THE WEST

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Grain Commission's Report

Farmers who attended the sittings of the grain commission held in this city about a year ago will not be surprised at the findings in the report submitted a few days ago to the government and laid on the table of parliament. In the first place the commission was badly composed, for it was evident from the first that the grain growers had to bear the onus in every instance of complaint, and they were placed in the same position before the commission as the Grain Growers' Grain Co. was before the courts in prosecuting the grain trade for conspiracy.

Those who were in attendance at the sittings in Regina will recall the snappy way in which Mr. Goldie told one of our farmers that he had no grievance that was not provided for under the grain act and all that was necessary was for him to enforce the law. The commission was composed of John Millar, a retired farmer, W. L. McNair, an ex-elevator man, and G. E. Goldie, an eastern miller. The business and political associations of these men have all influenced the findings as the report will show. They go out of their way to pay a tribute to the Winnipeg grain exchange over which the Dominion government has no control and whose charter has been amended within the last week by the Manitoba government to remove the grievance which resulted in the Grain Growers' Grain Co., being suspended as members of that board.

The clause of the grain commission report dealing with government weights at all country elevators is a reiteration of the statement made by Mr. Motherwell, at the sitting in Regina, when he said that such a scheme would be impracticable for it would be found impossible to get enough honest men to fill the positions.

The farmers all over the west know that there was an almost unanimous demand for government ownership of the terminal elevators, which, without doubt would be a good thing for the grain producers of this country. The finding of the commission is almost evasive on this point, but if anything it is against the proposal, for the commissioners say thet if the railways supply sufficient cars there will be no necessity for government ownership of these elevators. The report is uncompromising in opposition to the government building a system of internal storage elevators, and the reasons given for this conclusion are based on deductions published else where in their report. We believe, that to say the least, some of these reasons are unsound; for instance the one dealing with the necessity for having to ship this grain to the head of the lakes at the opening of navigation in the spring. The reasons given by resolutions passed from time to time by bodies of grain growers provide a sufficient answer to the finding of the commission on this point. The farmers would be able to draw money on their elevator certificates and they would be much better off than they are at present with their grain in their granaries. As to an adequate supply of cars, there is no hope for sufficient cars to facilitate the shipment of the whole crop out of the country before the close of lake navigation. The development of this country is so much more rapid than the additions of rolling stock equipment made by the railway companies that we cannot hope for adequate car supply to meet all the demands of the grain trade before the close of navigation.

There is no reference made in the report to what one grain shipper called "rotten inspection at Winnipeg." There is plenty of evidence to be obtained as to the very inadequate inspection at Winnipeg, and yet nothing is said about Inspector Horne's office in the report. Lest it may be thought that we are talking at random, we cite two cases which arose at Winnipeg this season: A car of oats was shipped to a grain company at Winnipeg for consumption there. The car was graded rejected by Inspector Horne and was taken into stock by the purchaser. A kick was made by the shipper and the sample was re-inspected and was graded No. 3, but the company had bought it on the first grade and Inspector Horne's office had to make good to the producer the difference in the price of these grades. Another case is where a car of wheat was shipped east and was graded at Winnipeg, lower than the grade for which it was purchased, and a survey was demanded and the car was held for that purpose. The sample taken at Winnipeg was not the wheat in the car at all, and the right grade was given on re-inspection. These are cases arising at Winnipeg which have created a grievance among grain growers and grain men, yet there is nothing in the grain commission's report dealing with the Winnipeg inspection.

As E. A. Partridge said to the Tribune in commenting on the finding of the commission: "I do not think they needed to make a trip around the world to find out what they did."

Toronto No Bribe Taker

Without intending it perhaps, Toronto has put herself in shape to get something from the Dominion government if she asks it this year. A Liberal has been chosen as mayor. Of the four controllers Messrs. Spence, Harrison and Ward are Liberals and Mr. Hocken is a Conservative. In the full council, eighteen aldermen, four controllers, and the mayor, twenty-three in all, twelve are Liberals and Elevan are Conservatives.—Oteawa Journal.

Toronto might better go without the favor of the Dominion government forever than exhibit the spirit of the floater and loafer who sells his vote for a $2 bill.

This city is the home of almost one twentieth of the population of the Dominion of Canada, and pays more than one-twentieth of the taxes that provide the revenues of the Dominion.

A community that votes Liberal should get no more than its rights, a community that votes Tory should get no less than its rights.

Is it good politics for a government to play the briber and seek to buy the votes of a whole community with the hope of gaining favor if it elects Liberals, with the fear of losing favor if it defeats Liberals?

Then it must be good politics for a heeler to bribe an individual with the certainty of a cash payment in exchange for his vote.

The government that buys the votes of communities with the country's money is engaged in a more dangerous and despicable form of bribery than the individuals who buy the votes of "floaters" with the party's money.

Toronto could not barter its prejudices, or principles, or opinions, in the hope of getting ite rights from the government at Ottawa without becoming a more abominable bribe-taker than the wretch who markets his franchise for $2 and upwards.—Toronto Telegram.

