bank of Commerce, scattered throughout the three provinces.

**Illuminating Facts**  
In regard to the means of The Guide subscribers the following facts are illuminating:—  
Average size of farm—282 362  
Per cent. of farms owned 92 93  
Per cent. of farms rented 8 7  
Average capital worth (land, buildings, machinery, livestock)—\$11,010 \$25,878  
Per cent. owning automobiles—27% 40%  
Per cent. owning large threshing outfits—54% 14%  
Per cent. owning small threshing outfits—6% 11%

When The Guide subscribers had small sized farms average two and one-half times in assets the general farm average there can be no doubt but that they are more progressive and possess more improvements that go with modern agriculture, such as up-to-date farm buildings, machinery, livestock, etc. To some extent, however, the high average capital worth of The Guide subscribers is occasioned by several instances in which individuals were rated from \$250,000 to \$400,000. Excluding these, The Guide's subscriber average runs very considerably more than the general average.

**Livestock Investigations**  
To test the truth or otherwise of the statement sometimes put forward that members of the Grain Growers' Associations of Western Canada do not compare favorably with farmers outside the membership of these organizations in regard to the number of livestock on their farms, The Grain Growers' Guide sent out a questionnaire to secretaries of Grain Growers' Associations throughout the provinces of Manitoba, Sas-

katchewan and Alberta. In answering the question asked, secretaries were requested to take into account only such farms as they could give fairly accurate figures for. The results of the investigation showed that not only do grain growers keep livestock in considerable numbers, but the number they keep exceeds the number kept by the average farmer in Western Canada. Below are the Dominion government figures giving the number of each class of livestock in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the average number of each class of livestock per farm, together with the average on the farms reported on by the secretaries of Grain Growers' Associations:—

	Estimated Number of Animals		Average No. per Farm	
	Manitoba	Saskatchewan & Alberta	Manitoba	Saskatchewan & Alberta
Horses	8,700	8.5	3.5	3.6
Milch Cows	882,441	3.5	5.4	
Other Cattle	2,423,990	19.8	14.	
Sheep	485,446	2.1	3.7	
Pigs	1,41,188	6.0	11.2	

In regard to poultry the figures for Saskatchewan only are available. According to the Dominion Government Poultry Statistics for 1916, Saskatchewan had 4,418,100 hens and chickens, or an average of 42.5 per farm. The average reported by Grain Growers' Associations in Manitoba, 57.5, Saskatchewan 58.3, Alberta 58.5. Total average 58.3.

**More Livestock Data**  
19.2% of farms reported on have some registered horses.  
23.3% of farms reported on have some registered cattle.  
4.2% of farms reported on have some registered sheep.  
20.3% of farms reported on have some registered swine.  
9.9% of farms reported on exhibit at larger fairs.  
35.1% of farmers reported on ship milk or cream to creameries.  
64.3% of farms reported on have cream separators.  
14 % of farms reported on have incubators.  
33.3% of farmers reported on ship livestock to commission firms.  
25 % of districts reported on have livestock shipping associations.  
53 out of 12,529 farmers reported on have mechanical milkers.  
20 out of 12,529 farmers reported on have silos.

**Things in General.**  
84% of The Guide subscribers have electric lighting outfits.  
53 % of The Guide subscribers have telephones.

5 people live in each home into which The Guide goes.  
4 read the paper.  
80 % of The Guide homes have women who read the paper.  
74 % keep the paper after reading for future reference.  
46 % lend it or give it away for others to read.  
23 % of The Guide subscribers have children attending school or college outside their local district.  
45 % carry Waltham watches.  
12% have rural mail delivery.  
55 % carry life insurance.  
95 % ask for advertised goods, by name, at their local stores.

