

A little thought would indicate that they would have with one exception similar responsibility to the cabinet minister, namely, that the minister is elected by a constituency and responsible to that constituency like any other member of the legislature. The extent of that responsibility being, that their constituents may refuse to re-elect them at the end of a term of four or five years. If, in the meantime, they squander the people's resources there is no power on earth that can compel the ministers to make restitution. While on the other hand the independent commission suggested by the Grain Growers would be responsible to the legislature, and if incompetent or derelict in duty could be dismissed by the legislature, the same as commissioners appointed by the municipal council are dismissed at any time by the council that appointed them. In the case of the cabinet minister, although a member of the legislature, as a cabinet minister he is not responsible to the legislature, but to the premier. If he, or any official or commission under his direction is accused of improper practices and is supported by the premier from whom he receives the appointment, the legislature can only reach him by a vote of want of confidence in the government. Everyone knows how often offences against the public interest on the part of government officials are condoned in the interest of party particularly in federal matters, and how difficult it is to secure a want of confidence in the cabinet under a party system of government. An independent commission could be dismissed, if incompetent, without in any way reflecting upon either of the political parties, as no party advantage could be gained by condoning any offence on their part.

SASKATCHEWAN AND SIR WILFRID

The Executive of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association have made arrangements to meet Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Regina. Sir Wilfrid will address a meeting in the Queen City on August 1st. The Executive of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association have arranged to hold a meeting on the day prior to this, and make all arrangements to present to Sir Wilfrid their views upon the tariff, with special reference to reciprocity in agricultural implements; the advisability of the Dominion Government taking over the terminal elevators; the need of the actual and the immediate construction of the Hudson's Bay Railway, and also the need of the Dominion Legislation favoring the incorporation of co-operative societies. These are two meetings that the organized farmers of the West have already arranged with Sir Wilfrid Laurier on his western trip. The Saskatchewan Association is also anxious that the organized farmers at the other points in the province should also meet Sir Wilfrid and present their views on the same questions. There can be no doubt but that Sir Wilfrid and those who are traveling with him, will make up their minds that the western farmers mean business. During the past years small delegations of the western farmers' organizations have gone down to Ottawa and presented their cases, but generally they have accomplished very little. It has been repeatedly stated by the members of the Federal Government that they did not know very much about the subjects that have been taken up by the organized farmers. After Sir Wilfrid has completed his western tour, this condition will no longer exist. Sir Wilfrid will know exactly the feeling of the western farmers, and it will then be in order for him to take some action. When the organized farmers all over the West demand that the terminal elevators be taken over by the Dominion Government (and when every other expedient has been tried and failed), there seems no reason why the Dominion Government should hesitate any longer. It is extremely doubtful if Sir Wilfrid-Laurier will commit himself and his government definitely on the questions put to him by the

Grain Growers, but if he cannot offer them something better than what they ask for, then the farmers of western Canada will know beyond doubt the attitude of the Dominion Government towards them.

MR. ROBSON'S ATTITUDE

At his recent nomination meeting at Swan River, Mr. J. W. Robson took the opportunity of saying something about the Grain Growers' Guide and the various Grain Growers' Organizations. Just what point Mr. Robson was trying to make it was difficult to see from his speech as reported in the Winnipeg Telegram, but it seems that he does not like to see the Grain Growers secure what they ask for, for fear Mr. Bonnar would get a great many more law fees and that the Grain Growers' Grain Company, supported by the Grain Growers' Guide would dominate the elevator Commission. Mr. Robson's speech shows no foundation for his contentions, and he knows as well as any one in this country knows, that there never was an intention or desire on the part of the Grain Growers, or even a possibility, that things would work out as he says. As far as we can see, his contention was, that the Grain Growers were all wrong and had ulterior motives behind their demands. We are not going to argue the various points with Mr. Robson, as we have set them out many times, and given our reasons for favoring the demands of the Grain Growers. There is a point, however, we wish to discuss. Mr. Robson is a member of the Grain Growers' Association, and also a member of the legislature. He apparently does not see much good in the demands of the Grain Growers, or in the Grain Growers' Grain Company, or in the Grain Growers' Guide. That is his privilege, if he wishes to view them in that light. No person will dispute the fact that the organized Grain Growers of Manitoba have accomplished a great deal for the province, and there is still a great deal more for them to do. There does not seem to be any very good reasons why Mr. Robson, because he happens to be a member of the legislature, should regard it as his duty to knock the Grain Growers. He knows that the Grain Growers' organization has no political string to pull, and has no desire to accomplish other than a square deal for the farmers of the West. Of course the Grain Growers expect criticism, but a man should have reasons for all criticism which he levels at any organization. We cannot see that Mr. Robson will accomplish any great good by the attitude he is taking, unless he desires that the Grain Growers' organizations should be broken and conditions revert to what they were a few years ago. We believe that the farmers of Manitoba are pleased with the work that their organization has accomplished, and with the far better price which they are now getting for their grain. If Mr. Robson has suggestions that will help the farmers in any way they would be glad to receive them, but if he has not, then the least he could do would be to refrain from criticising those who are working in the interests of the farmers.

