# National Liberal and Conservative BULLETIN

Grain Investigation Supplement

Ottawa, Canada, June 25th, 1921

Volume One

## THE FACTS IN THE GRAIN INQUIRY CASE

Being an Impartial Survey of all the Evidence Submitted and a Review of the Circumstances Leading up to the Appointment of a Royal Commission to Investigate the Complaints Made on Behalt of Western Grain Growers Before the Government in Parliament

try's biggest interest and, naturally, anything which affects the marketing and handling of the grain crop is a matter of national concern.

Parliament, reflecting the will of the

people, has dealt specially with the trade by the passage of Grain Acts from time to time, and by the appoint ment of a Grain Commission, with the object of safeguarding in every possible way the interest of the grain growers, upon whose prosperity to a large extent depends the prosperity of the whole country. No one has ever disputed the right of Parliament to legislate in the matter; on the contrary every succeeding effort of Govern-ment towards making more strict and thorough the supervision over the marketing and handling of grain seemed to meet with general approval.
While nothing is ever entirely perfect
in this imperfect world, the public
were disposed to believe that on the
whole the Grain Act and the Grain Commission were operating in a rea-sonably satisfactory manner, supplemented as they were by co-operative movements among the far-mers themselves with the object of conserving their own best interests It was somewhat of a surprise, there-fore, when, at the last Session of Parliament—farmers themselves—representing farmer constituencies in the West, complained in effect that the West, complained in effect that the western grain growers were not getting justice even from the co-operative companies established ostensibly for their benefit. And it was a still greater surprise to learn recently that the Grain Growers Limited—the great co-operative company of the west and 40 other companies had applied to the courts for an injunction applied to the courts for an injunction to restrain the Royal Commission, appointed by the Government, from investigating the manner in which they conducted their business.

A most serious situation develops from this attitude of these companies and inasmuch as the question is bound to become an important one politically, it is desirble that there be a clear under standing of the facts. We now propose to set forth these facts

In the first place, we think it well to submit the following summary of the speeches made in Parliament upon which the demand for the appointment of a Royal Commission was based. Mr. R. C. Henders, M.P., formerly president of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, said:

"If there is a question that is agitating the minds of western farmers at the present time more than another it is that of the handling of their wheat products. Rumors are rife, charges and counter-charges of wrong-doing are in the air, and the result is that the minds of the western producers are agitated abnormally on this question.
"Farmers hold the Grain Ex-

changes to be to blame for the serious drop in prices after the Governme

Farmer's Objects Thwarted "Farmers, with the object put on the market their grain which believed, subject to their orders

grain being placed on the market contrary to their instructions. "If it is true that we have country farmer, selling it without permission, utilizing the money, and then when the farmer does sell, possibly charging him storage and interest right up to date, it is a serious state of affairs and I can only repeat that responsible minister of the Crown in vestigated very thoroughly by the

## Price Fixed Daily

"Another point I should like to bring to your attention is this. I am credibly informed that the North West Grain Dealers' Association sends out daily statements of prices to be paid at country points by country elevators; that all the elevators, and I emphasize that little word "all" operating at a country point receive their statement of prices through this channel and that this fixed price must be the price at closes until the opening of the market the Association, on pain of being expelled. Is that a just or equitab way of dealing with the farmers in the handling of their grain?

"With reference to the grain exchanges, while I do not make any charges against their operation, nevertheless suspicion has been aroused. Suspicion is rampant in the country that the operation of the grain exchanges is not strictly above board, and this Government will do well to see that a thorough nvestigation is made into handling of the grain from the time it leaves the producer at the farm until it reaches the consumer.