**Farm Machinery**  
Auto Trucks—How many farmers could use profitably?—50 %  
Tractors, large—How many farmers own?—10 %  
Tractors, small—How many farmers own?—73 %  
Tractors—1917 (to July 31st only) owned over 1916—73 %  
Manure Spreaders—How many farmers own?—11 %  
Straw Spreaders—How many farmers own?—3 %  
Corn Seeders—How many farmers own?—3 %  
Corn Cultivators—How many farmers own?—11 %  
Corn Harvesters—How many farmers own?—7 %  
Corn Acreage—Average under crop in 1917—74 acres  
Corn Acreage—Is it likely to increase?—99% yes  
Corn—Is it a profitable crop? 96% yes  
Potato Machinery—How many farmers own?—2 %  
Threshers, large—How many farmers own?—54 %  
Threshers, small—How many farmers own?—6 %  
Gas Engines, small—How many farmers own?—11 %  
Wind Mills—How many farmers own?—12 %  
Stamping Machinery—How many farmers own?—20 %  
Stumping Machinery—On how many farms would it be a profitable investment?—49 %  
Flour Mills, small—How many farmers own?—5 %  
Binder Engines—How many farmers own?—4 %

**Farm Buildings**  
Data was secured from representative farmers in from 200 to 300 districts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and represents averages for

these districts. Percentages are based on replies covering from 7,000 to 9,000 farms:—  
Barns or Stables—How many farmers built in last three years? 254%  
Houses—How many farmers built in last three years? 17%  
Granaries, metal—How many farmers built in last three years? 10%  
Granaries, wooden—How many farmers built in last three years? 50%  
Paint—How many houses painted in last three years? 23%  
Paint—How many barns painted in last three years? 20%  
Lightning Rods—Number of farms equipped with—14%  
Letter Carriers—Number of farms equipped with—8%  
School Houses—How many districts considering new building?—17%  
Lighting Systems—Farm houses using electricity—9%  
Lighting Systems—In country schools churches

	In country	In country schools churches
Coal Oil	90 %	73 %
Gas	6 %	18 %
Electricity	2 %	4 %
Acetylene	1 %	4 %

**Houses—**  
Average number of rooms per house 5  
Average number of rooms with rugs 2  
Average number of rooms with tile floors 2  
Average number of rooms with carpets 1  
Hardwood Flooring—How many farm houses have? 22%  
On how many floors per house 11  
Heating systems in farm houses:—  
Hot air furnace 74%  
Hot water furnace 16%  
Stove 3%  
Steam heat 4 %  
Wall board—Number of houses using 94%  
Santitas—Number of houses using 80%  
Roofing—  
Kind of Roofing:—  
House 24 % 21 % 31 %  
Barn 24 % 9 % 25 %  
Granary 17 % 34 % 15 %  
Implement Shed 15 % 1 % 0 %  
Stable 9 % 3 % 4 %  
Shed 4 % 9 % 1 %  
Garage 4 % 4 % 1 %  
Poultry House 2 % 9 % 2 %  
100% 100% 100%

The wealth as indicated above is concretely illustrated by the official list of automobile licenses issued in Western Canada in 1917. The average for the Dominion of Canada as a whole is one auto to every fifty-seven people. The average for Western Canada (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) is one auto to twenty people.

## Nationalizing a Farm Movement—(Continued)

The committee was held in Winnipeg in May, 1916, and the number representatives was then increased to 50 or 25 from each side. That first meeting was a very suspicious occasion. The discussions centered mainly around the subjects of mortgage loans and banking credits, and largely as a result of the better understanding which developed out of the first conference, several beneficial changes were made by the banks in their system of dealing with the western farmers. The joint committee of commerce and agriculture has continued to meet periodically during the past two years, and has developed into an influential and responsible institution.

