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NOTICE

Advertisement for 'THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE' featuring illustrations of men in suits and a woman, with text describing the guide's value for farmers.

THE WEST

GRAIN GROWERS PRESENT THEIR CASE

(Continued from page 1.)

Let me say that a poor, weak government did succeed in securing something for the people by exercising that persuasive influence it had on the Canadian Pacific railway Co. to send wheat out via the Soo route. If the Commissioner of agriculture for the Northwest Territories could do this, it was just possible that had the powerful influence of the Ottawa government been exercised, the above decision might have been reached much sooner than it was. He would like to draw the attention of the premier, together with the other members of the house, not only to what the Ottawa government had done for them, but also to what he might do now if he would exercise his powerful influence in the direction of the petitioner's prayer. Speaking further in an address given in Moose Jaw in August, 1902, Mr. Scott said "if the grain act as it now stood did not give the relief asked for, and the farmers were unable to get justice through it, the government would be justified in considering some such scheme as suggested by the Watson memorial presented by the Moose Jaw Agricultural Society." It gave them great pleasure to note the stand taken by the head of the Saskatchewan government in the past.

NOT TO BE DISREGARDED.

The agitation did not cease with the Grain Act, which did not produce the relief sought for. It was then pointed out by Mr. Watson that the elevator question must be solved separately and directly from the transportation question. In January 1903, the Hon. Clifford Sifton, speaking to the grain dealers in Winnipeg, said: "Farmers are entitled to as much consideration as grain dealers, and when a producer comes to Parliament and says: 'I have produced a commodity and I object to its passing through the hands of a set of middlemen who take from it an undue toll, I want to say, and say plainly, that that is a complaint parliament is bound to recognize, and no parliament elected in Canada can afford to disregard such a protest.'"

He came there that day, asking, hoping, pleading that the government and the members of the opposition in that house would not long disregard the necessity of finding a solution to this question. In speaking of this question, the Nor' West Farmer, in an editorial of the same year, said: "An herculean task lies before the Grain Growers' Association. The effecting of such a reform will be opposed by all the wealth and influence of the powerful companies at present handling our wheat and other grains. It is only by combining and putting to the test that it can be decided whether the producer is politically stronger than the middleman. The whole question resolves itself into one of votes entirely. If the people want this done and want it in no uncertain manner, no ministry or legislative body is strong enough to resist the will of the people." They

He thought he was correct in saying that some of the premiers had made the statement very clearly, or some of their correspondence had shown it, that if they were to establish government elevators that the present elevator owners would be most anxious to dispose of their present elevator plant to the government, half of which at different points were not in use. It was stated that the people were using the loading platforms and he believed that the difficulty as far as monopoly was concerned would vanish. They assumed there were no doubts existing as to the power of the provinces to own and operate a line of elevators, and there seemed to be no doubt whatever in the minds of the petitioners who had the wheat to put through that if the government granted their request the proposed system would be a success. So that while it might have been admitted by both parties to that convention that a monopoly would be advantageous, there evidently was a wide divergence of opinion as to how that monopoly would be obtained, which had everything to do with its legality. The principal involved by the advocacy of this plan made no change in the constitution at all necessary, as the same principles which now gave the large elevators a monopoly would give the government a monopoly back by the same means. The producers of grain whose interests in the new system would be brought into operation. There was no necessity for any change in the British North America Act in order to bring about such a state of affairs as they had so earnestly desired.

On page 7 of the pamphlet attached to these petitions it was proposed that in the establishment of this system an agent of the government would visit each shipping point and would recommend the building of a government system where a sufficient number of shippers had pledged themselves in support of the system. Farmers had recently proved their loyalty to their own institutions in many notable instances, in connection with farmers' elevators, and especially in connection with the Grain Growers' Grain Co., by shipping double as much grain this year in spite of all the opposition and opposing forces brought to bear against them. So that, after all the doubts that existed vanished when compared with the proposition.

