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REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1909

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**R. E. MICKLEBOROUGH**  
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## GRAIN GROWERS PRESENT THEIR CASE

**F. W. Green, of Moose Jaw, Speaks Before the Agricultural Committee of Legislature—An Interesting Address.**

F. W. Green, secretary treasurer of the executive of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, appeared before the committee of the provincial legislature on agriculture last Thursday morning, and presented the views of his association in regard to the provincial elevator system, which they suggest should be operated by an independent commission.

D. J. Stewart (Cannington), chairman of the agricultural committee introduced Mr. Green, who spoke at considerable length.

In opening, he remarked that there was a wide difference between the Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan, the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba and Alberta, or the Grain Growers' Grain Co., although all these companies were striving to attain very likely much the same object ultimately. The Saskatchewan Association of Saskatchewan was, however, in a peculiar position, inasmuch as it might properly be termed the father and mother of all the others. From it all the other organizations had sprung, and he was particularly pleased to have that opportunity of presenting their case when one was reminded that the present commissioner of agriculture was the father of this association. He would remind the commissioner that he had helped materially in the formation of an association of this nature, and which had grown to such an extent, and was in such a breeding condition, that it had and was bringing forth rapidly like associations, some of which had indeed become very lusty fellows.

He was further pleased, and his executive were pleased that in the speech from the throne at the opening of this session of the legislature reference had been made to this great question. They had also met with pleasure that in the discussion of the same, the leaders on both sides of the house had agreed to lend their hearty co-operation in an endeavor to find a workable solution and also that this question should not be dragged into the arena of party politics.

Speaking of the necessity of unanimity he was reminded of the words of Grover Cleveland on such an occasion as this. He said: "The best results in the operation of a government, in which each citizen has a share, is best obtained by a proper limitation of purely partisan zeal and effort, and a correct appreciation of the time when the heat of the partisan is merged into the patriotism of the citizen."

**A CREDIT TO THE HOUSE**

It was a credit to the gentlemen of that House that they had that correct appreciation of the time when the heat of partisans should be merged into statesmanship. This question was not one of mushroom growth. For fifteen years the farmers of the west had been wrestling with it. In the solving of this question—for they were all agreed that it was a big question—the most serious consideration of the best brains in the house and throughout the country would be required.

In the speech from the throne reference was also made to the fact that Saskatchewan was unchallenged as the foremost grain producing province in this Dominion, producing this year 80,000,000 bushels of wheat, thus fulfilling the prophetic language used in a memorial presented to the legislature by the Moose Jaw agricultural society in 1902, praying the government of that day to take action similar to the legislation now asked for by the petitions presented. A copy of the memorial was doubtless on file in the archives of the House, in the preamble of which it was stated that within five years the 80,000,000 bushel mark for Saskatchewan would be reached. At that time it seemed to some like an idle tale or dream. The memorial referred to prayed for a line of elevators to be erected or purchased by the government of the North-West Territories and operated along similar lines to those which were used by the Dominion government in the operation of creameries, and that a tax on wheat shipped in the province be collected and used for the establishment of said elevators. Previous to this a petition of like nature had been presented to the Dominion government, and the one referred to in the first instance had been presented to the N.W.T. Legislature, praying that action be taken in the event of the one presented to the Dominion government being ineffective. So they would see that this question was not a new one at all, because the gentlemen who held the reins of government at that date had the question involved in the petition before them under consideration in the year 1902. This was only a continuance of the struggle for the government ownership of elevators and the removal

of the same from control of private corporations, who had held sway in this country for the last ten or twelve years. The more recent positions and demands of the Grain Growers' Association were simply a further elaboration of the same idea springing from the more settled conviction that permanent relief in this matter could not come so long as the storage of grain was left in the hands of those whose profits were made out of the commodities stored rather than out of the services rendered.