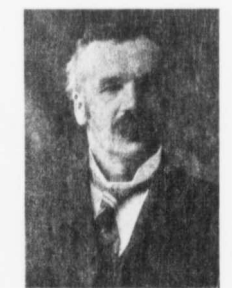
Since the outbreak of the war and particularly since the federal government has taken action in controlling the prices of foodstuffs, the Canadian Council of Agriculture has occupied a very important position. It has been called upon to deliberate in such important matters as the fixing of the price of wheat and the distribution of supplies of flour and grain to the Allied countries overseas. The council of agriculture has also issued statements concerning its views on the railway problem

which called for solution over a year ago, and the re-ordinating of the railway lines of the country into one system under the railway war board, really coincided with the suggestions made by the organized farmists through their council.

The future of the Canadian Council of Agriculture is as broad and certain as that of the country itself. Its aim is to represent thoroughly established farmers' organizations in every province of the Dominion. At the present time, the prairie agricultural provinces are represented in this central organization. The farmers of British Columbia, who organized themselves into an association last year, have now an application before the Council of Agriculture for membership. Just this spring, the farmers of New Brunswick were organized into another unit with the aid of Mr. J. R. Murray, manager of the United Farmers of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have still to affiliate themselves, and before long it is hoped that those from the Atlantic to the Pacific, one strong chain of agricultural organizations shall be bound together through the influence of the Canadian Council of Agriculture.



J. R. Murray,  
Manager Eastern Division, United Grain Growers Limited, Winnipeg.



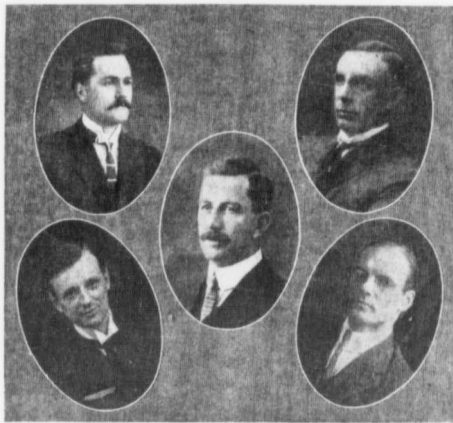
C. L. Smith,  
President United Farmers of New Brunswick.  
might be taken to further a solution.' It was arranged to limit the total representation on the committee to 40, 20 from each side. The first meeting of



# A Record of Achievement

*Being a brief summary of the more important contributions which the organized Grain Growers have made for the betterment of conditions in the few short years of their history*

By GEORGE F. CHIPMAN, EDITOR GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE



Some of the Pioneers of the Farmers' Companies

Hon. Charles A. Hamm, provincial treasurer and minister of telephones, Saskatchewan, formerly general manager Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company; Cecil Beaman, vice-president and acting general manager United Grain Growers Limited; Hon. T. A. Cregar, minister of agriculture for Canada, president and general manager United Grain Growers Limited; F. W. Fielden, general manager Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company; E. J. From, secretary United Grain Growers Limited.

In March 1917 Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, on behalf of the government proposed to the Canadian Council of Agriculture that the price of the year's crop be fixed at \$1.30 per bushel and asked the opinion of the Council. After one full day's debate on the subject, the Council, in meeting at Regina, declined to recommend the \$1.30. They agreed, however, to recommend a sliding scale from \$1.50 minimum to \$1.00 maximum, or if the government preferred a flat rate, they recommended \$1.70. The government felt this figure to be too high, and it was left in abeyance. Later on the American government fixed the price of wheat at \$2.21, after which the Canadian price was fixed at the same figure. Had it not been for the organized Grain Growers undoubtedly the government would have fixed the price of wheat at \$1.30 a bushel. Such a price would have diseased and ranged wheat production very considerably. However, the price of \$2.21 is not giving any special advantage to the farmer, as if there were fixed price undoubtedly the farmers would be getting \$4.00 or \$5.00 in every farmer on a 2,800 bushel carload of oats.

### Three Great Companies

6. The three big farmers' companies:

Three Saskatchewan Grain Grower M.P.'s: Andrew Knox, representing Prince Albert; J. F. Reid, McKenzie; and J. A. Maharg, Maple Creek.

