

cause of the farmers and standing out as a man, never occurs to him. We consider Mr. Robson one of the weakest members of the legislature and a man who should not be allowed to misrepresent the farmers any longer. We trust that the farmers of his constituency will see that he is relegated to private life where he will not do very much damage by knocking the policy of the Grain Growers on every possible occasion. If the farmers of Manitoba expect their cause to prosper they must steer clear of men of the stamp of J. W. Robson who pretends to be a friend of the farmer and then knocks him whenever he gets the chance.

There is more in this than appears on the surface. We have good reason to believe that Mr. Robson's action is but part of a widespread movement to break the Grain Growers' Grain Co. and Association and Guide. It looks to us as though Mr. Robson were acting under orders and he is just the stamp of a man to do it. In this case there are a number of other men in Manitoba doing the same kind of dirty work for the same purpose. If Mr. Robson, and men of his calibre, are returned to the legislature then the farmers of Manitoba might as well make up their minds that their struggle for the right is useless. But we hope that the farmers are not going to work against their own interests by electing Mr. Robson. If they defeat him it will be what he deserves and will be a black eye to those interests that are doing their best to down the farmers and keep them in subjection. If the farmers do their duty now they will not regret it.

MR. McCUAIG'S APPOINTMENT

In our last issue we discussed somewhat the position of Mr. D. W. McCuaig as president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association and chairman of the Elevator Commission. In this connection we have received the following letter from Mr. McCuaig. We present it to our readers:—

"I have just read your article in this week's *Grain Growers' Guide* in regard to myself and trust you will grant me space to reply. I wish to explain my position in this matter. It is true I was elected by the Grain Growers' Convention in Brandon last December, to the office of President, by acclamation. It was the convention's right to do so. It is also true I have been appointed Chairman of the Elevator Commission, but it is also true that I declined to accept that appointment until I consulted a number of the leading men of the Association personally and by letter, and all, (with the exception of one) only urged me to accept the appointment giving as a reason that they would feel satisfied that the work of the Commission would be carried on without fear or favor.

"The government also pressed me to accept the appointment as I had been President of the Association for so many years while pressing the government to adopt the principle of government ownership of elevators. I should now be willing to help carry out our own proposals and make a success of them. After giving it due consideration I consented to accept the appointment. My desire was then to resign the office of President of the Association, but I hesitated doing so as I could be charged with deserting the Association as soon as I received an appointment with a salary. Since my appointment to the commission I have addressed a large number of meetings on association work and the elevator proposition, and I have consulted the Grain Growers' at every point in regard to resigning the office of President and in every case they urged me to hold the office until the next convention and in many cases resolutions were passed without a dissenting voice for me not to resign.

"On the elevator commission I am carrying out the work laid out by the Grain Growers' Association during the last three years. I am more of an official of the Grain Growers than the government.

(Signed.) D. W. McCUAIG,
President, M. G. G. A."

We stated our position last week and asked for opinions and will not discuss the matter further at this time except to say that we think Mr. McCuaig would have been wiser to have taken the matter up with his directors and asked their opinion rather than to have taken it up with individual Grain Growers.

Two resolutions from local branches have been received. One of these was from Hamiota and was published in the last issue of *THE GUIDE*. The other one is from Pierson Branch as mentioned in the following letter:—

"Referring to your article in *THE GUIDE* about Mr. McCuaig occupying the position of Government Elevator Commissioner and President of the Grain Growers' Association. At a meeting of the Pierson Branch held on June 30, the farmers here were enthusiastically in favor of him occupying both positions, believing that it would be a source of strength to the farmers rather than a weakness, thus viewing it in a different light from yourself as expressed in *THE GUIDE*. As you have invited discussion on this, and our branch has not as yet had the privilege of using the columns of *THE GUIDE*, I hope that you will find space for these few words in your next issue, July 6.

M. J. BASTARD,
Secretary, Pierson G. G. A."

As we stated before we invited the opinion of the Manitoba Grain Growers' upon this subject. If the Grain Growers of Manitoba wish Mr. McCuaig to retain both positions it is his duty to do so. And likewise, if they wish him to resign from the Presidency of the Association it is his duty to resign. This is a case where Direct Legislation can be used by the Grain Growers and the will of the people should prevail.

