

VALPARAISO GETTING BUSY.

Your communication advising us of the sitting of the elevator commission at Prince Albert, reached me on the 23rd of June, three days after the appointed time, so that we were not able to have a delegate attend. Our Association regrets not being able to place their views before the commission, and thus do their share towards bettering our facilities for marketing grain. Should you, in future, have any communication of like nature requiring our attention kindly make allowance for time lost in the mails. I brought the matter up for discussion at our regular monthly meeting on July 1st, and find that our members are all desirous of having the government take over the elevator system in the province, also building terminals at Hudson's Bay and elsewhere. By having the system controlled by two nominees of the Grain Growers and one nominee of the government, who should not be a cabinet minister, undue political influence should not be felt, and we think the undertaking could not fail to be a success financially. The farmers' grain should be good enough security to satisfy the government for any advances made.

As regards electing places where new elevators should be placed, we would suggest that where a branch of the G. G. A. is established, the association should canvass the country tributary to their shipping point and find the probable amount of grain available for shipment. Nothing but modern and fully equipped elevators should come in the new regime, so that all grain should come on the market clean, and thus maintain the high standard of excellence for western grain.

Should there be any other interesting developments in the enquiry, we will be glad of the opportunity to express our opinion. No doubt our Executive will have the matter in much more condensed form by this time, than that contained in my circular.

We are having a special meeting to arrange for a deputation to meet the Premier, as he is expected to come to Melfort, our nearest point. Your circular received by us a few days ago will be of great help to us.

A. C. TEALE, Sec'y.

Valparaiso, Sask.

FAIRLIGHT ANSWERS QUESTIONS

Reasons for Fairlight's answers to questions of Elevator Commission, viz:—

1.—System too expensive and inefficient, in that equipment for the proper handling of the crop, lack of storage, and cleaning apparatus. A splendid breeding ground for dishonesty through all its ramifications. (2.) No. The whole crop could still be corralled and the same manipulations would be possible as much as ever before, to the great loss of the producer. (3.) Yes. (4.) Yes. (5.) This, in our judgment is a far fetched question, but in as much as the population of this province is nearly all farmers, we reason that any system of grain marketing which would enable the producer to retain more nearly the full value of his crop—instead of at present "building up millionaires"—would be of quite as much benefit to the few citizens of the province other than farmers, as to the farmer. (6.) It ought to be safe and if found lacking the law could be amended. (7.) By the government. That is, by the people, through the machinery called government. (8.) No. 5. (a.) By the Commission, after ascertaining the probable amount of storage necessary at any given point, or station. (b.) The very best. (c.) This need would be apparent and could be taken up by the Commission next, or succeeding years. (d.) Not advisable at present. 6. No. 7. Yes, all citizens would benefit. 8. Yes. 9. No. 10. No. Any such miserable make-shift, such as outlined by Mr. F. C. Tate, reported in the Winnipeg papers of June 11, we assure you would not be acceptable to this association, and we believe, would be generally condemned by the Grain Growers' Association of this province.

O. F. NORWOOD,

Fairlight, Sask.

Pres't.

BELLE PLAIN ELEVATOR VIEWS.

Question No. 1.—A state owned system of elevators would destroy monopoly of grain dealers, and would cease the robbing of the farmer, who having less than

a carload of grain is, under the present system, compelled to dispose of grain to elevators and accept their grade, dockage and weight. The present system destroys power of farmers to export their grain co-operatively and does not permit of sample market. Under the present system elevator companies are inclined to wink at crookedness of operators, if it is in their favor. Crookedness by operators would not be possible under state control, as the operators' efficiency and fairness to customers would be the price of their position.

Question No. 2.—Decidedly no. Some parts of the province now have all loading platforms, farmers' elevators, railway and car facilities, one could wish. We also have the system of inspection, and still evils exist.

Question No. 3.—Manitoba Act would be satisfactory with the exception of plan for control of Commission, which we think should be as the Executive of the Grain Growers' Association desired. We also favor government monopoly of the elevator system.

Question No. 4.—Decidedly yes.

Part 1, No. 4.—Body on board should be under control of legislature, for the cardinal principle underlying the British form of government is that the government or cabinet can spend no money without the authority of the legislature. (GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE, June 22nd, 1910.)

Part 2, No. 4.—Political influences would be eliminated because Grain Growers in this case are united on a business principle and not a political one.

Part 3, No. 4.—Deficit should be met out of general funds of province as the farmers are already taxed per supplementary revenue tax (could mention many more cases) for the special benefit of the town people of the province. Therefore the town people should be taxed to help make up said deficit, should it occur.

Part 4, No. 4.—We believe it would be preferable for government to have monopoly of facilities for handling grain. The desire for private gain would be eliminated. Monopolies never fail.

Question No. 5, Part 1 and 2.—We advise that a new elevator be erected at any shipping point where old elevators do not provide facilities for cleaning, weighing, sampling, binning and shipping, as has been demanded by the Grain Growers' Executive at different times.

Parts 3 and 4, No. 5.—No. Because we already have an adequate system of terminal storage at the lake front, if it was only under government control.

Question No. 6.—Not, if operated for private gain.

Question No. 7.—Look up question four, part three, also answer to question eight.

Question No. 8.—Yes, there are many. The town people are not called upon to provide their share toward educational system of province as per Supplementary Revenue Tax. That act taxes farms and ranch lands for educational purposes in towns as well as in the country. Therefore, why should not towns contribute their share to make up any deficit in government operation of the elevator system.

As the farmers form the major portion of the population of the province, therefore under any system of government elevators they will be contributing the greater part of the cost of same. Therefore, we reiterate that the prosperity of the province solely depends upon the crops, which are the result of the labor of the class that tills the soil. Consequently they, reaping that benefit, and being utterly dependent on the prosperity of the farmer, all the greater reason why those not directly interested in agriculture should be called upon to contribute their credit jointly with the credit of the farming class to secure the money necessary to install this system of elevators. Further, the elevators being situated in the cities, towns and villages, help to build them up and give employment to people living therein. We also think this a reason why those not farmers should share somewhat of the risk of installing this system.

Question No. 10.—We believe the scheme cannot possibly fail.

We believe in a government monopoly of facilities for handling the grain. Monopolies do not fail.

H. BATES, Sec'y.

Belle Plain, Sask.

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