DANGEROUS INVESTMENTS

One of the sensations of the past week has been the arrest of the promoters of wireless telegraph and telephone companies in the United States. It is what might have been expected. Whether these concerns are proven guilty or not is aside from the mark. The main point is that there has been in the past years millions of dollars taken out of the pockets of the people by fake investment concerns. Nearly every day we see some new concern starting, which will make for the investors "enormous" profits on their money. The strongest argument in favor is that shown by the Bell Telephone Company, which has reaped tremendous profits for its shareholders; but where one invention is a success, there are

scores of failures. Wireless telephony is an undoubted success but that does not mean that every concern that starts into the wireless business is an honest one. The people of Western Canada have been defrauded many times by fake concerns, it is of the utmost importance that they study each proposition very carefully before they pay any money into it. Several years ago a lot of stock in a wireless concern was sold, but we do not see any wireless work being done across Canada, yet. It is wise to be very careful when approached by promoters of schemes which are making unheard of profits.

MANITOBA ELECTIONS, JULY 11

On June the 20th the legislature of Manitoba was dissolved and a general election for the province was called for July 11th. The announcement of the election renders it necessary for us to consider the interests of the Grain Growers at this time. The Elevator Act that was passed by the legislature was not what the Grain Growers wanted, and now, before the Act can be tested or the elevators provided, the farmers are asked to express their opinion upon the administration of the affairs of the province. It is manifestly unfair to the Grain Growers, and in their behalf we must express our keen regret that the government should have so far forgotten its duty to call on an election at the present time. So far as we can see, and we have watched events very closely, there is not the slightest shadow of a reason for holding an election this summer. The elevator question is the only issue and the farmers have not been shown that the Elevator Act can work out with any degree of satisfaction to them. There will be a great deal of trouble over the Elevator Act before the farmers of Manitoba will get public elevators where they are needed, and it was in view of this that we urged that no election be called before the Act was thoroughly tested. Petitions are being circulated and the Elevator Commission is pushing matters as rapidly as possible. Some of these petitions are for purchasing existing elevators, and others for the erection of new ones. We should have liked to see how these petitions worked out. Under the Act the commission are empowered to purchase after the farmers have signed a sixty per cent. petition, but the commission is not expected to pay an exorbitant price, and we believe the elevator owners will hold them up if possible. If this situation arises it will then be necessary to get out a new petition for the erection of a new elevator, which will all take a great deal of time. Of course nothing at all can be accomplished towards providing the actual elevators for the farmers until after the elections. Then, and not till then, will the farmers know whether the Elevator Act is workable, and whether the elevator commission is to be allowed a free hand in its work. In view of the fact that the government has full and absolute control over the elevator commission, it would have been a far greater evidence of their good faith had they worked out the Elevator Act to the satisfaction of the farmers, before calling on an election. We know that we voice the sentiments of the farmers of Manitoba, when we express our regret and disappointment that the government have not by their actions given evidence of square dealing with the farmers.

If Canada is compelled to build up a tremendous manufacturing industry by protective tariffs, before the agricultural industry is on its feet, then the nation will become top heavy and totter. Agriculture is the foundation and must always be broad to be safe.

Roosevelt is to-day the most popular statesman in the English speaking world. That comes from an honest effort to do his duty regardless of opinion. We need more like him.

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