The Grain Growers' Grain Co., the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. (these two now amalgamated and called The United Grain Growers Limited), and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. were entirely the development of the Grain Growers' organization. Conditions in the grain trade clearly showed that legislative enactments would not correct all the abuses. The farmers determined to go into the grain business for themselves and organized these companies for that purpose. They have now nearly 60,000 farmer shareholders and are marketing approximately one-third of the grain crop of Western Canada. The trading department of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association handling supplies and commodities used on the farm, is also an outgrowth of the Grain Growers' movement and is becoming a large commerce to the farmers and has received a great deal of attention by their organizations. Through the Joint Committee of Commerce and Agriculture better terms were received from the chartered banks. Rural credit societies are also being organized in Manitoba and Alberta which are extending much better credit facilities than previously to the farmers in these rural districts. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan also the governments have entered the mortgage loan business to control and regulate the general mortgage business in those provinces. In Manitoba farmers are borrowing money from the government at six per cent, and in Saskatchewan at six and a half per cent, which are lower rates than have prevailed or now prevail from private mortgage companies.

14. Marketing facilities for livestock have been vastly improved since the organized farmers decided to enter the livestock business. They now have offices in the Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton stock yards, and livestock shipping associations have been formed in many places throughout the three prairie provinces. The volume of livestock

ALTHOUGH it was only 17 years ago that the Grain Growers' organization had its beginning in Western Canada, it is possible even now to point to a record of achievements of which any organization might well be proud. It is hard to measure the influence and benefit of Grain Growers' work purely by means of legislative enactments. The beneficial influence of the Grain Growers has permeated the entire national life of Canada, but has been more directly seen and felt in the three prairie provinces. It is most significant and worthy of careful consideration that the Grain Growers' have not sought to bring about these benefits by revolutionary methods. They have, instead, devoted themselves largely to educational work and been content with the slower and more permanent process of evolution. What the future record of the Grain Growers will be it will be idle to prophesy, but judging from the past it is safe to assume that the influence of the organized Grain Growers will continue to be an important feature in moulding Canadian civilization.

The following points in the Grain Growers' record of achievements are necessarily extremely brief, but they give an idea of what has been done.

1. The Canada Grain Act has been described as the great charter of the Grain Growers' liberties. While not perfect, it safeguards the rights of the farmer very effectively and prohibits the abuses practised upon Grain Growers in the olden days. The old Manitoba Grain Act of 1900 was merely a beginning and was very inefficient. Through the influence of the organized Grain Growers' the act has been repeatedly amended, making the trading platform effective and providing car distribution, which gives the farmer freedom in shipping his grain. The hardest fought of the Grain Growers' history centre around the Grain Act and the fight was continued with unceasing energy until the victory was won. The Grain Act today, while being generally fair to the farmers, is not unfair to the other interests in the grain trade.

2. The regulation of Terminal Elevators by the Canada Grain Commission grew out of the charges made by Grain Growers that they were not fairly and honestly operated. The investigation by the warehouse commissioner six or seven years ago demonstrated largely the truth of the Grain Growers' charges. The inward and outward registration of warehouse receipts has prevented the juggling that was previously part of the elevator system.

### Public Terminals

3. The government-owned terminal elevator at the lake front and the big interior terminals at Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Calgary, are directly a result of the Grain Growers' agitation. For years the Grain Growers demanded that all the terminals at the lake front be acquired and operated by the government. This was promised by the Conservative party prior to the election of 1911. The government, however, built only one terminal at the lake front and regulated the balance. The interior elevators were not built at the request of the Grain Growers, but as a part of government policy to relieve congestion, and they have proved of great assistance in facilitating the loading of these elevators, the government intended them to offset the demand for nationalization of all the terminals at Port Wynn and Fort Arthur.

4. Prior to three years ago, the commission on oats was one cent per bushel, the same as on wheat, barley and flax. The Grain Growers repeatedly demanded that the commission on oats be reduced to a half cent. As a compromise, the Grain Exchange finally reduced it to five-eighths. This means a saving of \$7.50 in every farmer on a 2,800 bushel carload of oats.

