

injurious to the interests of the country as a whole. But the Grain Growers have so clearly shown the fallacy of this contention that there is no longer any doubt but that these representations were misleading.

Here we have concrete cases of the farmer in politics. At the Regina Conference the premiers were Liberal and Conservative. The farmers were divided on the same lines. They spent nine hours discussing the most important question affecting the Prairie Provinces, examining the question from every view point imaginable, and one would have to examine the discussion with a powerful microscope to discover the least trace of party.

The Grain Growers' Association, some three years ago began the discussion of Government ownership of elevators as a solution of the problem of relieving the trade of the elevator monopoly. Beginning with the branches it passed on to the Annual Convention; from the Annual Convention of the Provinces to the Inter-Provincial Council of the Grain Growers' Association. They, having thought out a workable proposition made a proposal to the Premiers. The Premiers called them into Conference to discuss the proposals. Now the Premiers will consult their colleagues and call another conference at a later date.

THIS IS POLITICS.—Here you have in essence, the purpose of Constitutional Government. The Grain Growers' Associations have received many gratuitous admonitions to eschew politics, as though it were fire, and now we find them right at the core of what constitutes true politics. It may be they have stumbled into it unconsciously, it may be they were led into it by a set purpose. However that may be, the Association now occupies a place in the Government of our country, and is a potent factor in politics.

The usefulness of our Association in that responsible position depends on the aptitude and intelligence manifested by our members in dealing with public questions. We must study politics and discuss public questions as never before, and there is no better school in which the farmer can educate himself in what is requisite to fit him for taking his place as a useful citizen in his community, than his local Grain Growers' Association.

ESCHEW POLITICS.—By all means YES. That article that is dished out to us by the average so-called politician. Can anything be more discreditable to the intelligence of our enlightened farmers, than the kind of stuff that is presented to them throughout a political contest. Those who usurp the position of political leaders select men to educate the public on economic and political questions, apparently on no other qualification than that they have a glib tongue and are adepts at the art of abusing the "other fellow", and confusing the public mind.

Farmers, don't you think it is humiliating to your intelligence that public men consider you can be influenced in the way you exercise your franchise on public questions, by a bunch of young lawyers, law students and professional adventurers, stumping the country during a political campaign, men who know as little about the economic, social or political questions as they affect the masses and world conditions, as if they had suddenly arrived here from some other planet, men who devote their whole time to abusing their opponents, talking scandal and saying smart things about the "other fellow". Can anything be better calculated to create distrust and suspicion in the mind of the public towards our system of government.

An intelligent interest among the farming population in the science of government is the remedy for these abuses. But they also need to change their attitude. Fortunately that change is coming rapidly.

During the recent elections, a farmer and a lawyer

were before a nominating convention for choice of a candidate for the party. The lawyer got the nomination, by a majority of the convention, most of whom were farmers. Some days afterwards, a leading farmer was asked why they did not select the farmer for their candidate, and he replied, "The lawyer was prepared to spend some money on his election and the farmer had none to spend." So long as farmers select their candidate for parliamentary honors on that principle, so long will they be trampled on by the privileged classes. Nor need they complain of graft among public men. What is more natural than that a candidate who is expected to spend money should, if elected, endeavor to recoup himself at the expense of the public.

The Grain Growers' Association movement has no place for the agitator, but has a special call for the man with patient constructive ability, in full sympathy with the popular cause. A man of vision and of acute discernment as to things that matter.

A WORD TO CATTLE FEEDERS

If the reports concerning the marketing of beef cattle are true, and they are so positive they cannot well be doubted, a great deal remains to be done, in the way of creating proper conditions for the sale of this article of farm produce.

At present there is an utter absence of any competition among cattle dealers, in the purchase of beef cattle. In the case where farmers sell their few heads locally, they have generally no choice but to sell to the one man who may come around to buy them. If they cannot deal with him, they do not as a rule get an opportunity to sell to anyone else. There is a strong suspicion that this is due to an understanding among the large dealers, that they will not enter into competition with each other in the districts where they buy. Secure in the knowledge that no one else will bid against him, the representative of the dealer goes from farm to farm or even advertises that on a certain day in the local stockyards, he will pay a certain price for cattle and hogs.

If the price offered is ridiculously low as it usually is the farmer may decide to hold for a higher price. The buyer does not bother him again until the following year when the same thing happens once more. Having learned his lesson and being now more amenable to circumstances, he sells. If he is inclined to profanity he curses the dealer in particular and the cattle trade generally.

If he is more ambitious and decides to take his own carload to Winnipeg, the same conditions prevail there, only having his stock there, he is forced to sell, whether he is satisfied with the price or not. Very frequently his car is delayed on the railway, when it reaches the stockyards, his cattle hungry and thirsty are rushed upon the scales and weighed, at the time of course when they will weigh the least. The owner gets his certificate of weight and they are "run into" another pen. After a while a representative of some packing house or cattle firm, saunters around, and makes some ordinary remarks about the very ordinary cattle he considers them to be, and gives the owner a bid, whether it is satisfactory or not it is usually the only one he gets.

Happy indeed is the seller if he can extract an offer, the slightest fraction of a cent per pound higher from a rival buyer. He also commences to wonder if raising and selling cattle is worth the trouble. The net result is that our farmers are discouraged in the production for sale, of both cattle and hogs with a consequent injury to business generally and loss to themselves, since they cannot use the by products of the farm to profitably grow cattle and hogs, as is done in every other civilized country.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found an announcement which should be of interest to those who are feed-

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