

Review of Negotiations

That Led to Government Ownership and Operation of Elevators in Manitoba

Since it has become known that the Government operation of elevators in Manitoba has not measured up to the expectations of those who looked upon Government or public ownership and operation of such elevators for handling grain as a relief from the abuses that have arisen through the monopoly of the grain trade in Western Canada, the leaders of the Grain Growers' movement have been subjected to most severe and adverse criticisms in certain circles. They are credited with being responsible for the Government undertaking the purchase of elevators and in many quarters are accused of being the direct cause of the fiasco into which the Government system of elevators has drifted. In other words an attempt is made to make the leaders of the Grain Growers the scapegoat.

Rather than run the risk of prejudicing any one against the system established by the Government or do anything that would have a tendency to weaken the hands of the commission which was entrusted with the operation of the system the Executive of the Grain Growers' Association refrained from any attempt at explanation or to give the public reasons why the system has not met with success. They preferred to silently bear the approbrium heaped on them and quietly wait the results of Government methods.

They were conscious of the fact that failure of making the Government elevators a success was not due to any inherent defect in the principle of public ownership and operation of public utilities; and that the warehousing of grain and the providing for the necessary storage for warehousing of grain at primary points of shipment, lends itself to the principle of public ownership and could be made a success were proper methods adopted.