5. It was due to the organized Grain Growers that the price of wheat for 1917 was not fixed at \$1.30 per bushel.

the organized farmers of Canada have been able to present their demands to the government at Ottawa.

### Commerce and Agriculture

8. In order to work with all other interests represented in the country, the organized farmers assisted in the organization of the Joint Committee of Commerce and Agriculture. On this committee the farmers are represented by the Canadian Council of Agriculture and the business interests are represented by committees from bankers, mortgage companies, railways, millers and all other business interests. This committee meets usually twice yearly and takes up matters of mutual interest to all the bodies represented. It has already wrought considerable improvement in banking and mortgage practices and further improvements are scheduled to be had in the future.

9. Collective buying of farm supplies in carload lots was practically unknown until seven or eight years ago. Prices were extremely high and the Grain Growers' local associations set out to reduce the cost by quantity purchases. Scores of manufacturers and dealers refused to sell in carload quantities but steady progress has been made until the volume of this business has grown into millions, including such articles as binder twine, fencing material, fence posts, bar, lumber, coal, etc.

### Hall Insurance

10. Municipal hall insurance in Saskatchewan and Alberta was inaugurated directly on the recommendation of the organized Grain Growers and similar legislation was enacted in Manitoba, but has not yet been put into effect.

11. The half freight rates on seed grain were abolished by the Railway Companies three years ago. The organized Grain Growers protested, and after consideration the Railway Companies agreed to re-establish the seed grain rate provided the organized Grain Growers would issue the certificates through their local secretaries, and upon this system it is continued.

12. Before the Grain Growers organized there was no legislation permitting the organization of co-operative societies in the prairie provinces. Repeatedly the federal government was asked for such legislation but it was steadily declined. Consequently, the organized Grain Growers turned their attention to the provincial governments with the result that satisfactory co-operative legislation has been passed on the statute books in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and co-operative societies have been steadily increasing in each of the three provinces.

### Rural Credit

13. Satisfactory credit has always been a matter of the most vital importance to the farmers and has received a great deal of attention by their organizations. Through the Joint Committee of Commerce and Agriculture better terms were received from the chartered banks. Rural credit societies are also being organized in Manitoba and Alberta which are extending much better credit facilities than previously to the farmers in these rural districts. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan also the governments have entered the mortgage loan business to control and regulate the general mortgage business in those provinces. In Manitoba farmers are borrowing money from the government at six per cent, and in Saskatchewan at six and a half per cent, which are lower rates than have prevailed or now prevail from private mortgage companies.

14. Marketing facilities for livestock have been vastly improved since the organized farmers decided to enter the livestock business. They now have offices in the Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton stock yards, and livestock shipping associations have been formed in many places throughout the three prairie provinces. The volume of livestock

business, handled by the organized farmers through their own agencies, has grown to enormous proportions greatly to the benefit of the livestock producers.

**Woman Franchise**

15. The extension of the franchise to women was first secured in the prairie provinces. Although for some years women had been demanding the franchise it was not until the organized farmers espoused their cause and threw themselves whole heartedly into the fight that the franchise was extended. It is greatly to the credit of the organized farmers that they lined up on behalf of this democratic reform.

16. As with the franchise for women, so with the abolition of the liquor traffic, the prairie provinces stand first in Canada. Very early in the fight the organized farmers in each of the three provinces joined the temperance forces in their fight for prohibition. It is generally admitted that it was the additional influence of the organized farmers that finally induced the legislatures in these three provinces to prohibit the sale of liquor. Rapidly it spread throughout Canada and made prohibition complete.