THE FINANCIAL SIDE

Of course various ideas and suggestions appeared on the surface when they commenced to consider how the money should be raised to create such a system, whether by a tax on grain or on land, or on the credit of the country as a whole, but in so far as he had been able to discover he had never heard of a wish expressed but that the people using the system and owning the grain passing through it should be responsible for the whole cost of operation. (Hear, hear.) However, this and many other intricate questions involved in the drafting of a bill which might be passed by the legislature proving for all the details of building and operating the outlined proposals could be left to the commission suggested by the plan. After the government had adopted the principle and appointed these commissioners and they had time and opportunity to go into the whole question, they would, no doubt, in conference with the executive of the government be able to produce a legal enactment which would secure to the producers of grain the relief they sought and avoid any clash with constitutional difficulties and vested rights of any other individual whatsoever. The executive of the grain growers felt quite sure that the government, backed by the members on the opposite side of the house, would earnestly endeavor to find a solution of the many difficulties presented, that they had sufficient business acumen and legislative ability to solve the problems. The executive of the Grain Growers' Association also thought that the government, backed by the members on the opposite side of the house, would earnestly endeavor to find a solution of the many difficulties presented, that they had sufficient business acumen and legislative ability to solve the problems.

WHAT CARTWRIGHT SAID

Much space has been given to the new Canadiana navy proposition. They appealed to the house irrespective of politics. They did not want it to become a political question. They did not think it was necessary. Therefore they hoped that the matter would be taken in hand in that way.

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QUESTION OF MONOPOLY

Now it had always been contended by the advocates of the proposal asked for in these petitions, that a government monopoly would eventually be created by the establishment of a government line of elevators, because of the inherent advantages such a system would possess over any possible system owned and controlled for private gain, and that in consequence of the establishment of such a line of elevators, private parties owning the present system would be ready and willing to dispose of their elevator properties at a very reasonable price or indeed, and they thought they would be keen to sell if this plan was adopted. If, so where, was the difficulty in creating a monopoly? lowering is the task of the petition:

FARMERS' MEETINGS

Many Speakers Chosen for Winter Meetings Throughout This Province.

The Saskatchewan department of agriculture is now engaged in arranging circuits of farmers' meetings throughout the province at which lecturers on agricultural topics will speak. Lecturers are provided by the department to address meetings in Saskatchewan, and are sent free of charge to districts that undertake to provide accommodations and work up a good meeting.

Last year about 150 agricultural meetings were held under the auspices of the Saskatchewan agricultural department, and this season, it is expected that the number will be increased. To this educational work as well as to the favorable season, a measure of the success that our farmers experienced may undoubtedly be traced. It is reasonable to assume that by the adoption of the most approved methods of cultivation the production of any district may be increased, and this is one result that the department has in view. The lecturers engaged by the department this year include such capable men as Superintendent MacKay of the Indian Head experimental farm, Norman M. Ross, superintendent of tree planting division, Indian Head; A. P. Stevenson, a well known horticulturalist of Manitoba; Mathew Snow, assistant warehouse commissioner, Winnipeg; Duncan Anderson, Orilla and William Newman, Lorneville, Ont.; John A. Mooney, formerly of Valley River, Man., but now of Regina; John Miller, Indian Head; J. H. Fraser, Qu'Appelle; P. M. Brett, of Regina; A. B. Potter, Langbank, as well as members of the agricultural department, Regina, including, Hon. W. R. Motherwell, commissioner of agriculture, W. J. Rutherford, deputy commissioner of agriculture, W. A. Wilson, superintendent of dairying; T. N. Willing, chief weed inspector, also Professor A. R. Greig of the College of Agriculture, Saskatoon.

The speakers will begin their circuits immediately after the agricultural societies convention, which will be held at Regina during the last week of January.

CONSTABLE A FUGITIVE.

The Royal Northwest Mounted Police are looking for Constable John George D'Arcy, who took French leave of the force, Nov. 27th, from Esterhazy, Sask., where he was stationed. A reward of \$25 is offered by the Dominion government for his capture. D'Arcy is described as an Englishman, 6 feet 1 inch in height, weight 151 pounds, has brown hair and eyes, with a ruddy complexion. He is of a square build, and is a frequenter of hotel bars and places of amusement. He is a great cigarette smoker.

WINTER FAIR.

The Saskatchewan Winter Fair this year promises to eclipse anything along that line that has yet been held in Saskatchewan. There should be a large exhibit of excellent stock, as the winter fair board has spared no pains in the preparation of an elaborate premium list, and during the past season the number of pure bred stock in the province has been still further increased by the importation of several carloads of choice animals. This year, particularly in the horse classes, but the improvement in the cattle classes will also be noticeable as a number of prominent breeders in the province are giving much attention to that phase of the live stock industry.

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