

take place to meet the requirements of exporters in various directions. The Pacific, the Hudson's Bay and the United States, and the existing eastern route would all before long afford outlets for the produce of the West. They wanted a sample market, and to bring all the buyers into a great secondary market where they would choose their grain according to their requirements, and store at the secondary or terminal points that lay along their route of transport. He believed in that route the hope of a highly competitive market. As to the premiums offered by private companies to divert storage from government elevators, Mr. Partridge remarked that a campaign of education would have to be undertaken to teach the farmers that by accepting this paltry sop they were losing three or four cents at the secondary point.

Want Virtual Monopoly

On resuming after luncheon, Mr. Partridge said: "I do not wish to criticize the finding of the commission nor the bill as presented by them regarding the elevators. We want a virtual monopoly of the storage of grain. I have always advocated that the loading platform should be open the year round, so that farmers could load their grain at any time. Now we propose that the sellers of the grain should control this monopoly and not the buyers. We want an independent party to have charge and also want the prestige of the government behind us. When these milling corporations start to create rivalry and dissension we will be able to better cope with the situation if we are backed by the government. The government is now willing to advance 85 per cent. of the cost of the elevator, and the farmers have to pay the remaining 15 per cent. For security the government is willing to accept the elevator alone as sufficient, and if these elevators are established do you not see the great advantage that the small farmers will have in the marketing of their product? The small farmer will find buyers for his grain instead of having to look for these buyers and probably sacrifice in the matter of price and grade.

Re Consistency

"I have been told that I was inconsistent. Gentlemen, I wish to disprove this as it is wholly erroneous. I was told last night I had advocated the building and operation of the Hudson's Bay Railway by a joint stock company, and this morning I had advocated the government ownership of elevators. This seems inconsistent, well it does not, for there is no parallel between the two cases. Government ownership of railways seems to be impracticable in so far that no government is willing to saddle itself too heavily. If we cannot have government ownership let us take the most satisfactory of all the immediate steps to that end and have a railroad built by the people and operated by the people for the benefit of the people. But bear in mind that we want the government to perform this building and operating on behalf of the community. There are no hostile interests vested in this province; there is simply the apathy lying there and we want to remove that by sending to the house men innoctuated with our principles; men who will see to our demands and give us our long felt wants. The fault is all ours because we do not send such men there when we have the opportunity.

Must Bar Politics

"We do not want to get at odds with the government; we do not need to; we simply must stand for our rights and not bring politics into this game. We want prosperity, and to this end we must organize strongly so that we can impress on their memories that our demands should be complied with since they are just and right.

"In regard to co-operation, this association has declared for co-operation outside of the membership.

"Now, gentlemen, in closing I wish to have you believe that this is an economic question, and must be dealt with as such. "Let whatever party is in power take the side that it will, we will stand pat and look on. We will have to wait, but we shall obtain at no long distant date our just demands. If you consider our scheme as being worthy of your support, we want the unanimous support of all of you. Again, this is an economic question and must be treated solely on its merits."

A Farmers' Question

Mr. Veitch, the next speaker to take part in the discussion, said: "We want a square deal and nothing more. We do

not want to ask any one to help a cause that does not benefit him; we simply want the farmers to deal with this question themselves. It is not fair to ask the city people to contribute to the carrying out of our system. Shall we have a system? Yes. Government ownership is ideal, but we do not control the government and even so we shall have our system.

"When we get it we shall clean out grain ourselves; we shall own our elevators, have our own monopoly of the storage, have special fanning facilities and the grading we shall control. Shall we stick to government ownership and turn down what is offered us? (Cries of, 'Yes, yes.')

The speaker then pointed out the foolishness of such an idea. "There is not a man here," he said, "who wants special privileges, because we are all fighting special privileges.

"There are some defects in this scheme which will be remedied only by time. It is wise for us to accept the offers now made which will eventually bring us to our own. Wise men change their minds, but fools never do."

An Amendment Moved

Lewis Gabriel then proposed as an amendment: "That we approve of the system as recommended by the commission." "There is," he said, "no danger in going ahead with the building of the elevators. We can prove that from the fact that the private companies are building and operating elevators with success. I find that Mr. Partridge is quite inconsistent. The same conclusion can be reached in regard to the railway as can be reached in the elevator question. Keep politics out of this for there has been too much of that in Manitoba.

