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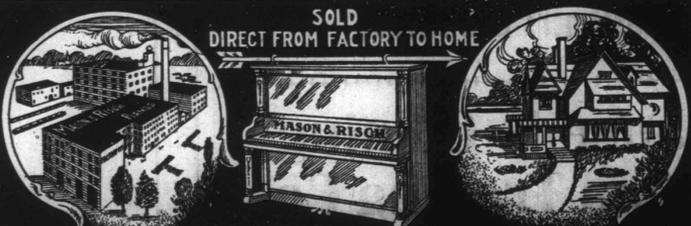
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### A COMMISSION FOR ELEVATOR PROBLEM

(Continued from page 5.)

the thing to be set on a proper basis and we have no doubt at all that if the House see it in this resolution and a commission is appointed—the commission being a fair one—and representing the thought of the province on that subject. Of course it is not for me to speak about who shall be member of the commission. I feel satisfied that their report will be a reasonable report, and in addition to that I feel absolutely sure, not that the government will act on the report, but that the government must act on the report.

#### MR. HAULTAIN.

Mr. Haultain: Mr. Speaker, I should like to correct a misapprehension on the part of the hon. gentleman. I do not think anything I said indicated that I doubted that the government would take any action, but I neither doubted nor believed, because I did not know what the government intended to do. I think I am entitled to know before I vote for this resolution.

#### MR. MOTHERWELL.

Mr. Motherwell: Mr. Speaker, if this House is in need of any further justification in concurring in the report, that justification can be found in the remarks of Mr. Green, who so ably presented the facts before this House a few days ago. It will be remembered that Mr. Green stipulated that the proposition was purely a tentative one, and that in fact he himself was not in favor of government operation of elevators, and that this was for the purpose of making a basis of negotiation. In view of that, Mr. Speaker, I submit this is the best and most appropriate attitude to take now on this question—to enter into a most exhaustive enquiry into the whole situation, with a view, first, of enquiring into the nature and extent of the grievances complained of and then endeavoring to supply a remedy therefor. That is the proper course to pursue, that is the course that has been pursued when any great question has been faced by either this government or any other government in this Dominion of Canada. It is the attitude taken by this government on the

fact that grievances still exist, and it is for the purpose of looking into it from top to bottom and arriving at a solution of it, and I can say on behalf of the government that we are quite agreeable to the report and we are of the opinion that this is the proper course to take in dealing with a great big question of this nature.

#### MR. TATE.

Mr. Tate: Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of this question and in view of the consideration that has been given it in various parts of the province, I think it is just as well that we should indicate what we desire. As the hon. member for Redberry stated, I also represent a constituency in which the great industry is that of farming, and we know our past experience we have suffered wrong in many ways. It is true, as the Minister of Agriculture has stated, that the conditions have improved, that we are now under much more favorable conditions than we were some time ago, but the fact is that the improvement is due to a realization by those men that we were on the point of changes. If it were not for that we would be suffering just as great hardships today as we were some years ago. It is my belief that the people are something will be done, that the people will stand it and are determined they will stand it no longer, and it is for this reason that the elevator men are treating us as they are today. And what we would like to be assured that, should this commission bring in a report showing some scheme feasible—that can be carried out—they would put the scheme into effect as soon as possible. The question of public ownership need not be discussed here, it has worked in New Zealand with great success. The object of the people of New Zealand is to acquire the land owned by private companies to the use of the government was that the people should have service, in other words, that these public utilities and other things of the people and not for the interests of private individuals. Now, what we are asking as farmers, as citizens of this province, is to simply be assured that the government will step in and aid us in this matter. We will not ask that other citizens not engaged in agriculture should be contributors to help us along, but we are asking that the expense of this thing should be borne by the men who are most interested in it. And as the

hon. member for Redberry has stated, the people are aroused in this matter, and we are satisfied that the government will do something in it, and at the same time we may feel content, but the people are not content, and the government is not to be always forced on by public opinion out to some extent leaders of public opinion. And this is not going to be a party question, because it is too large to be used in that way. What we require is the assurance that it will be dealt with in an honest spirit, in a spirit that will work justice, and that the wrong we have suffered in the past. Now, I am wishing in my mind to aid the working out of any scheme that will tend to improve the situation that we have had to endure for a considerable length of time. We all know on question as difficult as this there is sure to be variety of opinion. It has been shown here today both in committee and in the House that there has been a growth of public opinion and that there is more unanimity today than some years ago. So I feel confident that if the government will only give us some assurance leading to the early solution of this question it will hold on the part of the opposition has indicated, it will help to make the conditions more tolerable, because these men will see that unless they strive to do a little more in accordance with the golden rule than they have done, that their time will be short and very short indeed. As I said here this is a large question, it is not wise to rush into it madly, we ought to give to it the consideration it deserves, and be absolutely certain that when this scheme is launched it will be successful, and the last part of that resolution indicates what we desire, what we urge for, and what the people as a whole demand that something shall be done to relieve the difficulties under which we labor, we should have those difficulties removed at the same time having some assurance that the regulations will be so that they will work, become successful at the very moment they are launched, that we do not doubt it will be of a nature that it can be improved, but we can improve it in the future, but what I would like to assure this House and the Government is that it is a question that cannot be delayed much longer, but must be settled in the interests of the people because they demand it.

