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Vol. 12 No. 48

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1909

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FARMERS SEND REPLY TO THREE PREMIERS

They Dispose of the Difficulties Outlined by the Premiers and Hold to Their Opinions--Some Facts and Figures to Prove Their Contentions--Monopoly Not Necessary to Safeguard Financial Interests of Provinces.

The following is the reply which the Interprovincial Council of the farmers associations of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba has sent to the premiers of the three provinces:

To the Hon., 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 shipped, necessary facilities with up-to-date equipments for weighing, cleaning and loading grain," we beg to submit in reply:

"That in so far as you state that we take the position that nothing further can be hoped for by amendments to existing legislation in so far as regarding internal elevators is concerned, and to obtain what your executives 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 faculty states the position we take as to the utility of any further restricting legislation and properly interprets the meaning of our requests. Nothing in your memorandum seems to convey the impression that there is any constitutional or legislative difficulty in the way of your granting us that request.

The "constitutional difficulty" you set forth, only applies 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 request we made requires no fuller power 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 grain, subject to no alteration or review by any other authority." The only powers required with respect to weights and measures are those now enjoyed by every elevator operator in the province, viz: the power to weigh in and out on standard scales, and 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 the producer or the purchaser.

3. "To fully control all Transportation Companies, Railways, etc., in the matter of expropriation of cars, and in other respects to provide such regulations and restrictions respecting these companies as shall be essential for the convenient and satisfactory handling of grain." The provisions of the Railway Act, the Grain Act, and the regulating power vested in the Board of Railway Commissioners amply protects you in carrying out of proposals.

4. "Generally all such powers and authority as to trade and commerce and the weighing and grading of grain as may be necessary to give the provinces complete, inherent and extrajurisdictional jurisdiction in the premises in every respect. This is to say, full authority within the provinces and also outside where the grain may be handled at Terminal Points."

In reply to this clause it may be said that elevator companies, including those operating under provincial charters, such as farmers elevators, now enjoy all necessary privileges and powers for the carrying out of the business of receiving, warehousing, cleaning, shipping and transacting of business connected therewith, which is all that our people require of you.

The only power the governments require as to weight is that enjoyed by every elevator in the province. The proposal does not involve the provincial government undertaking the grading of grain, everything being stored in special bins, placed at the disposal of the owners of grain, whether ownership was acquired by

growing or purchasing. Nor do we think it necessary that, in order to carry out our proposition, you should have any further control over transportation companies.

We submit further that legal monopoly is not necessary to safeguard the financial interests of the provinces. Hence, no "constitutional difficulty" presents itself in that regard, as the government system will have a virtual monopoly because of the impracticability of the present system (due to causes which we will show further on), remaining in the field in opposition to the government. Nor do we consider that it would necessitate any further heavy financial responsibility on the part of the provinces as the full expense of the system will be chargeable to the grain passing through the elevators.

We ask you to provide only the necessary storage facilities at any given point. At many points there are more elevators than are required. We anticipate that storage equal to one third of the amount of grain marketed at each shipping point will be sufficient. We absolutely DO NOT wish to interfere with the use of the loading platforms.

The safeguarding from financial losses in the fact of the demand for these facilities, and the power possessed by the provinces, to limit the storage to the capacity that is found necessary to properly and reasonably meet the demands upon it.

It can easily be determined by inquiry to what extent the use of loading platforms at any point would be lessened by the opportunity to use storage facilities, when the suspicion of improper practices in those facilities is removed. Our investigations lead us to believe that a large percentage of those persons now using the platforms, would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity of employing the government system of storage and shipping facilities—the ability to clean before shipment being an especially valuable privilege.

Your memorandum states that for 12 months, ending 31st August, 1908, 1,334 elevators, with a storage capacity of 39,724,000 bushels, within the three provinces shipped approximately 42,000,000 bushels of wheat, and that 12,500,000 bushels were shipped from loading platforms. This is to say that the 1,334 elevators received and shipped an average of 31,484 bushels. An elevator can, in a season, handle 150,000 bushels as easily and almost as cheaply as 30,000 bushels, therefore you can readily see the enormous drain the maintenance of so much unnecessary storage is, on the resources of the provinces.

To illustrate how it works out, the Farmers' elevator at Miami last season handled 150,000 bushels of grain, which gave them a revenue of 14 cents per bushel or \$145,000. Three other elevators at the same point handled 67,000 bushels, or an average of 22,333 bushels. They would necessarily have to charge about 85c. per bushel to have the same revenue as the farmers elevator had on a charge of 14c per bushel. The whole elevator system of the three provinces would have to charge about 65 cents on every bushel they received to have a revenue equal to the Miami farmers elevator.

We submit that a government elevator at every shipping point in the three provinces would be in a similar position to that in which the farmers' elevators are now. The storage capacity has increased at interior points during 1908 by nearly four million bushels—now standing at about 43,300,000 bushels. Up to the 30th Nov. they received about 43,400,000 bushels, having at that date thirteen millions in store. Nothing can be more eloquent than those figures in showing the need that exists of the government taking full charge of and regulating the storage system in order to husband the resources of our farm population.