"We do not want any politics here. Let us keep on passing resolutions until we reach our aim. Things have not been running smoothly in Manitoba, and we do not want any system like that here. Mr. Partridge condemned the building of railways by the government and explodes some fancy theories. Yes, the next thing we had better do is to get someone to build our stables for us."

Converted by McCuaig

The next speaker was W. Hordern, of Dundurn, who opened his remarks by saying that he was a convert to government ownership of elevators. "I stood," he said, "before our friend Mr. Green and his colleagues at Saskatoon and for a full hour I gave evidence on behalf of co-operative ownership by the farmers. Since I heard the splendid speech of Mr. McCuaig and the result of government ownership of elevators there, all my difficulties have vanished. We are told that things are not working smoothly there. They have not had much time yet. We will have the smooth working come later on; come this season. The great thing I feared was graft and politics and I cannot see that they have come into the operation of the Manitoba elevators. I believe that when we get the Referendum and Recall that we can make our government pure and do our will."

A Somewhat Contrary Opinion

Some strong support to the amendment was given by G. H. McKague, of Fertile Valley. His belief was that if those assembled were going to be practical farmers they should get down to business. "I have listened to the speakers," he said, "during the day. Mr. Partridge has spoken more of selling wheat than the elevator question. The proposition you have before you is, should we own the elevators of Saskatchewan? I listened carefully to Mr. McCuaig. He said there was a leakage and the government was paying for it. Not a very serious matter, perhaps, but he did say your wheat was being mixed up with that of others. That is one thing I objected to strongly. I don't believe it would be a paying proposition to buy all the elevators in the province. In the first place they are not built properly. Are we going to be saddled with these elevators? I claim not. I would say we do not want them. I have perfect confidence in the members of that commission. I only know two of them, but I have the greatest confidence in them. They have gone into the matter thoroughly. Let us be a unit, as Mr. Partridge said. I want to say right now that Mr. Langley and Mr. Green are the best friends the farmers of this province ever had. (Loud applause). The question they had to deal with was a big one, no question about it. It was the biggest task that any two men in this province ever undertook. They have made a report to the government and if the government does not do its duty, we will show them

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who are the masters. (A voice: 'We will put them out.')

I recommend, gentlemen, strongly, that we support the commission because we appointed them in honor. Do not let us throw them out in disgrace. Get behind them, men; get behind them as men of the province and give them our support." (Loud applause.)

Mr. Collier, of Welwyn, seconded the amendment to the resolution and briefly spoke on the subject, stating that his opinion was that the Manitoba system was not in the best interests of the farmers.

George Langley Speaks

With cheers the delegates sat back in their seats when the chairman announced that the next speaker would be George Langley, M. L. A., and a member of the elevator commission appointed by the government.

Mr. Langley's speech was in the following terms: "As one of the commissioners serving on the commission, I suppose you would naturally expect I would have something to say to you in connection with the report of the commission presented to the government. I was looking while we were discussing this question at one of those mottoes on the wall of this splendid hall and I notice it says: 'Our strength is not all in numbers and wealth but in the personnel, individuality, cool, calm judgment and esteem embodied in our leaders.' Those of us who during the last few years have taken a leading part in the Grain Growers' Association, have need today more than ever before of cool, calm judgment. There is evident-

ly a division of feeling in this convention that is evident to anyone. Recognizing that fact, I would like to say just a simple word or two as to the object we have as an association. I would like to say why I am a member of the Grain Growers' Association. I am banded together with you men in this hall and other farmers. What for? In order to secure for the things we grow and have to sell the very last cent that belongs to us as cultivators of the soil. I am not without hope that this association will settle this great agricultural question one way or the other.

What the G. G. A. is Fighting For

"What is it that brought the demand for public ownership? We fought the question of grain growing for years before any question of public ownership was ever mooted. I remember in 1902-03, when I was living in the district of Roathwaite we had the hardest fight we ever had in connection with the marketing of grain. I know sometimes that I am referred to as a party politician. I want to say that at the time I had no more to do with politics than any other man in the whole of the province, or the N. W. T., as it was then. What did we find? We found in bringing our grain to market we were confronted with a condition of things which gave us just about half its value while the grain dealer pocketed the other half. I was living in that large Mennonite district and we were confronted with this condition of things and as I was practically the only British born man in eight hundred families in those early days, they appoint-