**AN INTOLERABLE SYSTEM**

He would like, he continued, to refer them to the language of Mr. William Watson, "who though dead still speaketh." In 1903, a year after the memorial referred to had been presented, Mr. Watson said: "The failure of remedial, deterring or regulating legislation to avert or ameliorate the raids of the present elevator system is largely the expiration of legislation regarding trusts and combines in the United States. To an open, free, unimpeded competition we must look for a permanent cure. It is imperative in the interests of the whole country to evolve a new and better system. That the Northwest and Manitoba, with their immense and ever increasing crops and potentialities, shall continue under the thumb of an elevator combine, cannot and will not be tolerated, unless the people are unworthy of their sires. Elevators built and operated by the farmers cannot meet exigencies of the position or effect a cure. The want of system or corporate or collective selling facilities against isolated farmers' elevators. Federation is necessary. To effect this we must initiate government purchased and quasi-control. Farmers' elevators can be suppressed by the increasing strength of the combines."

"We are the pioneers of the country," said Mr. Watson, "and the future of the country largely depends upon the foundation we lay; and what will our children say, if we provide not a remedy in this matter. I do not claim that the farmers are more to be trusted or more honorable than other men. Their opportunity for cheating others is less than that which most business operations offer, but I feel justified in claiming for them as much honor, at least, as any other class in the community. Scarcely a day passes but at the dinner table, corners of the street, hotels or livery stables you will hear farmers telling how they were cheated both in weight and grade at the elevators, and it is to be feared that the elevator operators are made to feel that pretreatment, higher wages and steady employment depend largely upon their having a surplus of weight and grade. Is this to continue? If the present system is not radically changed or supplanted, it will increase in power. Is it not evident that as soon as a new railway is built that one branch or other of the farmers will start to build their elevators in advance, so as to prevent farmers or others not in the combine from building and getting a foothold? Are they not building from five to fifty in a season, wherever they can get a location and where there are farmers to plunder? Has not the government power to regulate, control and tax elevators, as well as transient traders and hotels? Shall not a start be made, material ordered and foundations laid? Increased railway extension and equipment are assured. Immense areas are bound to be brought under cultivation, and the 36,000,000 bushels of today will be 100,000,000 bushels in three to five years hence. It will be a paying business. The increased elevator capacity is bound to be demanded. Will not the government rise to the occasion and come to the rescue?"

"Let the policy be at once proclaimed. Let the country be gridironed with a system of elevators built with money belonging to the farmers. Let all grain for sale be sold in the interest and for the benefit of the producer. Until then, bitter and useless agitation will not cease."

These words of the memorialists of 1902, Mr. Green went on to say, were equally applicable and true today. The question was still an issue and was still agitating the minds of the people all over the land.

**THE GRAIN ACT**

About the time these words were uttered, continued Mr. Green, the Hon. Walter Scott, took a prominent part in the formation of the present Grain Act, and in a speech from his place on the floor of the House at Ottawa, speaking of the struggle then going on in the North-West in connection with the grain blockade,

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 Real Lace from \$1.00. Embroidered Lawns from 12c to 75c each. Initialed Linen, Plain and Fancy Silk.

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 Silk, Elastic Web and Leather Belts, in all colors. A wonderful range of Lace and Silk Ties for women.

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 Our stock has been specially reinforced for the Christmas trade, and values either in separate pieces, Sets or Coats are excellent.

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 Men's President Braces in fancy boxes. A very suitable present. Regular 75c, for 50c.

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 Men's Fancy Sox to clear, nice for Christmas gifts, at 25c, 35c, 50c, 65c.

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 Men's Fancy Mufflers, silk, many colors, from 75c to \$3.00 each.

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 Men's Fancy Slippers, in velvet or leather, from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per pair.

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 Ladies' Fancy Felt Slippers, sizes 2 to 7. Values to \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50.

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 Children's and Misses' Fancy Slippers for Christmas at 25c, 35c, 50c.

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\$15.00 Men's Suits for \$7.95.  
 Men's Suits to clear, all shades, values to \$15.00. To clear at \$7.95.

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 Men's Fancy Tweed Overcoats, in plain cloths. Values to \$15.00, for \$9.95.

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 Men's Fur Coats, heavy fur, in black or brown, values to \$25.00. To clear at \$15.00.

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 New Stock of Ladies' Novelty Bags, in all new styles, for Christmas novelties.

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(Continued on page 7.)