"Rumour has it that iniquity abounds—I can use no milder term—in connection with the sale of

Promotion of Grades "I notice that they took in a lot of smutty, and tough wheat but they shipped very little of this low grade wheat out. In other words they bought the low grade wheat at a low price from the producer, and then by a process of mixing with nigher grade wheat got it past the inspector. This is called promotion of grades and is practised by all the private elevator compnaies at the

"You have no doubt been surprised at the figures of the overages in the public terminal elevators, but I venture to say, that every member in the House would gasp if figures were produced showing the earnings of these private elevators for the last five or six years. It is up to the Government to get these figures.
"I would like to know what right

has this association, and what right have the elevators to load grain out without the proper surrender of the documents. It appears to me that great laxity has been shown. "All the evidence goes to show that a most important duty expected from the Government, is that of enquiring into the handling of our

Mr. M. R. Blake, M.P., for Winni-"I join with the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Henders) in pressing for an investigation into the grain dealing of the West. The report of Price, Waterhouse & Co., and the other reports we have got since on the elevators of there being something over 1,000,000 bushels of overages calls for investigation It is admitted that the United Grain Growers and the various grain companies in the Farmers' organization handled about 25 per cent of the grain of the West, and therefore they must have shared to therefore they must have shared to a great extent in the overages which came from the pockets of the farmers. I know they are allowed a certain percentage of overages, but those percentages could not have amounted to anything like the amounts that were found in the elevators. Whether these are the total overages or not, God only knows; they might have shipped out a great deal of it beforehand.

Presses For Investigation
"When the leader of the Agrarian party organized the grain growers, it was for the ostensible purpose of the ostensi giving the farmers the full benefit of the sale of their produce—to give them a better price than they had ever received before and to make sure that there would be no thefts from them in the matter of shortages of wheat at the elevator.
"I think the country would like

to know, Mr. Speaker, whether the grain business in the West is being run as accurately and as honestly and as properly as it should be. I want to press most strongly for an investigation.

Mr. I. E. Argue, M.P., tor Swift Current, Sask .:-

"Take my own little city of Swift Current. Nine miles west of us is Beverley with two elevators. Now I have seen farmers haul their wheat past Beverley into Swift Current and make fifteen cents a bushel Then nine miles south is Dunelm on the Vanguard line. I have seen farmers haul their wheat past Dunelm into Swift Current, and

make eighteen cents a bushel on the same grade of wheat Split Between Trackage and Street Price "Then there is the question of trackage price and street price. When I sold my wheat there was eleven cents difference between the trackage price and the street price. Now all the elevator man had to do when a man came in with a load of wheat was to pay eleven cents less for it than it was worth on the track. The farmer must sell nis wheat because he must have money to buy coal and provisions for his family. The elevator man would pay him eleven cents less than it was worth on the track, and the next day he would put it through the elevato and load it on the car and sell it for it. These are the things which are disturbing the farmers of the West. We are not satisfied with our grain handling system, and we are asking commission to investigate the whole matter and take control not only of the terminal elevator but of all the

What Becomes of Surplus? "We want to know how much can make out of what they call the pro-motion of grade. We want to many thousands of bushels they have left in their and what becomes of it.

"What we are asking the Government to do is to appoint a commission to make a thorough investigaand ascertain the best system of handling wheat from the time leaves the producer until it gets to

## Urges Government Action

Mr. W. I. Blair, M.P., for Battle

River, after reciting some personal experiences, declared: "I want to urge most strongly on the Government that they investi-gate every phase of the marketing of wheat and other grains from the time that the farmer drives his wagon on the scales at the country elevator point to the time the grain reaches Liverpool or until it is handled into the mills in Eastern Canada. I have heard more complaint about the way our grain has been handled this last year and acquainted with the efficiency of the especially since the farmers Wheat Board, than I have heard concerning any other phase of the economic life of Western Canada and I feel sure that if the Government conducts a thorough investigation to find out where the abuses are, and the remedy for those

abuses, it will do a greater service to

than any other action that this Government has taken or can take or that any Government in the past

Mr. H. M. Shaw, M.P. for McLeod also called for a complete investiga-tion. He said:—

"I would strongly endorse the request of the hon. member for Macdonald, that this Government appoint a commission to investigate the grain trade, and do it at the earliest possible moment, so that the farmers of the West may be able to take advantage of it during the coming year."