The system now in operation permits the elevator owners to charge enough to make the operating of the elevators pay, regardless of the quantity of grain they handle. Nothing short of government intervention will prevent the continuous duplication of elevators.

You will recall that at our conference at Regina we discussed the advisability of operating the proposed system by an independent commission. We are of the opinion that this

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THE GLASGOW HOUSE

ALBERTA ELECTIONS

Majority of Constituencies in the North—Calgary and Edmonton Each Have Two Members—Sixty-one Bills Passed at Recent Session.

Edmonton, Feb. 26.—The fourth session of the first legislature of Alberta was formally prorogued Thursday afternoon by His Honor Governor Bulaya, after a session of exactly six weeks. His Honor gave assent to 61 bills passed during the session, and to the vote for supply.

Today the legislature was dissolved, the date for the new elections being set for March 22nd, with nominations March 15. Both Conservative and Liberal conventions will be held throughout the province during the next two weeks. The Rutherford administration will open the campaign by a mass meeting in Edmonton, Monday evening, March 1st, which will be addressed by all the cabinet ministers. This will be the first time all the members of the cabinet have appeared on the same platform at the same time.

The thirty-nine constituencies into which the province has been divided are as follows:

In the northern half—Athabasca, Peace River, Pembina, Lac St. Anne, Stony Plain, St. Albert, Sturgeon, Paken, Victoria, Edmonton city (2 members), Strathcona, Vegreville, Vermilion, Wainwright, Leduc, Wetaskiwin, Ponka, Lacombe, Camrose, Red River—Total, 20 constituencies, 21 members.

In the southern half—Innisfail, Oids, Didsbury, Banff, Gleichen, Okotoks, High River, Nanton, Claresholm, Crow's Nest, Pincher Creek, MacLeod, Lethbridge City, Lethbridge district, Cardston, Calgary City (2 members), Medicine Hat, Ribstone, Stettler—Total 19 constituencies, 20 members.

The cities of Calgary and Edmonton are not divided into two constituencies each, but the whole electorate will vote for two candidates.

GIRL WAS DUPED TO NORMALIZE MAN

Windsor, Feb. 25.—A young woman whose name is unknown, called on Police Magistrate Leggatt today and swore she was married in the magistrate's outer office last Tuesday afternoon by a tall dark man, who said he was a minister. The magistrate was in his office the entire afternoon. The young girl who says her home is in Gross Point, Mich., states that the "minister" handed the marriage certificate to her husband, who promptly tore it up. The supposed husband denied the marriage and later fled. It is undoubtedly a false marriage, but the nerve of performing it in the city hall, especially in the outer office of the police magistrate, to give the marriage some color, is one of the boldest and most extraordinary on record.

MURDERED BY TRAMP

Hamilton Girl is Shot by Tramp Who Was After Money—Girl Refused to Stop Screaming—Police Believe the Man Was Crazy.

Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 25.—Ethel Kinrade, the second daughter of T. L. Kinrade, principal of the Canon street school, was murdered this afternoon by a tramp thief at her home on one of the best and busiest residential streets of the city. "No trace of the murderer can be found tonight. The victim, 24 years of age, was in the house with her elder sister Florence. The latter found a stranger in the hall. He followed her to the kitchen, produced a revolver and demanded money. She gave him \$10. The other sister Ethel, came down the back stairs and "blatantly" screamed. "Shoot us or I'll shoot" shouted the robber. The girl became hysterical and kept on screaming. The thug shot and again commanded her to keep still. She continued screaming and he emptied the revolver into her body. Five bullets took effect, one piercing the heart and another the head.

The thief then turned on the elder sister with the empty revolver and said that unless she kept quiet he would finish her. She tried to wrench the revolver away but he freed himself and jumped out the parlor window and disappeared. That was the last seen of him.

The man had been seen loitering around the house all day and as he had been around before Mrs. Kinrade decided to go down town and report him to the police. She had hardly left the station when the phone rang and a message came that the daughter had been murdered.

The murderer was described by the elder sister as thick set, 5 feet, 7 inches tall and about 35 years of age. He was dark complexioned, with a heavy dark moustache. The police regard the deed as that of a crazy man.

TO NORMALIZE MAN

New York, Feb. 25.—An attempt is being made by the physicians of the Harlem hospital to normalize a man of 27, who has the stature and mental development of a boy of nine. They are feeding him on certain portions of a sheep to replace secretions which have been missing from his body since he was six months old. Harry Needleman is the patient. "When he was six years old he fell from a chair and injured his neck," the man's father, told the doctors. He was taken to the hospital and to save his life his thyroid glands were removed. Without these glands doctors say both physical and mental development is three or four times as slow as with them. The doctors hope that within three or four years they may bring him to a normal condition.

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