#### MR. SCOTT.

Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, the hon. leader of the opposition has suggested that he wishes to know the attitude of the government towards this recommendation of the standing committee on agriculture before he would give an intimation as to what attitude he would adopt towards the recommendation. Now, I would submit to my hon. friend what action we are going to take—I do not misunderstand my hon. friend? I would submit to him with all respect that any responsibility which we in these chairs occupy, it is a matter of considerable interest to us to know the opinion of the House generally with regard to the important recommendation in this report. What is the attitude of the House generally, because naturally the government would be guided to at least a very considerable extent by that attitude, and I hesitate to raise the matter, especially on the presentation of the motion, because naturally it was the idea that we should obtain some expression of the House. The report merely embodies the recommendation from the members of the standing committee on agriculture, and I think it would be quite reasonable to have some definite expression of opinion from the members of the House as a whole as to whether the recommendation should be adopted and carried out by the government. As has been remarked, it is a very large subject, it is one of a nature that naturally the government should engage the attention of this House probably. This province of Saskatchewan is primarily an agricultural province, a wheat growing province, and, as indicated at the opening of the session, something you already know, we have taken the position as the greatest wheat growing province in the Dominion of Canada, and we know now who live in this part of the continent of America that this is going to become the greatest wheat producing part of America or of the world. It is naturally a subject of the very highest importance to the government, and I think I may speak for this side of the House, I was very glad at the outset of the session to see the spirit with which this important question was approached by my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, and the gentleman supporting him on that side of the House, and I think there can be no objection taken with regard to the attitude that has been assumed this evening by the gentlemen on the other side of the House who have spoken on the question. However, I think when my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, suggests that the government might at this session have brought down a concrete proposition—he suggested himself that it might necessarily have been a heroic proposition—that he was actually suggesting something more

than the grain growers themselves suggested, and, as we have been reminded by the Commissioner of Agriculture, the fact is the secretary of the Grain Growers' Association for the province, did not go forward with any recommendations than propose that an enquiry ought to be instituted. So it seems to me, keeping in view the largeness of the proposition and the perplexities and intricacies which must arise in the solution of the question, that the question is scarcely in a position up to this moment to blame the government for not having been able to bring down a concrete proposition on the question of these elevators. I might go a little farther at present too. It is not at all a new question, that is, the question of elevator difficulties—difficulties in connection with grain handling in this province. Nearly as long ago as I can remember in the province, at least fifteen or sixteen years ago, there has been a grain handling system with us, and prior to 18-8 or 18-9 it was a much more serious question; that is to say, the grievances being suffered by the farmers of western Canada was a much more acute grievance than it is at the present time. Formerly we had an absolute monopoly. That is, in a term, but it simply represents the situation that existed fifteen or sixteen years ago. There was an absolute monopoly hereabout—some people called it robbery—they were able to tax the produce in this country just as much as they wished. They could take five or ten or twelve cent out of the men who by their toil produced all the wealth of the province during the course of those years. By various means and by legislation the grievances have been removed, and I think I will risk the statement that there has never been a moment for the last twenty years with regard to this question when there was less need for haste than this moment. There has been less robbery this present wheat handling season than any season since we began to produce grain from this part of the country. That is, the better conditions have been the result of the operations of "The Manitoba Grain Act" primarily then of the activity of the farmers themselves through their grain growing associations, assisted this last season very considerably, I think, by the operations of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, of commission merchants handling their grain, and other factors relieving the situation very considerably is that the railway companies for the first time in at least six years were able to give a reasonable transportation service. There were very few points so far as I have learned where there was any serious grievance with regard to lack of cars during this season. These things are far better, simply not to be compared with last year at the year before. The year before last, on account of the shortage of cars, because of the lack of the provisions of the Manitoba Grain Act until this year. The transportation was very seriously militated against because of the inability of the railway companies to handle the grain as it was delivered. So I think that I may state that while if we had conditions to complain against such as we had two or three years ago there would be a great deal more reason for haste than there is at the present time. Now, it seems to me, there is every reason that we should not proceed rashly on such a large question. Every reason that we should take care not to make a false step. A false step would be to retreat as the gentleman who presented the motion, the hon. member for Cannington stated, there is considerable difference of opinion. I do not need to tell my hon. friend who is a member of the executive of the Grain Growers' Association or to tell any member of the Grain Growers' Association or of this House that there is a difference of opinion as to what should be done to bring about a solution of this matter. I received only yesterday morning a letter from a gentleman whose name I cannot clearly make out, although the writing is not what I do not know that I would be justified in giving the name could I make it out. He writes the following: (Mr. Scott here reads the letter containing a proposed solution of the elevator question). I may say that I have received during recent weeks letters from different individuals—some not members of the Grain Growers' Association, others members—offering different suggestions, but all going to show there is considerable lack of unanimity as to the exact steps which ought to be taken to solve the most serious of the difficulties which the farmers of the country are still facing. I may state to my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, and to the House that if the House adopts the report of the committee on this important recommendation that the government will carry out in good faith the recommendation which is offered in the report; that is to say for the appointment of the commission to enquire—I think I will qualify to some extent what was offered by the Minister of Agriculture—I will say not to enquire into the grievances which exist for I think the members of the House and the Commissioner of Agriculture also, will agree with me as to what exists, but admission to enquire into practical schemes, to enquire into an expert way, into the suggestions that are made for practical schemes to lead to the upbuilding of a system of elevators which will give to the farmers of the country that security which they are asking against the manipulations of that system in existence today. Now, I do not go so far this morning as to say that I demand that the government will be ready on the report of the commission to adopt the exact scheme which has been suggested to us for a complete system of elevators under direct government ownership and operation. I say, I would not be at the present moment willing to go to the length of committing

