

the elevators should be required and operated and as a direction to the committee the convention passed the following resolution to form a basis in the preparation of the bill.—

"Whereas our local Government through the Honorable Mr. Caldwell has expressed its intention to enact such legislation as will provide for a system of Provincial Grain Storage Elevators that will adequately meet the demands of the Grain Growers' Association,

"And whereas a fear has existed in the minds of some that such a system would be administered subject to the political influence of any party that happened to be in power with a danger of graft resulting therefrom,

"And whereas it is intended that the cost of maintenance and operation will be borne by the grain passing through the elevators,

"And whereas the Honorable Mr. Caldwell in presenting the matter placed the responsibility of working out a plan upon the Grain Growers' Association,

"Therefore be it resolved that this convention of Manitoba Grain Growers declare and affirm that the administration of such a system of elevators should be by a commission completely independent of political influence and control and responsible directly to the people."

The committee thus appointed immediately organized themselves, appointed a sub-committee to draft a memorial to form a basis for the drafting of a bill that would meet with the requirements of the Grain Growers as to the methods of acquiring and operating a system of elevators as suggested by the Honorable Mr. Caldwell. The committee on January 5, 1909, received the memorial prepared by the sub-committee, submitted it to the Government in the following form:—

"The Provincial Government would assume the responsibility of providing for the financial requirements in respect to purchasing the existing elevators or erecting new ones or both,

"It is not intended that the Government should provide, by the credit of the Province, for any expenditure in connection with the operation or maintenance. The Government would issue debentures, payable, say in forty years. This would not be too long a period, since there is no doubt that the undertaking would be permanent, and especially since the grain handled is intended not only to bear the cost of maintenance, and operating expenses, but to provide a sinking fund as well, to rare for debentures at maturity. The revenue received through the operation of the elevators would be based on what would be sufficient to meet ordinary operating expenses, interest on debentures and provision for maintenance, for sinking fund or for both. Since the traffic is eventually intended to pay the initial outlay the elevators would as a matter of course be exempt from taxation.