

OGILVIE'S STATEMENT

Manager Says Company Favors Government Ownership.

The Winnipeg Free Press prints the following:—At least one of the big milling companies has made a definite pronouncement which is practically an endorsement of the government ownership of elevators. This is the Ogilvie Milling company. In an interview with the press yesterday W. A. Black, western manager of that company, outlined the position of his company plainly as follows:

"The policy of our company has always favored the greatest possible freedom to farmers in the marketing and disposal of their products, and in so far as the present proposal that the government should operate a line of elevators is concerned, we have no objection to offer whatever so long as conducted on a business basis. The rates, in my opinion, should be made so as not to exceed the actual cost with due regard to the matter of depreciation, the necessary interest on the investment, and some reasonable amount towards a sinking fund."

"Country elevators generally are not now, and never have been, in our experience, a commercial proposition by themselves, but rather a means of handling from the farmers to the cars in order to facilitate more rapid transportation, thus obviating blockades, and the provision of necessary storage."

"Our company, however, is not interested to the same extent as the elevator companies, whose business is confined to the handling of grain for others, and buying and selling grain, whereas the matter of selection and accumulation for future use, of grain of suitable quality for our milling requirements makes a line of interior elevators of our own a necessary adjunct to the business."

BUYERS GATHER—PRICES JUMP

Buyers representing 165 lumber yards in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were in Vancouver within the past few days for the purpose of acquainting themselves with the condition of the manufacturing end of the lumber business.

A large manufacturer of lumber in Vancouver stated that the outlook for a heavy exportation of lumber to the prairies during 1910 was excellent. The lumbering industry on the coast has never been, according to this authority, in a better condition than it is today, the stocks in the mills being about half what they were this time last year. The demand is much better than was the case twelve months ago.

The lumber manufacturers on the coast are expecting a general stiffening of the market in March and April, and while there may be no general advance in the price of lumber, increase is looked for in certain grades which some mills are at present long on. When they have worked their stocks down advances will naturally occur.

THE "ALL BLUE" ROUTE.

A Toronto dispatch says the project of a waterway from the Rocky Mountains across the prairies to Lake Superior takes definite shape. Application is being made to Parliament for an act to incorporate "The International Waterways Canal and Construction Company," with power to link up the Saskatchewan river with Thunder Bay. Advantage is to be taken with such existing streams and bodies of water as Lake Winnipeg, the Winnipeg River, the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake.

FATHER OF ENDEAVOR SOCIETY COMING

Walter D. Howell, field secretary of the C. E. S., Minnesota, has arrived in Winnipeg to enter upon the duties of field secretary there for three months, mainly with the object of preparing the way for the coming of Dr. Francis E. Clark, the founder of the Christian Endeavor organization, and Wm. Shaw the general secretary, who are to come in February. They will arrive in Winnipeg February 24, will attend a worker's conference at 2 p.m. in Westminster church, and will be entertained at luncheon in Manitoba hall at 4.30 p.m. The executive will meet at 3.30 p.m., there will be a junior rally at 5 o'clock and a grand rally will be held at night, probably in

the Central Congregational church. The following day a three day convention will open at Manitou, Man. Dr. Clark and Mr. Shaw will remain throughout the entire convention, a favor which they are very seldom able to accord. They are on their way home from a tour round the world, including attendance at the world's C.E. convention, which was held in India in November. They have visited China and Japan on the way, and they are expected to come to Winnipeg from Spokane.

The city union committee will arrange for a week of prayer, the first week of February, in preparation for the special day here and the convention at Manitou.

COLOSSAL WEALTH

Capitalization of Steel and Coal Merger About Seventy Millions.