17. Direct legislation through the initiative and referendum has for many years been a plank in the platform of the organized farmers. Progress on this reform has been slow. It is, however, in more or less crude form on the statute books of the three prairie provinces. It was through the direct legislation statute that Alberta voted on the liquor traffic. In Saskatchewan the bill was killed by an unfair referendum. In Manitoba the question has gone to the courts to decide its constitutionality. The progress of this question has been due entirely to the work of the organized farmers.

**Titles and Patronage**

18. In the development of public opinion against the political patronage evil and the indiscriminate bestowal of titles, the organized farmers have been the most active agent. For years they have condemned both these evils. It has been due in no small measure to their influence that the title business has been greatly curtailed, and is likely to be absolutely abolished in the near future. The organized farmers may also claim considerable credit for the civil service bill passed at the last session of parliament which is the beginning of the end of the patronage evil.

19. The organized farmers have steadily set their faces against the evils of real estate speculation and have repeatedly favored the taxation of land values as a means of raising federal revenues. They have also encouraged a surtax on idle lands held by speculators. The result of this attitude by the organized farmers has been the one per cent. wild lands tax in Alberta and Saskatchewan and a similar tax of one-half per cent. in Manitoba.

**The Tariff Problem**

20. The opposition of the organized farmers to the protective customs tariff has always been pronounced. On this question, however, they have made progress less progress than on any other plank in their platform. Before the war some slight reductions were secured, and a large number of increases were prevented. But immediately the war broke out, the protectionists seized the opportunity to raise the tariff on the plea of producing revenue. However, the organized farmers are a stronger body than ever and it is a practical certainty that any other changes in the tariff will be reductions instead of increases.

21. A great deal of credit goes to the organized farmers for the income tax adopted by the Dominion Parliament a year ago. For some time the farmers have advocated the income tax, believing that those who had the money should be forced to pay to the treasury in proportion to their ability. For the same reason the excess profits tax on corporations has had the hearty support of the organized farmers. There is no doubt that both these taxes will remain as permanent features in the Canadian fiscal system and will show the road by which the tariff can be reduced.

**Better Banking**

22. The organized farmers of Western Canada have been practically the only organization with courage to criticize the banking system of Canada. They have done it however, and have secured from the organized bankers a recognition of their right to criticize. Undoubtedly, improvements will be worked out in the banking system as the organized farmers and the bankers get closer together. Already very considerable improvements have been made in the prairie provinces and the bankers have expressed themselves as willing to cooperate with the organized farmers in further improvements.

23. The nationalization of railways has for some time been a prominent plank in the platform of the organized farmers and it has been making rapid progress in Canada in the last year or two. The Canadian Northern has already been acquired by the government and it is announced that the Grand Trunk and Grand Trunk Pacific will shortly be taken over also. Premier Borden also announced that it was possible in the future that the C.P.R. would be acquired.

24. Possible in this brief space to say of the reforms which the organized farmers have supported and which have in a large measure, been secured. The proposal of the Manitoba Government three years ago to place a tax on mail order houses was defeated through the activities and outspoken opposition of the Grain Growers, who realized it was merely an additional tax upon themselves. The parcels post system in Canada has been strongly supported by the organized farmers, who are anxious to see it developed still further. It is due in a large measure to the influence of the organized farmers that the patriotic funds are now being raised by provincial taxation instead of by voluntary contributions. The organized farmers have also stood strongly for the conservation of our natural resources, and in opposition to turning them over to speculators and friends of the government. The farm implement contract legislation in Saskatchewan and Alberta is an outgrowth of the organized farmers' influence and has prevented many of the injustices that formerly prevailed in this country.

The above represents a large measure of the achievements of the Grain Growers in beneficial legislation, but numerous additions would be required to show what has been accomplished in the individual provinces. The list is already sufficient to show that the organized farmers have not only been very effective in improving conditions generally, not only for themselves but for all citizens of Canada. In addition to all that has been said, it should not be overlooked that the organized Grain Growers have given their hearty support to all plans for the raising of patriotic funds for war purposes, and have themselves contributed liberally to all these funds.

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