

# Grain Growers of Three States in Convention

Rich in educational features and remarkable for its progressive action and thought on marketing problems and in regard to abuses that have so long beset the farmers of the Northwest, the annual convention of the Tri-State Grain Growers' association came to a successful close last Friday in Fargo, after a four-day session.

This session of the association marked the close of the incumbency of John H. Worst, president of the association for 15 years, during which time he was its most active spirit and practically alone drew up the splendid programs of the convention. Mr. Worst, who is president of the State Agricultural college at Fargo, refused a new term as president and C. B. Waldron, dean of the agricultural department of the college, was unanimously elected to succeed him. W. C. Palmer was reelected secretary and G. W. Randlett was named, vice president.

## Big Week for Farmers

It was a big week in Fargo for farmers. Besides this convention, which brought hundreds of tillers of the soil from North and South Dakota and Minnesota, the Equity Cooperative exchange stockholders of North Dakota held their annual convention in Fargo at the same time, and there was an automobile show, home-products show, seed show, corn show and sessions of the Farm Managers' association and the Women's auxiliary of the Tri-state association. Visitors in the city so taxed the hotel accommodations that the Commercial club found it necessary to get its machinery busy listing rooms in private families for delegates and visitors.

The meetings brought prominent farm experts and statesmen of the Northwest and of the nation to the city and addresses were delivered by Senator P. J. McCumber of North Dakota and Assistant United States Secretary of Agriculture Carl Vrooman.

## Worst Sounds Keynote

The keynote of the convention was sounded by President Worst in his annual address, published in full in last week's issue of the Leader. While no formal resolution was framed to express the convention's thought on marketing and allied political and economic problems, the president's address, the addresses of most of the speakers and the expressed opinions of the delegates gave great impetus to the cooperative movement and sounded a battle cry for farmers in their move to get control of the political reins of the state for the enactment of legislation for farmers.

Despite the presence of Assistant Secretary Voorman from Washington, D. C., who ably presented the present national administration's program for preparedness, and a speech by Rev. W. K. Weaver of the Navy League of the United States, who urged a Rooseveltian preparedness program, the delegates practically unanimously adopted by a standing vote a resolution condemning these programs. The resolution, however, was not opposed to reasonable preparedness, for it advocates an increase in and better equipment of the militia of the various states and a more adequate navy, obtained through cutting out the "pork" in present naval appropriations and savings by government manufacture of armaments of all kinds.

## For Fair Preparedness

The preparedness resolution was drawn up by Ray McKaig, secretary of the State Grange, who urged and secured its passage in a speech in which he said that the total strength of the various militia organizations of the states could readily be made 700,000 through payment of a salary of \$50 per year to militiamen, thus furnishing an adequate reserve army of defense.

He pointed out that American navy expenditures for the 10 years preceding the European war had actually exceeded Germany's, but that at the beginning of the war the German navy was the second in efficiency and size in the world and the American fourth. He attributed this discrepancy to "pork" in American expenditures and said a greatly increased navy could be obtained, answering all purposes of defense, if "pork" were eliminated. Instead of vastly increasing expenditures under other plans of preparedness. He claimed the frenzied cry for preparedness was due to a paid propaganda of munition manufacturers and advocated government manufactured munitions and armaments, to take the profit out of national defense and allow an uninfluenced, calm consideration of the problem.

## Farm Profits Slim

Senator McCumber in his address described the difference between organizing a farm and organizing a

## John H. Worst Retires as President After Fifteen Years of Service--Marketing Keynote of Big Meeting--Preparedness Program Denounced in Resolutions Passed Unanimously by Farmers Present.

business under present conditions. "When capitalists and promoters in the city get together to organize a

then the rest of the common labor and clerical help hired at going wages. Then with these expenses the

## Grain Growers Name Officers, Pass Resolutions

New officers of the Tri-state Grain Growers' association—C. B. Waldron, president; G. W. Randlett, vice president; W. C. Palmer, secretary.

New officers woman's auxiliary—Mrs. W. W. Brown, Amenia, N. D., president; Mrs. J. H. Sheperd, Fargo, secretary.

The only resolution adopted, except those thanking the officers and speakers for their work and the Fargo Commercial club for its help, was the following:

"Whereas there is being urged an armament campaign and a vast expenditure for frenzied preparedness for war—

"Whereas, there is being urged a larger standing army and a huge continental army and a plan to expend millions to private firms for a bigger navy—

"Whereas, such an armament program, we fear, may plunge this nation into needless wars and vast expense, and our citizens into great distress—

"Whereas, the militia regiments of the various states were primarily organized to repel invasions and are as such fundamentally the nucleus of a volunteer army of the United States, and are thus by the proposal of a continental army to be cast aside as useless junk—

"Whereas, we feel that there is a paid propaganda working throughout the Union to spend vast millions on increased navy and war preparations—

"Be it resolved, we farmers and others in assembly in Fargo, N. D., January 19, 1916, do hereby petition our senators and representatives at Washington to be calm and deliberate with care these proposals. That we ask congress to assist the militia of the country to be equipped and increased as our ideal citizen soldiery. That we ask for an efficient navy without the pork barrel, and that we demand the government build its own warships and own and build its own factories for ammunition, guns and ether equipment for the maintenance of an army and navy.

business venture they elect a president and, let us say, provide a \$3000 a year salary for him; a general manager is expected to pay dividends of 10 per cent.