Appointment of the Commission As will be readily apparent, the Government could not, in the public interest, ignore these most serious representations affecting, as we have stated, the most important single producing agency in the whole Country. A Royal Commission was appointed, clothed with the fullest possible powers of investigation of the whole question of the handling of grain from the time it leaves the farmer until it reaches its t leaves the farmer until it reaches its it leaves the farmer until it reaches its ultimate market. The Commission appointed Mr. Justice Hyndman, of the High Court of Alberta, Mr. W. D. Staples, of Winnipeg, a Member of the Grain Commission, J. H. Haslam, of Regina, and Mr. James Goldie of Guelph, a prominent miller.

Mr. Crerar, the Leader of the Agrarian party, and President of the United Grain Growers Company, declared in Parliament that his Company welcomed the fullest investigation. For days the atmosphere at the House of Commons was surcharged with talk and gossip about serious disclosures which would be made before the Commission, and there was much speculation as to the ultimate outcome.

extraordinary session of the Commission was held at Fort William, at which charges of a grave character were made against officials of the United Grain Growers Company. We quote from the report of the Winnipeg "Free Press" as to these proceedings.

## Meeting at Fort William

"The first witness called was R. J. Henderson, grain dealer, who, being sworn by Charles Birkett, deposed in part as follows: That he had during 1912 and 1913 been employed by the Grain Growers Grain Company (now the United Grain Growers) as superintendent of their newly leased terminal elevators, to-wit, Elevators B and E, owned by the Canadian Pacific railway and leased by the Grain Growers Grain company. Elevator B was a working house and Elevator E was a storage elevator. It had a number of bins; some o these bins could be examined by dropping a light down into them; others could not. It had been his own practice with bins into which lights could not be dropped to open the spouts at the bottom of the eleva-tors and drop a stone or small piece of iron through the manhole at the top. If this object came out of the spout at the bottom there would be no grain in the bin; if it did not it would be evidence that there was still grain in the bin. Another way of testing was merely to tap the spout at the bottom of the bin and if no grain ran out to assume the bin was empty. He intimated that this latter method was the one usually adopted by the government weighmasters when making the annual weigh-up of elevators in August. He claimed that in all Elevator E had some 25 or 30 bins into which it was impossible to drop lights and examine them that way. In 1913 had been called to Winnipeg by the board of directors of the company. The board was composed of T. A. Crerar; Moffatt, who was the secretary; Freame (he thought); Roderick McKenzie and John Kennedy. The reason given for calling him to Win-nipeg was that he could operate the house better from there. An assist-ant named Harry Rogers was made acting superintendent in the absence of witness; Murdoch McKay was foreman; James Kittrides was will foreman; James Kittridge was mill-wright. He remained in Winnipeg until the end of his engagement. He was employed on a salary and a 5 per cent commis of the terminal. cent commission of the profits

## Statutory Declaration.

After he had left the company he had seen the millwright, Kittridge and on May 9, 1921, Kittridge had furnished him with a declaration. R. A. Bonnar, K.C., here produced a typewritten copy of a statutory declaration which the witness, Henderson, stated that he recognized as the one which he had read over to Kitt-ridge and which Kittridge had declared before J. L. Morton, a notary public. The declaration was admit-ted as Exhibit A and filed. It read as follows:-

Statutory declaration No. 1 "I, James Kittridge, of the city of Fort William, in the province of Ontario, do solemnly declare that I was ntillwright in elevators B and E owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway and leased to the Grain Growers Grain Company, Limited, in the summer of 1913, and I have been employed in such capacity ever

man, Murdock McKay, to put in false bottoms in certain bins in elevator E before the annual weighup that usually takes place about August of each year. "That on such orders from the

foreman, McKay, I did build and

work being done
"I further declare that Mr. Hen-

was done in the absence of R. J. Henderson, the superintendent at that time, and as far as I knew Mr. Henderson had no knowledge of this work being done

"I further declare that Mr. Henderson never gave me any orders in connection with this work or any work of like nature.

"And I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act. (Signed)

J.Kittridge. "Declared before me at the city of Fort William in the province of Ontario, this 9th day of May, 1921.

