

commission were independent and responsible to the legislature, this difficulty would largely be removed. Then when the Grain Growers have to deal with the Elevator Commission or with the government, their position will be greatly weakened by having Mr. McCuaig acting in both capacities. It makes it very difficult for Mr. McCuaig and in his effort to do justice to both his positions he may fail in one or both. It is an unfair position to place a man, and the association would be doing Mr. McCuaig a kindness to relieve him of the presidency, and allow him to devote all his time to the elevator commission. Then again, during the excitement of an election campaign such as the present, Mr. McCuaig may be criticised for addressing meetings for fear he might be inadvertently using his position for a political purpose. The Grain Growers' Association is independent of political parties and it would be unfortunate, if through Mr. McCuaig's dual position, any such trouble should occur. Mr. McCuaig will have a vast amount of work on his shoulders as chairman of the commission, to make the Elevator Act satisfactory to the farmers, and they should not impose on him by expecting him to still retain the presidency. Of course this is a matter that is in the hands of Mr. McCuaig and the association and we merely open it up for discussion, as it has been brought before us several times by our readers.

MR. BONNAR'S PLATFORM

We publish in this issue the address which Mr. R. A. Bonnar, K.C., has made to the electors of the constituency of Assiniboia in Manitoba. Mr. Bonnar is offering himself to the electors as an independent man. It is on account of his strong and impartial stand and because of his great services to the Grain Growers that we favor his candidature. He has stood by the farmers through thick and thin and it has been in a great measure due to his assistance that the Grain Growers of Manitoba have accomplished so much in the interests of the province. Mr. Bonnar is one of the ablest lawyers in Western Canada and he has chosen to use his talents in aid of the great agricultural interests. Not many lawyers do this. In his address he takes a firm stand on the two great questions of importance to the farmers. He is determined that his influence shall go towards helping the Grain Growers to secure a commission that will be independent of political parties to operate the elevator system. He is also a firm believer in the merits of direct legislation. Not only does he believe that it should be on the statute books but he has offered to make himself amenable to the Recall at any time, even before it becomes law. Mr. Bonnar, by his endorsement of these two great principles, pays a compliment to the intelligence of the Grain Growers who have demanded these reforms. Naturally, he will not blindly follow any party. We should be glad to see more men of the high type of Mr. Bonnar in public life. It would tend to eliminate these charges of graft that are continually heard. It would give our boys something better to look up to. When our daily papers are filled with stories of plunder and graft that are charged against our public men, the moral effect on the growing generation is decidedly bad. We want independent men of spotless integrity to represent us in all our legislatures. We believe that the presence of Mr. Bonnar in the legislature will be one of the best possible influences for purifying our political life that we can have. We want men who place their country above their party.

SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS STAND

In last week's issue of THE GUIDE, we published the memorandum which the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' executive presented to the Elevator Commission of that province. In

that memorandum they outlined the system of elevators which they believe to be the most satisfactory that could be provided for handling the grain trade of Saskatchewan. The memorandum shows the result of deep and careful study and a full knowledge of the intricacies of the grain trade. There is no doubt but that some satisfactory system must be designed to break the monopoly of storing and shipping facilities. It is that monopoly which throttles the competition in the purchasing and thus takes from the pockets of the Saskatchewan farmers a large percentage of the legitimate value of their grain. The growing of grain is the great industry of that vast province and the government would be justified in going to almost any extent (within reason) towards securing a system which would place the grain trade upon an equitable basis. The memorandum goes into the details necessary for the operation of a proper system and also emphasizes the fact that no system can be a success unless its eventual aim is to become practical, if not a legal, monopoly. The system asked for, provides that grain may be sold on sample in open competition and held in the initial elevators until the sale is completed. It also asks for the provision of a negotiable receipt as soon as the grain is stored in the initial elevator, in order that the farmer may at once receive an advance upon his grain. These are two very desirable features. A sample market in Winnipeg would give the Saskatchewan Grain Growers an opportunity to sell their grain on a market open to the competition of the world's buyers, and would insure for them the highest possible price and the elimination of the unjust profits of the middlemen. Another important provision in the memorandum, is that providing advantageous shipping facilities for handling quantities of grain less than car lots, so that they will bring car lot prices. This will be a great help to the small farmer, and will place him on an equality with the big farmer.

As pointed out, in the memorandum no satisfaction can be secured unless the government is prepared to take hold of the elevator scheme with the determination to make it an absolute success. It may not pay for itself at the outset, but that should not discourage the government from taking up the proposition. It will pay for itself eventually and the Grain Growers have expressed their willingness that any deficit might be charged to capital account if deemed necessary. The government could well afford to carry the deficit until the system makes a return. The Grain Growers of Saskatchewan, like those of Manitoba, want to see the elevators operated by a commission entirely independent of political influence, and responsible to the legislature, and in return for their guarantee they ask some voice in the method of operation. The memorandum presented by the Grain Growers is by far the most important presentation made to the Elevator Commission. It will no doubt commend itself to the Grain Growers all over Saskatchewan, and have their hearty support. Such being the case, the commission will no doubt give it much earnest consideration in making their report to the government. We commend to the Grain Growers of Saskatchewan, the memorandum presented by their executive. It would be well for them to study it very carefully and discuss it at their meetings. We think that special attention should be given to the appointment and control of the commission, and that as the memorandum states, it should be entirely free from political influence. If the Grain Growers in the local branches are favorable to the scheme outlined in the memorandum, it would be well for them to express their approval by resolution.

CANADIAN NORTHERN ALIVE

It begins to look as though the grain manipulators at the Lake front may be brought to a halt very soon. The following statement was given to the public last week by R. J. Mackenzie, son of the President of the Canadian Northern Railway, in speaking of the terminal elevator graft:

"If it is found that the reports are true remedies will be applied that will effectually prevent a repetition. The public may feel assured that we will insist on the Grain Act being lived up to in every detail. As our Port Arthur elevator is under lease we had no intimation that any irregularities existed, but now that the matter has been brought to our attention, we shall certainly investigate thoroughly and will see that no further cause is given for complaint."

The big 7,000,000 bushel capacity elevators of the Canadian Northern are under lease to the Port Arthur Elevator Company, which was heavily fined a few weeks ago. It may be difficult for the railway to bring the elevator company to terms, but it will be in the interest of the farmers to do so. Nothing short of government ownership will make things right.

If the Western farmers want agricultural implements to come into Canada free of duty they must stand firm to the resolutions they have passed and see that no members get into the House of Commons from the West at next election who are not pledged to this. In the same way they must not allow any members to get into our Western legislatures who are not pledged to the principles demanded by the farmers.

When the Grain Growers hold their annual conventions they pass a number of important resolutions. The only way to get the reforms is to have representatives in the legislature in favor of them. If the farmers present a firm front no politicians will dare tamper with their demands. It is only by passing these resolutions and then standing by them at the polls that Western Canada will be made what the farmers want it to be.

The Winnipeg Free Press in quoting editorial statements from THE GUIDE last Thursday, used only such parts as suited it for party purposes. The editorials in THE GUIDE are not intended to be used for party purposes; they are intended to present the truth to our readers.

The Grain Growers of Saskatchewan by supporting their executive will become unanimously in favor of a good system of public elevators. If the Grain Growers are of one mind they can get what they want; if not, they may not get it.

If the farmers in the West hold together and stand firmly in support of the needed reforms they will get them. If the farmers are divided amongst themselves their cause will not prosper.

If the farmers of Manitoba want the elevator system run under an independent commission they should see that the candidates they vote for are pledged to this principle.

Laurier is coming West to complete his education and the Grain Growers will play a goodly part in this work.