

DDA
25-

METIS ASSOCIATION of SASKATCHEWAN
NEWSLETTER
Number two
November 20/65 GREEN LAKE LOCAL #2

RESOLUTION FOR DEEDED LAND - Passed at the Green Lake local Meeting, Nov. 14, 1965.

RESOLUTION

For too long, we, the Metis people of Green Lake, have heard and have been told that we live in a prosperous and thriving community...we know otherwise. For too many years we have been told that we are being trained in agriculture and other skills to eventually farm our own land, to control and operate our own community. We have been waiting too long. Under the present system we cannot see this end being realized. We want to begin managing our own lives...NOW.

Therefore, for the Metis farmers of Green Lake, the Metis Association of Saskatchewan, Green Lake Local #2, makes the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Metis people of Green Lake, who want to farm, and whereas the 40 acre plot system, the Central Farm, leases which have been changed with the change in Provincial Government have failed to train people in farming methods, have failed to provide people with any incentive to work the land, have taken control from the people and held it,

- BE IT RESOLVED that:
- a) those Metis people of Green Lake who wish to farm be given, or allowed to purchase through agreement with the Department of Municipal Affairs, deeded land at a maximum of 320 acres per person, taking into consideration that not every farmer will need the maximum amount.
 - b) that arrangements be made so that machinery, stock, seed, lumber for building - those items necessary to begin farming- be made available, and a fair purchase agreement be made between the farmers and the Provincial Government.
 - c) that the farms be laid out so that land is kept available for expansion to avoid a future "domino effect."
 - d) that the system of land set aside for the Metis people of Green Lake continue in its present form.
 - e) that hire machinery be made available for clearing new land and that the hire charges be fair and reasonable.
 - f) that an agricultural expert be made available to advise those people who wish to avail themselves of his services.
 - g) that the Minister or Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs meet with the members of the Metis Association of Saskatchewan, Green Lake Local #2, to discuss this resolution.

FARMING AND THE RESOLUTION

The above resolution is the first strong protest about Green Lake farming conditions that has been sent to Regina.

You may be asking, "What will happen?" "Will it change anything?"

It can change things. If people in Green Lake face the people who will come from Regina. These people must be told what

it's like to live in Green Lake. What its like owning 40 acres that dosn't make any money. What its like to scrape to stay alive. They must be told.

In the past people in Green Lake have not stood up and told Regina people what is happening here. This time they must be told: It must be made clear that people in Green Lake want to live comfortable with self-respect. They do not wait another twenty years for the forty acre plots to disappear. Or to wait five years for surveys and studies which have done nothing in the past.

People have to get ready to face the Regina people. What do the people of Green Lake want - together we must tell them. How the future should be. We all know of the past. We must think and discuss the future.

Each person must work out what he needs to start farming. They should be honest about how much land they need. All this will not be given free. But it will be worked for by the people not by the government. It will be your own. People who are willing to work hard could have a half section of their own in five years. If they work hard they will owe no money.

We must work hard today as well. Land does not fall out of the sky but it can be got. Each must do his part and work with his neighbours. The government has not solved the problems in Green Lake but the people can. Only the people can.

WANTED:

two young people to learn to write and put out this newsletter.

See Mrs. Evelyn Eidler, Secretary of the Green Lake Local of the Metis Assoc.

THE YOUTH PROBLEM

Lot of people have complained about the kids in Green Lake. Some call them juvenile delinquents. So far all thats been done is to set a curfew. But locking kids up at night won't make saints out of these kids. Not many people want to be locked up. Its good to move around, talk to other kids and be free.

How many people have asked: "Why have a curfew?" "Why is it necessary?"

It is necessary because the kids have nothing that they can do in Green Lake. Once in a while there's a movie or dance. But what about the rest of the time? It gets pretty boring sitting in the cafe.

So far the recreational co-op controls most of the things that the kids could use for themselves. Surely the kids should have some say in the way that the hall is used. They could use the hall for other things besides dances and movies. There should be ways that they could start doing things.