MR. BONNAR'S STATEMENTS

On another page of this issue we publish extracts from an address made by Mr. R. A. Bonnar, K. C., in speaking to the farmers at Eli, Man. Under ordinary circumstances we would pay no attention to such an address, as at the present time the air is filled with campaign stories, the truth of many of them being doubtful. However, when a man of the stamp of Mr. Bonnar makes a statement that a member of the government has threatened to smash the Grain Growers' organization, it is up to us to take notice. Were this statement made by any other candidate in the province we would pay no attention to it, but Mr. Bonnar is a man that has been very close to the government for a number of years, and we do not regard him as a kind of man who would make a statement unless there were some truth behind it. If any member of the government has so far forgotten himself as to declare that the government will smash the Grain Growers' organization, then he is the worst enemy that Manitoba has. We regarded it as suspicious that the government should call an election at the present time, when there was no need of it and no excuse for it, but we did not think that any government would have the nerve to plan such a betrayal, as Mr. Bonnar declares the Manitoba Government has done. These charges against the government are very serious and it is on account of them being made by Mr. Bonnar, that we feel it is our duty to call attention to them. It is the duty of the government to clear themselves of this charge or admit its truth. The farmers of Manitoba cannot afford to have a government in power with unanswered charges such as Mr. Bonnar has made against them. What is needed in our provinces, is governments that have the interests of the people really at heart, and every farmer before he votes should be sure that he is voting for a man who will protect his interests.

FARMERS SHOULD RULE

In Manitoba where agriculture is predominant and the agricultural population greatly in the majority the farmers should have the biggest voice in the government of the province. The only way they will ever get it is by having a government really of the people the same as they have in the State of Oregon, across the line. For years in that State they have been fighting against corporations and "Boss Rule" but the people have finally triumphed. They did it by securing Direct Legislation. The people of Oregon can initiate any legislation

by an eight per cent. petition of the electors of the State. After the petition is sent to the Secretary of State the Bill must be passed by the legislature and a Referendum is taken upon it. If a majority of the people want the law then they get it. That is real government by the people. If the legislature passes a Bill which the people do not like, they can kill it by a Referendum. No Bill becomes law until ninety days after it has been passed and a petition signed by 5 per cent. of the electors compels the government to give a referendum on that Bill. In Oregon they also have the Recall by which any member can be compelled to resign if 25 per cent. of his electors request it. Of course he can run as a candidate in a by-election. The Recall is very seldom used, the fact that it is on the statute books being sufficient to compel the members to do their duty by the people.

This is just what is needed in every province in Western Canada. No person who believes in popular government can oppose it. But those who believe in "Boss Rule" and "Machine Rule" of course will oppose Direct Legislation. The farmers of Manitoba have an opportunity to-day to have Direct Legislation on their statute books. All they have to do is to elect men who will pledge themselves to vote for Direct Legislation.

If the Dominion government sets to work on the big waterway schemes for the west it will be necessary to draw off part of the dozen men that are now engaged in the "immediate construction" of the Hudson Bay Railway and put them on the new jobs.

If men like J. W. Robson, of Swan River, are to misrepresent the farmers in the legislature then there is no use in bothering to hold an election. The farmers will never get their rights if men of the Robson type are to the front.

Every man who is trying to smash the Grain Growers' organizations is a deadly enemy of the farmers of the West. The farmers should not allow themselves to be hoodwinked.

Our Western M. P.s don't all like to let the public know their views. Apparently they think it is their own views they are working on instead of the views of the people who elect them.

The man who is not in favor of Direct Legislation and Independent Commissions to operate public utilities is not fitted to represent farmers in the legislature.

Direct Legislation means the rule of the people and the end of "Boss Rule", "Corporation Rule" and "Special Privilege."

If the farmers of Saskatchewan stand firmly behind their Central Executive they will create a force that cannot be overlooked.

When they pried the lids off the "System" at the lake front, they found what was expected.

When we get the terminals all "weighed up" the next job will be to "weigh up" the manipulators.

We wonder if there is any system in vogue among the terminal elevator manipulators by which all get a rake-off.