

ern, 19.01 cents; International, 20.21 cents, and the Farmers' Elevators, 12.76 cents, and that elevators secured by negotiation average was 12.24 cents.

Another very significant fact is that the business done at the points where many of these elevators were purchased was a losing one to the owners previous to the purchase by the government, business having been diverted by the building of rail-ways or other causes. In fifty per cent. of the points they run up against the competition of elevators owned and operated by large milling concerns who were in a position to pay premiums for wheat grown in those districts for milling purposes, always rendering the business of their competitors at those points unprofitable. The Government seems to have been equally unfortunate at those points where they have erected elevators, investigation showing that the quantity available at some of those points would not pay the cost of operating elevators. The biggest mistake, however, that the Government had made was that after the elevators were acquired they did not bring the Grain Growers into their confidence in the matter of appointment of operators or the method of operation. They first refused to accept the suggestions in the elevator committee's memorial as to the main principles involved in the elevator bill and subsequently made the fatal mistake of ignoring the Grain Growers' Association in the appointment of operators, thus failing to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of those whose patronage could make a success of the system. In making the appointment the first year for the operating of the elevators, in place of consulting and getting the co-operation of the Grain Growers' Association in making appointments that would be mutually satisfactory, and in which the patrons of the elevators would have confidence they thought it better business to seek the advice of the sitting members, with the result that it created lack of confidence in the minds of the Grain Growers. The service rendered in cleaning, out-weighing and special binning was disappointing. The practice of short shipment, the undue delay and red tape in settling for short shipments and excessive deductions for shrinkage after the usual dockage was made was a source of annoyance that drove farmers away from patronizing the Government system. These regulations and red tape as to storage prevented grain dealers engaging in street buying at points where government elevators were operated was another disappointment, not only to the farmers of those communities, but to the advocates of the Government operation of elevators. Coupled with that was the evident intent on the part of the "powers that be" to make the operation of the system a means of contributing to their political support. The idea got abroad that the most expert qualification required of an elevator operator was not a thorough knowledge of the grain business and the operation of the elevators. Authentic cases