

The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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THE GRAFTERS' ROPE SHORTENING

In the report of the terminal elevator investigation, which Warehouse Commissioner Castle sent to Ottawa, he states his intention of "weighing up" the terminal elevators very shortly. We should be glad to see this done because we will then know the extent of the grafts that have been carried on at the lake front since the close of navigation. It would not seem possible that the manipulators could cover their tracks even though the elevators cannot be "weighed up" immediately. There is so much grain now in the terminals that it is impossible to do the work accurately. In the course of a few weeks, when the stocks are considerably reduced, the elevators can all be "weighed up" in one day. This is the safest way to do it, as it will reduce manipulations during the weighing process, to a minimum.

Mr. Castle already has a large staff of inspectors at the terminals and by keeping close tab on the receipts and shipments until the "weighing up" is done, the exact condition of affairs should be easily ascertained. We predict that the result will not be pleasant to contemplate.

THE PREMIER'S WESTERN TOUR

The newspapers announce that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, accompanied by Mr. Graham, Minister of Railways, and a couple of other members of the Liberal party, will make a tour through Western Canada during the summer months. It is certainly high time that the premier of Canada made a tour through the west, which, if we remember, he has not done since he assumed the high office he now holds. It would be a good opportunity to bring before Sir Wilfrid an idea of what the western farmers think of the tariff. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the strongest free trader on the North American continent when he was in the opposition, and it was largely due to his free trade declarations that he came into power. Since he has had this position, however, the tariff has gone even higher than it was when the apostles of protection ruled Canada. The farmers of Canada get mighty little benefit out of the high tariff, but the manufacturers and corporations get a great deal of benefit. We have yet to learn that Canada exists for the benefit of a few manufacturers. It is the farmers of Canada who produce the greater part of the wealth, and who pay by far the majority of the taxes. Therefore, their interests should be considered above all other interests. But they are not. It might be well for Sir Wilfrid to look into the South African scrip proposition while he is out here, and then he might inquire as to the feeling of western farmers regarding the incorporation of the Retail Merchants' Association. By the time he has investigated

these questions he might spend a little while inquiring as to whether the western farmers want the Hudson Bay railway built. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is a very able man, and has done a great deal of good for Canada, but if he can explain how the policy of his government regarding the Hudson Bay road can be called "immediate construction" then he is an abler man than we give him credit for being. It is up to the farmers of Western Canada to give Sir Wilfrid a few more ideas while he is in the west. The despatches say that he will spend a little while in Fort William. We hope while he is there that the elevator men will initiate him into the mysteries of mixing wheat. We believe that we have outlined a pretty fair program for Sir Wilfrid. It is up to western farmers to give him as interesting a trip as possible and we believe that if all these matters are brought before him it will break the monotony of his tour and add a little spice and breeziness that will be typical of the energy and progressiveness of the west.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

We have heard loud and long utterances of friendship to the farmers of western Canada by various papers that are published in the west. But now that the investigation has proved that there is grafting in the terminal elevators, where are these papers? We do not see any of them condemning the system by which the western farmers are being robbed. Why are these journals all so silent? Why is it left to THE GUIDE to be the only paper to take up the farmers' cause in this struggle for government ownership of terminal elevators? It has been proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that the mixing processes that are carried on in the terminal elevators are taking millions of dollars out of the pockets of western farmers and yet these papers who claim to be so friendly to the farmers are sitting by and watching it. How long will this last? How long will the press be able to live at the expense of western farmers and yet not sound a warning note when they see plainly that the farmers are being robbed? We think it is the duty of every paper that is living by the patronage of the western farmers to protect the interests of their readers. We are endeavoring to protect our readers. In doing this we do not claim to be taking any high moral stand or to possess any superior moral courage. It is simply a case with us of doing our duty.

When THE GUIDE was published first we stated that it was our aim to protect the farmers of western Canada and this we are going to do to the utmost limit, no matter what stands in the way. If the corporate and vested interests and the great forces of special privilege, do not like our attitude, then they are at liberty to do the other thing. We do not like this conspiracy of silence on the part of the press. If the press of western Canada, and particularly that part of it which appeals to the farmers for support, will come out and take an honorable and upright stand on the terminal question, we will soon have government owned elevators at the lake front, and the days of robbery will be past.

But no! These journals will not do this. Like the Dominion government, that also pretends to be so favorable to the farmer, they sit idly by and smile while the grafters rob the farmers. It may be all right for them to do so just at the present time, but there must be a change sooner or later. Truth is bound to prevail in the end, and while we do not claim any special merit for so doing, we are going to publish the truth when we can find it, and we have got hold of a great deal of it during the last few months.

The rain looked good to the farmers. Prospects are bright for another good crop in the west. Now we want to see that the farmers get full value for what they grow. This is just as important as growing it.

NOTHING DOING YET

We have heard no racket from the direction of the Grain Exchange yet that would indicate that the terminal elevator companies that were fined for falsifying their accounts have been disciplined. Surely the members of the Grain Exchange will take some action. We are curious to know what the action will be. The matter, we understand was discussed at a meeting of the executive committee of the Grain Exchange (called the council) last week, but that nothing definite was done. The following are the members of the council: Geo. Fisher, president; A. D. Chisholm, vice-president; C. N. Bell, secretary; H. N. Baird, John Fleming, C. W. Lestikow, A. C. Ruttan, W. W. Black, G. V. Hastings, G. R. Crowe, Thos. Thompson, Andrew Kelly, C. Tilt, Donald Morrison.

There are some elevator men in the council, but not the majority. It takes time to get big bodies moving, but once under way they travel well.

ELEVATOR COMMISSION APPOINTED

The Manitoba elevator commission was announced on Tuesday, May 17th. The members of that commission are D. W. McCuaig, president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, F. B. MacLennan and W. C. Graham. The two latter men are two of the four who were recommended by the elevator committee of the Grain Growers' Association. We take it for granted that these three gentlemen will accept the appointment, otherwise the announcement would not have been made by the government. In accepting an appointment on the commission, Mr. McCuaig has gone against a resolution of the elevator committee, which was to the effect that no officer or director of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association should accept a position on the commission until he had been a year out of office. This, of course, is a matter which rests with Mr. McCuaig and the rest of the directors. The elevator committee of the Grain Growers' Association stood firmly for an independent commission, over which the government will have no control. They could not get it because the government was determined that they would not appoint a commission over which they had not complete power. Following that the elevator committee determined to make the best of the bill that was passed and offered names of four men as commissioners. Of the four the government has chosen but two. Aside from all this we believe the elevator commission that has been appointed will be capable of doing excellent work in creating a government owned elevator system in Manitoba, if they are given the opportunity to do so. Hon. Robert Rogers stated publicly that the commission which the government would appoint would be independent in reality and that the control exercised by the government would be but a necessary formality. We hope this will be proven to be the case henceforth and we believe that the government will be giving the most positive evidence of its good faith in this respect if the elevator commission is allowed to go ahead and secure elevators throughout the province before an election is called. There is every evidence at the present time that a general election is being planned in Manitoba to be held in July. We, on behalf of the farmers of Manitoba, most emphatically protest against the election being held in Manitoba during the present summer. There is no need of an election this summer as the only great issue before the people is that of the elevator question. The government has declared its good faith towards the Grain Growers in the elevator matter. Now let them show it. It will be anything but the proof of good faith if the election is held before the elevator commission is given an opportunity to administer the act as it should be. The government has taken two months in which to appoint the commission. It will be less than four