(Signed)

"J. L. Morton,

"A[Notary[Public.:"]

Says He Spoke to J. R. Murray. The witness continued his evidence and claimed that he had accused the Grain Growers Grain company with reference to these false bottoms to J. R. Murray at a meeting held in the board room on the tenth floor of the Grain Exchange about two years are. It was change about two years ago. It was not exactly a public meeting, but there were a number present. It was a meeting about feed and other things, and the livestock commissioner for Canada was present and he thought he was presiding; anyway there were a lot of people there.

the he had accused the company of having made a cross trade whereby \$50,000 from the terminal elevator account was transferred to the account of the Grain Growers Export company. It was put in in

Henderson claimed that Mottatt, secretary of the company (Mr. Moffatt is now deceased) had wanted him to do this, but he had refused to transfer profits and commissions of the terminal company to the export company considering it was against the rules of the Grain Exchange and also criminal. His attention was called to it having been done by the auditors of the Price-Waterhouse company. Witness further claimed that he had, to Mr. Murray, accused the Grain Growers Grain company of loading out 2,000,000 bushels of wheat without having the warehouse receipts for the form of an option trade.

Disappearance of Witnesses. We continue to quote from the Manitoba "Free Press" report.

The witness, Kittridge, who had been summoned, was officially called twice during the morning and failed to appear, as did also Frank Birch, electrician, and Peter Spence, house foreman of the Grain Growers Grain

before 11 o'clock to meet again at 2, and two witnesses, W. Falkner and B. Hill, grain inspectors, who had

## Prominent Western Liberals Rally to Administration

Winnipeg Organization Meeting Shows Strong Fusion in Favor of National Liberal and Conservative

Party's Platform. Western supporters of the Meighen Government are jubilant over the big meeting held in the Winnipeg Board of Trade on Wednesday June 8, which was addressed by H. H. Stevens, M.P., for Vancouver, Dr. W. J. Manion, M.P., for Fort William and Rainey River, Dr. R. M. Blake, M.P., for North Winnipeg, and George W. Allen, M.P. for South Winnipeg. The meeting was called to organize the riding of South Winnipeg, and the requisition calling this meeting on behalf of the Government was signed by the leading citizens of Winnipeg, former Conservative and Liberal alike, who supported Union Government in 1917., and are now supporting the Meighen Government.

A glance at the list of names will show that the prominent Liberals of Mariteba who placed country.

The signatures to the support of Sir Robert Borden and the winning of the war are now determined to support the National Liberal and Conservative party under the leadership of Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen. The meeting exceeded in the South Winnipeg riding during 1917 election. Not only did it form an organization for South Winnipeg, but it started a movement now successfully being carried on to organize the Government forces in all the ridings in Manitoba. The Meighen Government in 1917., and are now supporting the Meighen Government.

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The signatures to the resolution of South Winnipeg, former Conservative and Liberal alike, who supported Union Government in 1917. and are now supporting the Meighen Government.

The signatures to the resolution of South Winnipeg association will command respect and inspire confidence all over the country.

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L. C. Stephens Donald McIver

John Stevens F. E. H. Luke

H. W. Whitla

Wilson Smith W. A. Hossie

G. F. R. Harris Geo. L. Guy J. H. G. Russen

H. H. Smith

Allan S. Bond' A. K. Dysart A. R. D. Patterson Jasper Halpenny Alfred J. Andrews Robert McKay A. M. McDougall Charles F. Gray Wm. J. Bulman W. Douglas R. T. Riley W. L. Orde Geo. J. Dodd R. O. Taylor A. H. Pulford W. T. Alexander A. E. Hoskin H. P. Burbridge E. L. Taylor
Thomas Wilson
J. H. Henderson
Philip C. Locke
J. W. Briggs
E. C. Bennest A. E. Rowland S. M. Campbell J. M. Baird J. G. Hargrave Charles Holden A. H. Hanna J. C. Kyle Benj. L. Deacon Travers Sweatman Jno. K. Sparling: W. W. Coleman R. M. McLeod N. J. Breen Thos. Sharpe P. D. McKinnon

