

Mr. GARDINER: Those three changes have been made in the legislation, and that legislation is to be associated with this in giving assistance to farmers in the western part of Canada.

Having made these explanations, I desire for a few moments, as I stated before dinner, to discuss the grain trade and the production of wheat as it has been associated with western Canada.

Those of us who went west in the early part of the present century will recall that around 1900 Manitoba was looked upon as being the wheat producing province of Canada. It was producing in the neighbourhood of forty to fifty million bushels of wheat. By 1906, the first year in which we had the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, Saskatchewan was producing annually about 35,000,000 bushels of wheat, Alberta was producing annually about half that amount, and Manitoba was still producing annually about 50,000,000 bushels. Many of the discussions which are still carried on in western Canada with regard to methods of handling wheat had their origin in the years 1900 to 1906.

We have now in this house three men who were closely associated with all the discussions of those days, and all three of them are occupying seats on the front benches on the government side of the house. One of them, the ex-minister of agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) in 1900 and 1901 led a crusade in western Canada against the activities of the railways in connection with the supply of cars for the shipping of grain which was then being drawn in to all the sidings and towns and villages of the western part of Canada. That crusade finally took shape in an organization known as the Territorial Grain Growers Association, formed, I believe, in the year 1901. Out of the activities of that organization grew most of the activities of organized farmers in what are now known as the three prairie provinces.

The first development of those activities which is associated with our discussions of to-night took place in 1906, when the Manitoba grain growers formed a company of their own to deal in wheat; and shortly after that the present Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar) became the manager of that company. It operated for a number of years without a line of elevators, but has operated for many years with a line of elevators and to-day is one of the larger elevator companies in the prairie country. That company, to-day known as the United Grain Growers, because of a union which took place between the line of elevators in Manitoba and the line of elevators in Alberta, still considers

itself an organization of farmers associated with the farm movement which had its beginning in 1901, and distinct from what are known as the line elevator companies, because of its claim to be associated more nearly with the grain growers themselves.

From 1908 to 1910 there was a strong agitation in the western part of Canada for government ownership of elevators, and during that period Manitoba took over the elevators of the province and began to operate a line of government-owned elevators. Saskatchewan was the scene of a lively agitation during that same period for a government-owned system of elevators. A commission was appointed by the government of the province to investigate the advisability of adopting a government-owned system. That commission finally reported in favour of what came to be the cooperative elevator system of Saskatchewan, and the first managing director of that company is the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning). So we have associated with the present government, in the persons of these three gentlemen those who have been most closely associated with the development of the cooperative farm movement in western Canada as it was connected with the wheat trade.

I thought it necessary to recite these incidents of the early development of the discussion in relation to the trade as associated with the producers themselves in order to indicate that we still have associated with the grain trade the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, which was formed first in 1901, and in its present form in 1904; we still have with us the United Grain Growers, the first farmers' company which was set up in western Canada; we have not the old Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Company, but to-day it is included in the pool elevator system of Saskatchewan; and we have, as well, many elevator companies which have grown up over the years, until to-day there are something over 5,000 local elevators operating in the different towns and villages in the prairie section of Canada.

Mr. LAWSON: Apparently, although the shareholders of these different companies are themselves grain growers, the companies operate as private corporations, do they?

Mr. GARDINER: They are not all grain growers.

Mr. LAWSON: Well, I mean, farmers.

Mr. GARDINER: The United Grain Growers operate pretty much as a line elevator company operates, but they have their