Preliminary estimates of the capitalization of the new steel and coal merger, which will swallow the existing Dominion Iron and Steel and Dominion Coal Companies, place it at a modest seventy millions. This is roughly, thirty-two millions more than the net value of the present stock and bond issues of the two companies. The merger has long been blocked by the opposition of Mr. James Ross, president of the Dominion Coal Company, whose bitter fight against the steel interests was ended only this year by a judgment of the Privy Council, under which Mr. Ross and his associates were assessed for heavy damages. Of the total amount \$2,750,000 has already been paid. By the present agreement Mr. Ross sells 50,000 shares, for which he receives \$1,250,000 in cash, and the balance at the rate of \$95 per share, spread over a period of thirty months. The action of Mr. Ross places the other shareholders in the merger, for control is now vested with the steel interests. It will be the greatest industrial enterprise in Canada, much larger in proportion to the population than the United States Steel Corporation is to the United States. The various securities of the merging company total up to fifty-seven millions, as follows:—

Dominion Iron & Steel Company—	
Common stock	\$20,000,000
Preferred stock	5,000,000
Bonds (Sept 30, 1908) ..	9,368,833
Dominion Coal Company—	
Common stock	\$15,000,000
Preferred stock	3,000,000
Bonds	5,000,000
Total	\$57,368,833

TERMINAL ELEVATORS

Member for Qu'Appelle Urged Government Control in House of Commons

R. S. Lake, member for Qu'Appelle, addressing the House of Commons on Thursday last, urged the immediate construction of the Hudson Bay Railway. Over four million acres of land, which were set apart to finance the construction of the road had been sold for an amount almost equal to the calculated expenditure and there was no reason why the project should not be proceeded with.

Terminal Elevators

After declaring that the lands of the prairie provinces should be turned over to the provincial authorities and that something should be done to relieve the provinces of the burden imposed upon them by the fact that the C.P.R. does not pay taxes on its lands, Mr. Lake took up the question of terminal elevators. He said that the adoption of the policy of Government ownership of interior elevators by the Manitoba Government and the declaration of the Saskatchewan legislature in favor of a similar policy made it incumbent upon the Dominion Government to take over the elevators at the terminal points. He did not think that it would be necessary to purchase the elevators as railways would be willing to rent them.

Mr. Lake dealt at some length with the situation which arises every autumn in the west owing to the lack of labor at harvest time. He said that the situation last autumn was particularly serious and suggested the advisability of the Government appointing a commission to enquire into the matter with the idea of developing some plan which would give the western farmers relief during the harvest period.

BILL TO REGULATE COMBINES Introduced in House of Commons by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King.

The Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, on January 18, introduced in the House of Commons his Combines Restriction Bill, notice of which was given by the Hon. W. S. Fielding in his budget speech. The bill is a more far-reaching measure than Mr. Fielding indicated, however. Its enactment will be in the hands of the Minister of Labor. "It is believed," said Mr. King, in explaining the measure, "that the bill will afford a ready and convenient means whereby parties who have reason to believe that any combination is unduly enhancing prices or unfairly restricting competition, will be able to obtain an investigation and an effective remedy against any evils which may be found to exist."

Modus Operandi

"This is sought to be obtained, in the first place, by providing that six or more persons who feel that a combine exists and that prices have been enhanced or competition restricted by reason of such combine, to the detriment of the consumer, may make application to a judge of the high court for an order to grant an investigation of such a combine."

"The judge may call before him witnesses, but all that it is necessary for him to assure himself of before granting the order is that a prima facie case has been made out. When the judge issues an order for an investigation the order is directed to the Minister of the department, and the Minister then calls upon each of the parties concerned to name a member on the Board of Investigation."

"The act, in this particular, proceeds along lines somewhat similar to the procedure under the Industrial Investigation Act. The complainants and the parties accused are called upon to name representatives on the Board, and the two men thus chosen confer together with a view to selecting a chairman, who in this case, must be a judge of the court. The Board thus constituted shall have all the powers of a court of record. After due investigation, the Board must draw up a report and submit that report to the minister, who, in turn, is required to make it public through the official gazette and distribute copies to the press if so desired."