E. H. Bissett J. W. E. Armstrong

F. Pratt Kuhn H. C. Morrison

R. Dunn H. Marples

H. Gray R. G. O'Malley

N. F. Calder W. J. Clubb

A. E. Wyatt
A. Douglass
W. H. Ringer
F. W. Russell

Ben, C. Parker E, G. Brickler Charles McFadyen

J. A. Wilson W. S. Ronald A. E. Johnston

A. E. Johnston Ernest T. Leech E. Loftus G. E. Baldry G. V. Hastings S. L. Goldstein James Auld

F. A. Johns
J. Waugh
V. A. Banfield
W. Melstead
W. Timmons
D. Free R. D. Fry Wellington Willis W. T. Peace J. L. Elvin Everett Boyd Burton McLean W. J. Taylor W. T. Chisholm H. M. Bunnell Stanley P. Osborne Chas. S. Richardso William Bell D. L. McIntyre W. H. Cross S. W. Abbott H. D. Wright S. B. Ritchie S. B. Ritchie T. J. Langford Henry Detchon H. F. Osler J. Hobbs Harry M. Agnew John Wildman W. A. McKay J. C. Waugh A. S. Binns J. Clarke Ed. Smith Chas. F. Roland

C. S. Riley John Erzinger

E. R. Chapman W. R. Allan

R. J. Shore T. A. Irvine J. F. McCallum G. M. Black

show that the prominent Liberals of Manitoba who placed country calling the meeting follow:— Samson Walker Samson Walker
C. F. Rannard
F. R. Sproule
Thos. A. Van Vliet
R. C. Persse
A. R. Brooking
A. E. Ham
W. T. Hart
L. Lightfoot W. J. Hargreaves J. C. Collinson H. J. Riley
E. D. Honeyman
R. W. Craig
Harry F. Moulden J. Lightfoot H. C. Hodgson C. E. Chown D. H. Bain

D. H. Bain
J. W. Argue
E. S. Read
C. M. Andrew
H. J. Clare
C. F. Woodward
F. D. Burns
Fred. W. Pace
F. J. O'Connor
T. R. Deacon R. C. Cameron
J. A. Wolfe
J. L. Neilson
A. E. Robertson
Jno. A. Wallace
A. M. Nanton
G. H. Aikens
R. Driscoll
Emelie E. V. Parnell
F. H. Dumble
F. A. Lohra R. A. Rogers
J. W. Morrison
W. G. Furnival
John Gibb Richard Wilson Richard Wilson
H. G. Spurgeon
J. B. Monk
D. L. Lewers
D. B. McDonnell
H. J. M. McFarlane S. Brown G. H. Miner G. S. Strang W. J. Guest R. F. Rorke L. J. Ramsay J. S. Menzies John McRae Fred. J. Baker A. J. Abromovitch E. J. Peltire D. N. Finnie S. G. Newall Herbert McDougal John Nairn John A. Machray William Page J. A. Thompson J. E. Holland J. E. Holland
Mary Speechly
J. C. Kyle
A. C. Ferguson
F. J. Sharpe
H. K. Smith
Sarah M. Stidston
F. W. Henry
Minnie J. B. Campbell
Grace M. Furnival L. E. Lewers F. F. Carruthers Charles Locke W. W. Kennedy Dwight Ostrosse A. C. Merritt F. de Sieyes D. A. Kaiser C. Argue R. F. Downie T. Achison C. J. Atchison E. R. Dowdell Thos. H. Butt
J. P. Turner
Thos. Billington
Wm. Hamilton
J. A. Henderson

present, were asked to wait over until the afternoon.

· Witnesses Still Missing. At 2 o'clock the commission reas sembled, but the missing witnesses being again called, were absent, and Mr. Bonnar then decided that he would not examine the two grain in-

would not examine the two grain inspectors who were present as they had been called specially with a view of testifying in regard to evidence which he had expected to secure from the witnesses who had not turned up.