## PROVINCIAL GRAIN FAIR

Regulations Governing Entries for Big Seed Grain Fair—Will be Held in January.

A provincial seed grain fair will be held in connection with the agricultural societies' convention, which will take place in Regina on January 25-26, inclusive. The premium list which has just been prepared, offers \$700 in cash prizes, and a splendid championship trophy. The rules do not vary in any important respect from those that were prepared a year ago. Briefly summarized they are as follows: Entries will be received from agricultural societies where societies are formed, and the exhibits that won prizes at local fairs may be sent to the provincial fair, but not more than three entries for wheat, two for barley, two for oats, and one each for flax, timothy, broom wheat, rye and clover seed will be received from any one society. The members of a society that did not hold a seed grain fair may enter their grain through the secretary of the agricultural society. Where no agricultural society exists entries may be received direct from individual farmers.

There is no entry fee, but no individual farmer may enter more than one exhibit of each kind of grain and grass seed and clover seed. All the entries must be in the hands of the superintendent of fairs and institutes, Regina, by January 20. All exhibits must be sent by express or freight so as to reach Regina not later than January 21. The prize winning exhibits will become the property of the department of agriculture.

In addition to the prizes for which any farmer may compete, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association have offered special prizes for competition by their members, which in Saskatchewan number close upon one hundred. In order to give the farmers of the northern part of the province the same opportunity as those in the south, a division of the province has been made to form a northern and southern district. The boundary line is the Qu'Appelle Valley as far west as Last Mountain Lake and the G. T. P. Railway westward from Nokomis. A large number of prizes have been offered, including the handsome trophy offered by the publishers of "Farm Crops." With this trophy goes a cash prize of \$50. Only one bushel of each kind of grain is required as an exhibit, but the exhibitor must be prepared to make a declaration that he has or has sold at least fifty bushels of grain equal in quality to the exhibit. All applications must be made through the secretaries of agricultural societies where societies are formed, and direct by persons from districts where there is no agricultural societies. The department of agriculture has sent entry forms to all agricultural societies, and copies will be obtained from the department by anyone requiring them.

In connection with the convention and seed grain fair a short course for farmers will be held. A very complete program is being prepared, and demonstrations in judging grain and live stock will be conducted, and addresses will be given by leading agriculturalists. Last year's convention was very successful, and this one will be equally so. Convention rates will be in force on the certificate plan from all C.P.R. and C.N.R. stations in Saskatchewan again, with an attendance equal to that at the last convention, will ensure a return trip for the price of single fare. It is estimated by the finance officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., that the gross revenue of the system for the calendar year would amount to \$100,000,000, or about five million in excess of the revenue of the Dominion of Canada for the current year, which was estimated by Mr. Fielding in his budget speech at \$95,000,000. This estimate is only approximate, as the year is not ended, and is based on the earnings to date, with the prorated earnings to date, since of the year ended on last year. The earnings published monthly include the railway system, with lake steamships, etc., but not the earnings of the Atlantic and Pacific railways; the hotel systems, etc. The earnings as shown will amount to \$100,000,000 by the end of the year, and when to this is added the gross earnings of the two ocean steamship services, hotels, telegraphs, etc., it is estimated that the earnings will equal \$100,000,000.

Representations have been made to the minister of customs that the customs are being vexatious by the big railway corporations of Canada, with regard to the importation of cars, principally for handling freight. Regulations permit of cars owned by foreign corporations to come in duty free in transit on international business, but the contentions are that the companies bring them in and in companies of returning them immediately assign such routing stock to the handling of freight between Canadian points. Complaints have been made by representatives of the new car merger and the Manufacturers Association, who claim that the Canadian industry is affected. The minister of customs was asked to have a checking system bureau established. It is understood that this has been refused, but it has been promised that the matter will be looked into.

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