

Provinces the powers hereinbefore indicated, to completely establish and control a public monopoly in the storage, handling and inspection of grain, that we are quite willing to endeavor, subject to the approval of our respective assemblies to frame a scheme financially safeguarded for the giving of effect to the desire of your Executive.

We are, Dear Sir,
Most obediently yours,

(Signed)

A. C. RUTHERFORD,
Premier Province of Alberta.

WALTER SCOTT,
Premier Province of Saskatchewan.

R. P. ROBLIN,
Premier Province of Manitoba.

IN REPLY TO THE PREMIERS AS TO GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF ELEVATORS

To the Honorables, the Premiers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Gentlemen:—The Interprovincial Council of Farmers' Associations, having considered your memorandum in reply to our proposals, that the Governments of the respective Provinces "provide by purchase or construction, or both, at each shipping point where a considerable quantity of grain is marketed, necessary facilities with up-to-date equipments for weighing, cleaning and loading grain," we beg to submit in reply:—

You say "we understand that you take the position that nothing further can be hoped for by amendments to existing legislation, in so far as regulating Internal Elevators is concerned, and to obtain your Executive's desire, you request that, in so far as the three Provinces are concerned, a system of Government ownership and operation of grain elevators be inaugurated."

That fairly states the position we take as to the futility of any further restricting legislation and properly interprets the meaning of the request. Nothing in your memorandum seems to convey the impression that there is any constitutional or legislative difficulty in the way of granting that request.

The constitutional difficulties you set forth only apply to matters that are outside of and not necessary for the carrying out of the requests made by us.

We propose to deal categorically with the difficulties set forth in clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4, commencing on page 7 of your memorandum.

1. "To wholly and absolutely control, regulate and govern the storage and handling of grain." The requests we made require no fuller powers in this respect than those now enjoyed by the owners and operators of privately owned elevators.

2. "To prescribe, control and regulate the weights and grades of grains, subject to no alteration or review by any other authority." The only powers required with respect to weights are those now enjoyed by every elevator operator in the province, viz.: the power to weigh in and out on standard scales, and the power to compel common carriers to deliver the same weight of a commodity as that which can be proved to have been entrusted to them. With respect to grades, we do not request you to grade grain, everything being stored in special bins and placed at the disposal of the owners of grain, whether producers or purchaser.

3. "To fully control all transportation companies, railways, etc., in the matter of expropriation of elevators and sites, the distribution of cars, and in other respects to provide such regulations and restrictions respecting these companies as shall be essential for the convenient and satisfactory hauling of grain." The provisions of the Railway Act,