Asked as to what action would be taken in regard to them, Mr. Bonnar admitted that he considered it equal to contempt of court, but also admitted that he did not know if they could be sent to jail. In fact, to quote his own words, he "had not thought anyone would be so discourteous as to disobey the summons of a royal commission and had, therefore, not posted himself on the exact law in the matter." It was, he continued, a matter for the commission as a whole to deal with and it would be dealt with in that way. The commission then formally adjourned.

Reason for Special Session.

Reason for Special Sessio In explanation of the reason for holding a special session at Fort William, with Mr. Birkett, Secretary of the Commission, acting as Commissioner, Mr. Bonnar, the Counsel for the Commission, made the following statement:—

[]

"I left the Commission in the West in order to return to Winnipeg West in order to return to Winnipeg to deal with the matter of questionnaires sent out by the Board to certain interests in Winnipeg and not replied to. When I got back here I heard a rumor to the effect that the evidence we expected to get in Fort William might disappear. I, therefore, considered it important to secure this evidence, and Mr. Birkett was duly commissioned to take it. My fears of the disdisappearance of this evidence would seem to have been well founded.

It is provided by Section 93of the Public Inquiries Act, under which the Royal Commission was appointed, that If, by reason of the distance by which any person, whose evidence i which any person, whose evidence is desired, resides from the place where his attendance is required, or for any other cause, the commissioner or commissioners deem it advisable, he or they may issue a commission or other authority to any officer or person named therein, empowering him to take such evidenec and report

**Murray Attacks Commission** 

Immediately following the Fort William session, Mr. J. R. Murray, one of the Officials of the United Grain Growers Company, who was specially mentioned in the charges of Mr. Henderson, made a vigorous attack on the Commission, which, in fairness, we quote in full.

"It was without doubt one of the most contemptible as well as one of the most unscrupulous performances that has ever been undertaken

under the guise of government authority in this country. "In the first place, Mr. Justice Hyndman, chairman of the inquiry board, at the first public sitting of the board, in this city on May 23 clearly stated that it was his inten tion to conduct investigations fair's and above board, and that those against whom any charges might be made would be notified of them and given the fullest opportunity to be present and defend themselves

"Instead of the 'fullest oppor-tunity' being granted to those affected by the meeting in Fort William on Saturday, to meet the charges made by R. J. Henderson against the United Grain Growers what did we find? A hole-in-the-corner conclave, secretly planned for what did we find? A hole-in-thecorner conclave, secretly planned for
the purpose of exploding upon an
unsuspecting public 'the bombshell'
which was so generally referred to at
Ottawa three months ago when the
Royal Grain Inquiry Board was
suggested on the floor of parliament.
Even the press, with the exception
of The Winnipeg "Tribune," was to
be excluded.

Says Hearing Staged "Early in the past week, Mr. Birkett, the secretary of the inquiry board, went to Fort William and took with him his star witness, Henderson. The only information obtainable at the office of the inquiry board on Friday last as to Birkett's whereabouts, was that he 'was out.' R. A. Bonnar, counse for the board, who had deserted the board proper in Saskatchewan and board proper in Saskatchewan and Alberta last week, was also engaged in lining things up secretly for the hearing in Fort William. The Winnipeg 'Tribune,' which has been playing the part of publicity bureau for the government and the inquiry board during the past three months, was also party to the clandestine enterprise at Fort William. Every thing was staged for a big exposur and 'scoop' in The 'Tribune' for Saturday afternoon. Bonnar, Birk ett and the newspaper were to have

it all to themselves. "Certain witnesses, including three employes of the United Grain Growers at Fort William, were subpoenaed by Mr. Birkett in the name of Judge Hyndman on Friday. Those subpoenaes were not even signed by the person of Judge Hyndman o any of the regularly constituted members of the board of inquiry.

"To reveal still further the charac ter of the hearing at Fort William Mr. Birkett upon seeing the repre-sentative of a Winnipeg newspaper in a room in the Fort William Grain Exchange building, where evidence was to be heard, protested vigorously against the presence of this member of the press, saying that this was a private meeting, but he finally sub-

mitted that Mr. Bonnar would have to deal with the matter. When Mr. Bonnar appeared, he attempted to say that there had been nothing

Charges False Evidence.