This was tried once. For two months there was a Youth Assoc. This was when Peltier was here. When he left it fell apart. Why didn't they continue by themselves? They should do that now. There are lots of things that could be done. They could be run by the kids themselves. People, kids especially, should think of this. **WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.**

HOUSING PROGRAM

There will be a meeting on Thursday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 pm in the Green Lake Community Hall to discuss housing in Green Lake.

Mr. Bill Bague, Director of Northern Housing, DNR and Mr. Phil Golla, Dept. of Co-operation will be present to discuss the forming of a Green Lake housing co-op. Similar programs have been set up at Buffalo Narrows, Cumberland House and other Northern communities.

.....

The above was a copy of Green Lake newsletter #2.

.....

On Dec. 9 the following reply was recieved (to the resolution on the first page) from Dept. of Muncipale Affairs in Regina.

COPY

Mr. Dan Ross
President,
Metis Association of Sask.,
Green Lake Local #2.

Regina, December 9,
1965.

Dear Mr. Ross,

I am in receipt of your resolution with respect to the re-organization of the 40 acre plots on the Central Farm at Green Lake.

Without becoming specific as to the various sections of your resolution, let me say that I am in general agreement with the principles outlined.

We are presently studying the situation, and we certainly will be in touch with you as this study progressed. No changes will be made without prior consultation and approval of you the people concerned.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. McIssac. D.V.M.

COPY

.....

It is now Febuary. No further exchange on the land has taken place between the GreenLake Local and the Provincial Government.

The land issue is only one of many. Nearly every day individual problems arise. In the past these problems were buried and became part of the large, smoldering frustration of a voiceless people. With the formation of the MAS the Metis people have found a way to speak to the government.

.....

(the following is an exerpt from Newsletter #3)

WHAT IS THE MAS?

The Metis Association of Saskatchewan is made up of eight Locals. Green Lake is just one of these Locals. All the Locals

are in the North. (Prince Albert is the furthest one south.)

When one of these Locals has a problem they can draw up a resolution and send it to the President of the MAS. He works for all the Locals. When he sends a resolution in to a minister in Regina, it has the support of all the Locals, not just one! This way, the minister in Regina know that he is not dealing with just the people in Green Lake or La Ronge but with all the people in the MAS. He cannot very easily say "No!" to all these people.

When Canoe Narrows sends in a resolution we back it up because Canoe Narrows is one of the Locals in the MAS. If we are going to back up a resolution it is important that we understand what the resolution says. If we understand what is going on in other Locals we may be able to help them in other ways as well as supporting their resolutions. For this reason we are sending this newsletter to all the other Locals so that they know what we are doing here in Green Lake. We have asked them to send us information about their own Locals so that we can put it in the Newsletter and let people here know what is going on in other places.

This way the MAS will become stronger, Things will be done People in Green Lake will farm their own land. Fishermen in Beauval will get a better deal when they sell their fish to the mink ranchers. It is your duty to support the Metis Assoc. and work towards a better way of life for all people.

.

The following letters and parts of Newsletters illustrate some of the demands of the people of the Green Lake area:

Mr. Walters,
Deputy Minister of Muncipale Affairs,
Legislative Building,
Regina, Sask.

Green Lake, Sask.
Jan. 30/66

Dear Sir,

During December of this year, 10 stacks of my hay were eaten by about fifty head of horses, some of which were from the central farm. This hay was bought from Paul Morin and was on Mr. Morin's field east of the village. I complained to Jarret (Mr. B. Jarret) that month about the horses and was told that they would soon be moved. They were moved, but only after they had eaten about one hundred (100.00) dollars of the hay.

I would like full payment from the Central Farm for my hay as I will now have to buy more hay to feed my stock through the winter.

Your immediate attention to this matter will be most appreciated.

Yours truly

Albert Melbuf,
MAS Member, Green
Lake, Local # 2.

NOTE: Albert Melbuf, a Metis farmer in his mid-forties, suffered a cerebral haemorrhage soon after this letter was written. It is expected that he will be unable to use his legs or the upper right side of his body for the rest of his life.

.