Publicly Effective

"There are certain classes of evils in the remedying of which it is believed publicity is more effective than a penalty. It may not be that publicity will in all cases prove an effective remedy, but in industrial matters it has many times in the past proven to be effective. While this act provides machinery of a nature calculated to let in light on the working of those large corporations, legislation does not rely entirely upon publicity to bring about the desired remedy. There are other remedies proposed, and one is a remedy already existing in connection with such articles as are protected by the tariff. The statutes in this particular give authority to the Governor-General in council where the reports show that the prices have been unduly enhanced or that competition is being unfairly restricted in virtue of protection given to a particular article, to reduce the tariff on the particular article or to remove the tariff altogether."

Another Class of Combination

"Then there is another class of combination which it is hoped this measure may be the means of repealing," said Mr. King. "I refer to the case of persons holding a patent, and in Section 7 of the act there is a provision that in case the owner or holder of a patent makes use of the exclusive rights he controls

so as to unduly limit the manufacture or supply of the article in a manner to injure trade or commerce, such patent shall be liable to be revoked. Then there is a further clause which provides that in the event of the Board finding any combination, unduly enhancing the price, or unfairly restricting competition, and if the guilty party persists in the conduct which has been reported against, them in such a case he is liable to indictment and to a penalty not exceeding \$1,000 for each day after the expiration of ten days from the date of publication of the report of the Board in the Canadian Gazette that the parties continue to offend."

MR. KERR'S ORGANIZATION TOUR

There should be a thorough rejuvenation of the Grain Growers' Association in south-western Manitoba during the next month, when F. W. Kerr, director for that section of the province, will address a series of twenty-five meetings. Most of the associations to be visited are arranging socials or banquets for the purpose of getting the ladies and young people interested in the work. The itinerary of Mr. Kerr's tour is as follows:

Oak Lake	Jan. 19	Reston	Feb. 4
Griswold	" 20	Souris	" 5
Alexander	" 21	Hartney	" 7
Beresford	" 24	Napierville	" 8
Melita	" 25	Broomhill	" 9
Carroll	" 26	Tilston	" 10
Elgin	" 28	Pierson	" 11
Minto	" 29	Deloraine	" 14
Antler	" 31	Goodlands	" 15
Sinclair	Feb. 1	Waskada	" 16
Pipestone	" 2	Boissevain	" 19
Huston School, Feb. 3			

Brief News

The question as to the quality of Red Fife wheat in comparison with other varieties grown in this province as well as the influence of soil and climate upon the crop will be thoroughly discussed at the next convention by Mr. John A. Mooney, vice president of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, who has for several years been a practical farmer in western Canada and has given much study to this question.

The convention will be held in Regina beginning on January 25, and is open to any person who wishes to attend. The secretary of the convention is F. Hedley Auld, Regina, Sask.

Winnipeg Poultry Show—February 8 to 12, 1910—promises to be one of Western Canada's most successful shows, and with increased interest being taken in poultry, those interested should not fail to attend, as there are not enough winter shows in the province at present and everything that will tend to advance this industry should be patronized. Prize lists will be ready early in January. W. L. Cordingley, Sec., 127 Langside Street Winnipeg.

Negotiations have been concluded between the Canadian Northern and the British Columbia government, and Messrs Mackenzie and Mann left Victoria, January 15. Details of the arrangement will not be made known pending the bringing in of a bill in the legislature but it is understood that a clause controlling freight rates satisfactory to the government has been inserted.

The report of the million dollar government elevator at Port Colbourne, Ontario, shows that from Sept. 28 to the season's close 250,000 bushels of grain were received for export, 970,000 for Montreal and 780,000 bushels for consumption at nearby points. There are 250,000 bushels still in the elevator.

U.F.A. CONVENTION AT EDMONTON

The annual convention of the United Farmers of Alberta opened today (January 19th) at Edmonton, and will be in session for two days.

Among the questions which will be discussed will be those of a government packing plant; the question of international trade with British Columbia; the western grain route and terminals; government ownership of internal elevators; municipal abattoirs; beef chilling; local improvements; hay inspection; agricultural college; hail insurance; gopher and coyote extermination; co-operation in marketing; railway crossings and cattle guards on the railways.

The United Farmers will also discuss the formation of a National Council of the executives of the various provincial associations. A large and representative attendance is expected. A complete report of the proceedings will be published in THE GUIDE.