"Say a farm is organized on that

## Fourth Man to Join the League



ANTHONY WALTON, of Minot, and his wife.

Anthony Walton of Minot, the fourth farmer in North Dakota to join the Farmers' Nonpartisan Political League, who had faith in the movement from the start, before the League was the vast army of the farmers it now is, has just returned from his "honeymoon" with Mrs. Walton whom he married 21 years ago. They have never taken time in their busy lives to have a wedding trip till recently, when the returned from a tour of eight states.

Mr. Walton is a farmer from the ground up, interested in all movements for the farmers' good, politically or economically. He is a member of the Society of Equity and one of the committee of that organization now looking for a site for the proposed new cooperative packing plant of the organization.

"I joined the League February 3, 1915, and only three farmers of North Dakota beat me to it," says Mr. Walton. He is proud of that fact and carries his receipt for membership dues around with him in his pocketbook.

"I have been in the state 12 years, all spent in the north prairie country, and after my trip to eight states, just finished, I want to say North Dakota beats them all. And it will be a better state when the League and the Leader see their program pushed through. The Leader is just right—it is telling us the truth and what we want to know. If we can drop party politics and stick together we will win. I am confident the League will win, electing good men—farmers—to office in North Dakota, who will give what we have begged all these years of legislatures in vain, and what we are entitled to by virtue of our casting most of the votes and paying most of the taxes in this state."

ager is named, at a salary of \$2400; department managers or foremen are employed at other fixed salaries, and plan. The farmer is president at a salary of \$3000, his son general manager at \$24000, his wife chief of

household at \$2000, his sons and daughters drawing adequate salaries as employees. The farm, if organized like a city business, must pay these salaries and then the 10 per cent dividend besides. How many farms do it? None do—you are lucky to make one salary such as these I have mentioned in one year.

## Should Get Wages

"I want to see the farmer, as manager, and his family as employees receive city salaries for their work, and after paying such salaries, I want to see the farmer able to declare a dividend upon his investment in farm machinery, just the same as in other lines of business. I want to see the farm laborer receive just as much per hour for building a hay stack as the city masons receive for building a chimney. I want to see farming made a success through the earning capacity of the land rather than through the everlasting saving of the farmer. I want to see the farmer able to spend just as much for theatres, for travel and for amusement as the merchant or manufacturer. I insist that the farmer's wife is as much entitled to her calling and receiving days, her dressmakers, her hair dressers, her manicurers as her sister whose husband may be engaged in city vocations. I want a more equitable division of labor, a more equitable division of profits, a more equitable division of pleasures.

## Need Organization

"Mr. Chairman, were I to express in the fewest possible words the most important present needs of the farming world, and in the order of their importance, I should declare, first, the American market, shielded from undue foreign invasion; second, such federal standardization and grading of farm products as will insure confidence in their character and prevent fraudulent and injurious practices; third, a system of rural credits, simple of operation, and sure in benefits, that will minimize the rate on interest bearing obligations; and fourth, cooperation in the marketing of farm products, including a closer relation between producer and ultimate consumer.

"And, Mr. Chairman, were I to express the only sure method of securing these benefits, I should sum it all up in two words, 'Organized Effort.'"

## Marketing Big Issue

Former Congressman Manahan of Minnesota, attorney for the Society of Equity, gave a stirring address.

"More important than land," he said, "more important than grain, live stock and bank accounts to the farmer is the manhood of the people. I mean by that what comes from happy and well-sustained lives in a pleasant environment. And the most vital thing that affects conditions that make for manhood is marketing.

"Marketing is now more important to the farmer than cultivation. We have spent billions to improve the latter; the big problem now is the former. The consumer pays the farmer, but between the two are the great handling organizations, middlemen, chambers of commerce. It is to the study of this machinery in between and to organization to right its abuses that farmers must bend their efforts.

"And let me say right here that the greatest single influence on this marketing machinery is government, and that must be used for the farmers' benefit. Business men who manipulate this great marketing machinery and fix the prices and conditions under which farmers must live know the part the government plays and they are not slow to direct its hand to their benefit. It remains for farmers to do he directing."

## Bacon Too Steep

E. G. Quamme of Finley, N. D., got to the root of farmers' problems. He declared for a great cooperative packing plant owned cooperatively or by the state, and either for a cooperative or state operated system of rural credits.

"I say it is not profitable to farm in North Dakota today," said the speaker. "We have 40,000,000 acres of land in the state and over \$100,000,000 in mortgages—an average of \$20 to \$35 an acre in land debt. I do not want to make statements that are derogative to our great state, but I am going to give you facts.

"We thought that we were growing rich in this country, but it is a mistake. When we of the Northwest are pouring in our gold in interest rates, the people of the eastern states are reaping the harvest.

## For Packing Plant

"Up my way we pay 35 cents per pound for bacon but we only get 5 cents per pound for pork we produce. Maybe somebody has can tell me where the difference goes. Now I don't understand why we get even 5 cents a pound for our hogs. We have nothing to say about what we get and why don't these fellows who