Sincerely yours,

Don Ross, President, Local # 2,
Green Lake

Ralph Corriall
MAS, Green Lake Local

Some Notes of a meeting between the Metis Association, Locals of Canoe Lake and Green Lake on the evening of January 30, 1966.

Dan Ross (President of the Green Lake Local) excepted the chairmanship and called the meeting to order. Present were eight members of the Canoe Lake Local and four from Green Lake. Mr. Ross then asked the members from Canoe Lake to explain why they had requested this meeting.

Mr. Ralph Corrigan spoke for the Canoe Lake people. The problem was with logging. They had been led to understand that they would receive nine dollars per thousand foot for logs they had cut in the bush. They had been cutting for two weeks and had over 3 thousand logs. Mr. B. Jarret, the Government supervisor, told them that they would have to haul the logs to the mill site on the lake (mill is to be brought in this summer). This site is over a mile from the logs. They would receive \$12 per thousand feet when the logs were delivered. Mr. Corrigan emphasized that they had not been told they would have to haul the logs.

...At this time there was some discussion of the cost of the operation.

...Mr. Ross (an experienced logger) said that there was no money in hauling logs at \$3 per thousand feet, and that he wouldn't do it himself. He added, that the government can't afford to haul the logs themselves, so they want the people to do it. Mr. Ross said that the men must demand pay before continuing. (credit has been closed down in stores because these people have no money.)

A proposal was made that a letter be sent to Mr. Jarret and that if he did not reply favourably by Tuesday Feb. 1, that legal action be taken. If it is illegal for a horse to starve, commented Mr. Ross, what about the children of the Canoe Lake workers?

The letter suggestion was accepted. The letter was drafted, Mr. Ross and Mr. Corrigan signed it, and the meeting was closed.

Green Lake, Sask.
January 30, 1966.

Mr. B. Jarret
Supervisor for Logging
Meadow Lake Provincial Building
Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan

Dear Mr. Jarret:

We, the people of the Green Lake Metis Association and the Canoe Lake Metis Association met to discuss the logs in the bush at Canoe Lake. We feel that the men, who did this work should be paid for the logs, approximately 3,000, while the logs are still in the bush. These logs are to be scaled in the bush, on the skidways.

We insist that the men receive nine dollars (\$9) for a thousand (1,000) feet for the logs that are already cut. If payment is not received by Tuesday, February 1, 1966, night, or if you have not replied to this request by noon of the same day, we will be forced to take legal action.

It is intolerable that people should be starving after having worked in the bush for two weeks. This is your responsibility.

Arrangements to haul the logs to the lake will have to be made by you.

Ralph Corrigan
MAS, Canoe Lake Local

Sincerely yours,
Dan Ross, President, Local #2,
Green Lake

Because the only form of communication between Green Lake and Canoe Lake is through DNR radiogram, the Green Lake Local has received no further news about the Canoe Lake situation, except in a report from a member of the Green Lake Local which stated that Mr. Jarret was extremely indignant that the people of the MAS would presume to take such a stand.

.

Malcolm Norris of Prince Albert is President of the Provincial body of the MAS!

Last month Mr. Norris suffered a heart attack. This attack put him in hospital for some time. After that he rested at home and now seems to be getting better and stronger!

On December 7th, he wrote a letter to Richard Thompson. In the letter he asked that something be passed on to the Green Lake people. Below is part of the letter:

METIS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN
c/o 53 River Street East,
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Richard Thompson
Associate Member, MAS,
Green Lake, Sask.

Dear Richard:

.....I have been given a copy of a paper entitled "A New Approach to Human Rights", which I will have cut on a stencil for distribution. It starts off with the first sentence as follows: "People don't get opportunity or freedom or equality or dignity as a gift or an act of charity. They only get these things in the act of taking them through their own efforts:" Pass this on to the people of Green Lake. The more militant they become the better.....

.....Keep me posted with results of the Resolution to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Perhaps a march on the Legislative Buildings in Regina is what is required.....

Yours fraternally,

Malcolm F. Norris
President, MAS.