Editorial Notes

That was good politics on Mr. Calder's part to give a tip to Prof. Bland to eulogise the cent an acre tax for university purposes, for now the government can make a political use of the statement made by the Wesley college professor while here to attend the first convocation of the Saskatchewan university. The fact remains, however that the law actually provides for a yearly endowment to the university at the expense of the homesteaders of this province, who have not in many cases the primary school facilities and the tax is a violation of the pledge made by the government that the financial settlement was such under the autonomy act that there would be no necessity for resorting to direct taxation. If the province were getting sufficient money to run the affairs of the country, the tax would not be necessary, and if the minerals, forests and public lands were handed over to the province together with remuneration for public resources exploited in the way of graft to political favorites, there should be no necessity for taxing the farmers for annually endowing an institution that will be a big advantage to the people of the cities and towns who do not contribute one cent to its maintenance, but which will not be anything but a white elephant as far as the homesteader is concerned.

Mr. Turgeon in addressing a meeting of Liberals recently called together for organisation purposes actually took up the lands question and told his hearers that the exploitation of the public domain was confined to the Conservative party who gave the C. P.R. twenty-five million acres of land as an endowment for building their transcontinental railway. Mr. Turgeon really committed himself to a falsehood by insinuation for he did not tell that meeting that the policy of Hon. Alexander Mackenzie's government was to give the C.P.R. 20,000 acres of land per mile and $10,000 in cash per mile as a subsidy to their system. This agreement was modified by the Conservatives to a lump sum of twenty-five million acres of land and twenty-five million dollars in cash, much less than what the total in cash and lands would have been if the Mackenzie agreement had been adhered to. Mr. Turgeon, or any other Liberal speaker dealing with the lands question, must stick to facts and deal with the lands question from confederation up to the present time. If they do this and tell the truth, they will make votes for Mr. Borden.

Press Comments

(Calgary News.)

The weak spot in the Liberal administration at Ottawa, as it was at Toronto, during the Mowat-Hardy Ross regime, is the nepotism of the members of the cabinet and the supporters of the government.

Every member of the cabinet who has had relatives has had a number of them farmed out on the public preserve, regardless of qualification. All that was required of the appointed one was the ability to answer the roll call when the pay car passed his way.

Another crying evil has been the manner of selecting members of parliament or ex-members to fill public positions for which in many instances they had no qualifications.

The auditor general's report, published annually makes good reading along this line and proves conclusively that under existing conditions the easy path to government office is by way of having represented a constituency, and the next best is to be a relative of some member.

This was the foolish policy that was pursued by the Ross administration, where relatives of Ross, Dryden, Gibson and the rest were put into positions to the detriment of more competent and more deserving members of the Liberal party. And this was one of the features of mis-government that wiped out that government when they faced the people—when but two members were elected on polling day, and these only by the skin of their teeth.

There is only one way for governments to secure the support of the people, and that is by the efforts of a strong premier who will not hesitate to crowd out of his cabinet any member who looks upon public office as anything but a public trust.

When a member of parliament or a cabinet minister looks upon the public domain as a private preserve to be exploited in the interests of himself and family, it is full time for the premier to step in with the date properly filled in on the accepted resignation of the gentleman who has forgotten what he owes to the people of this country.

The Liberals should see to it that there will be no more scuttling of the government ship along this line, as was done by Ross and his fellow-buccaneers, and the Tories should find in this hint good fighting material during the session.

And the auditor general's report is a mine of wealth untold to the seeker after truth in the matters above referred to.

(Weekly Sun, Toronto.)

When we are considering what is to be done with the senate the governor generalship might be embraced in the enquiry. Lord Metcalf, trained in the imperial rule of British India, was the last governor general who exercised or tried to exercise real power, unless we except Sir Edmund Head, who in refusing a dissolution to Geo. Brown only took an unavoidable course. It is impossible to believe that Lord Lorne can personally have acquiesced in the dismissal by party rancor, without constitutional justification, of his own nominee and representative, the lieutant governor of Quebec. Not less difficult is it to believe that the present governor general can have voluntarily congratulated parliament on the passing of the separate school act, considering the manner in which that act was passed. What the governor generalship has really done of late years has been the development of a semi-regal court at Ottawa. In this Lord Dufferin, who was very fond of display set the example. The style of his predecessor, Lord Lisgar, had been perfectly simple. A British statesman is wasted besides being sometimes placed in an equivocal position. The social influence of the court at Ottawa is ground on which By-Stander fears to tread.

Senate Entertained

The mayor and city council entertained the senate of the university of Saskatchewan and their guests, Principal Peterson, Principal Hutton and Prof. Bland at a luncheon at the King's Hotel on Thursday afternoon at one o'clock. After the luncheon a few toasts were drunk.

"The King" was honored in the usual way.

"The Senate of the University" was responded to by Chancellor Wetmore.

"The Guests of the Senate" was responded to by the "three wise men from the east."

"Our hosts," was proposed by Chancellor Wetmore and responded to by the mayor, Ald. Sinton and Ald. Thomson.

The gathering dispersed after singing the national anthem.

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