"Mr. Bonnar, seeing that his effort to get three workmen before them for examination to accumulate a further store of hearsay evidence, was frustrated, endeavored to make the most of the occasion by proceed-ing with his willing witness, Hender-

"Henderson then produced an affidavit which has been in the hands of 'Billy' Staples and in the knowledge of the Prine Minister of Canada for several months. Henderson, I am now told, has had his affidavit regarding false slides in elevators B and E, since 1913. His statements involving my name were deliberately false. He knew when he made them that in 1913 or at any time before that year, I had absolutely nothing to do with the terminal elevators of the United Grain Growers or any other company. My position in the United Grain Growers in 1913 was in charge of the commission department on the Winnipeg exchange. More than that, everything which was mentioned by Henderson in his evidence, if it occurred at all, it occurred while he was in charge of those very terminal was in charge of those very terminal charge. I am advised that I cannot prosecute him for perjury because there was no person properly authorized to administer him the

oath.

"The dragging of my name into the hearing at Fort William can only be accounted for by the fact that 'Billy' Staples, after having been obliged to go before the head of the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa to explain certain actions of the Board of Grain Commissioners, of which he was or is still a ers, of which he was or is still, a member, made the declaration that he would 'get me yet.'

"So far as the company is con-erned, they have, be ore the cost of living committee at Ottawa and in the case of the Prica-Waterhouse audit of terminal elevants, shown their willingness to furned in formation to any fair and just all body. I have no doubt the Henderson's statements will be dealt with in due course."

Application for Injunction

Swiftly following on the heels of Mr. Murray's attack, the United Grain Growers Company, and the forty-odd companies interested in the grain handling business, applied for and secured a temporary injunction. Mr. Justice Hyndman respected the injunction as regards the proceedings

njunction as regards the proceedings in Manitoba, but remarked:— "It is very unfortunate as we had intended holding a special sitting in Winnipeg when we arrived there in order that all parties who felt aggrieved on account of the special sitting at Fort William, might have an opportunity to recite their side of the case fully and disprove the

statement given in eivdence, if they could." Hon. Mr. Crerar's Attitude

"The Hon. Mr. Crerar stated that the Royal Commission is a political plan to 'get him,' and while absolving Mr. Justice Hyndman from any attempt to be unfair, he openly proclaimed that the Commission is in effect a dastardly plot against him politically. Commenting upon this, Mr. Justice

Hyndman stated:—
"Every opportunity will be given the Hon. Mr. Crerar to prove his charges that the Royal Commission is a political plan to 'get him.'
"As to the charges made at Fort William against Mr. Crerar's company, Mr, Crerar will be given fullest possible inquiry. Anything less than that would be unfair." Hyndman stated:-Further Explanations by

Mr. Bonnar

Speaking at Calgary on June 16th, R. A. Bonnar, K.C., replying to the published reports and criticisms of the so-called secret hearing at Fort William, said:—

am, said:—
"There was absolutely nothing secret about it at all. Subpoenas were served on the Friday morning on three employees of the U.G.G. terminal elevator at Fort William, also on two ex-employees, summoning them to appear before sub-Commissioner C. Birkett, on Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. M. McKay, superintendent of the U.G. G. terminal elevator, resides at Fort William and was in the city both on Friday and Saturday, so I was informed. I was also informed that Mr. Watt, one of the officials of the company at Winnipeg, was also in Fort William at the time; there was no difficulty whatever in the company at Winnipeg begins of the company at the co pany at Winnipeg having anyone they desired present at the sitting. There was absolutely no secrecy on my part as many people in Winnipeg

his name three times in the corridors. There was no response, I then called one of the other employees who had been subpoenaed in the same way

and he did not answer.
"The two ex-employees who had been subpoenaed each answered then but as my information was that their evidence was only supplemen-tary to the other three who had not answered I did not think it necessary to take their evidence, I then called the policeman who had served the three employees and proved by him that he had served each of them

Company Would Know, "I have no doubt whatever but that when the subpoenas were served everyone connected with the company would know all about it as the witnesses so served were

quite important employees in their company. I had not been notified by any solicitor or counsel repre-senting the company in connection with the inquiry, otherwise I would have formally notified them immediately after the subpoenas were served.

Were served.

I left the Commission to return to Winnipeg to look after the questionnaires and after arrival received information that made me think it advisable to secure the evidence at Fort William at once, and I think subsequent events justified me is moving quickly.

"There is nothing that will afford me more pleasure than to have all witnesses who can throw any light on this matter give their evidence before the commission," he concluded.

A Sensation in the West

Naturally, the whole affair has created a great sensation in Western Canada. It is a veritable cause celebre. Nearly every lawyer in Winnipeg in one way or another is involved in the hearing of the injunction. Whatever may be the outcome of the injunction proceedings, the case is likely to go to the highest court in the

Winnipeg "Tribune" Comment The Winnipeg "Tribune" com-

mented on the matter editorially, as ollows:—

"The resentment against enquiry by a Royal Commission has led to an appeal to the courts to disallow the method of regulation as ultra vires of the body which brought it into force, and this question is now subjudice.

"The accusation that political animus against Mr. Crerar, who is a prominent politician, was at the bottom of the Royal Commission.

a prominent politician, was at the bottom of the Royal Commission, and the counter accusation that the members of the grain trade have taken the steps they have, because they have something to conceal, are neither here nor there.

What Really Matters

"It does not in the disheat do

What Really Matters
"It does not in the slightest degree matter whether there is political animus against Crerar or not, nor does it matter whether any members of the grain trade, or all of them, or none of them, have anything to conceal.
"What does matter is that the producer of grain should have con-

producer of grain should have confidence in the integrity of the proces by which his grain is collected from himself and distributed. And the

himself and distributed. And the people of Canada propose to see that he has this confidence.

"As to the method under the constitution by which this may legally be done, the people of Canada will accept the advice and direction of the courts, but as to their fundamental, inherent and sovereign prerogative in the premises, they propose to have the final word. pose to have the final word.
A Public Trust

The grain trade is at least as much a public trust as a bank or a railway. Surely the collection and distribution of the grain of a country is not less important than the col-lection and transmission of its com-modities over a railway system, or the collection and utilization of its fluid resources by a bank. Nor is regulation less necessary in the one 'The interests which are trying

to thwart an investigation of the grain trade cannot be permitted to be a law unto themselves." Bases for Injunction

The bases for the application for the injunction, as disclosed in Court, 1. That the Dominion Parliament

had no authority to pass the Canadian Grain Act.

2. That the matter of the regulation of the grain trade is one for the Province and not the Dominion. 3. That the meeting held at Fort Wi iam was not a proper meeting.
4. That inasmuch as Mr. Staples

is required by law to devote his whole time to the duties of his position as a Member of the Board of Grain Commissions, he is prevented from sitting as a member of the Royal Commission.

It is not our desire or intention to enter into a discussion of the applica-tion for the injunction. The Courts Commission to damage him politically, he cannot complain if his attitude and that of his Company are made the subject of comment. Here in the East, where this publication is issued, knew I was going to Fort William to attend a special session.

When Mr. Birkett opened the hearing, Mr. Kittridge, who was a millwright in the internal elevator of the U.G.G., was called and did not answer his name, although he had been subpoenaed. The policeman who was present went out and called his name three times in the control of the public mind. The simple fact would appear to be that somewhat grave charges were made grave charges were made against the officials of the Grain Growers com pany, and instead of replying to or disputing these charges, an effort te being made to squash the whole proeedings. One would imagine that apart from the alleged irregularity in the proceedings, the officials and the company concerned would be only too anxious to make their reply and place the facts from their standpoint, before the public.

A most serious factor is the disapdisappear, or, at all events, not show up in court in answer to their sum-