

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, June 28th, 1911

THE CORONATION

The coronation of King George was successfully accomplished last week with the ceremonious splendor which tradition has given the occasion. Four hundred millions of people on June 22 realized that in Westminster a king was being crowned to rule over them. The feelings of these people were vastly different from those engendered by the coronation ceremony centuries ago. Today there is no feeling of bondage nor of domination from the throne, but the citizens of the British Empire see in the crowning of their king a guarantee of the continuation of the free institutions which the Anglo-Saxon race has developed. The day of "Divine Right" and of the might of kings in Britain has disappeared, and as the power of the people has become supreme so the office of king has a deeper significance. King George is technically our ruler, but in reality he possesses no power beyond that given him by Parliament. His coronation and that of Queen Mary is an intimation to the citizens of the world's greatest empire that "all's well." The warmest feelings of good will towards King George and Queen Mary personally will be extended by the people of Western Canada. May the influence of their majesties always be towards the amelioration of conditions under which millions of their subjects suffer. No higher or holier cause can command the support of the world's greatest than that of service to mankind. Though a limited monarchy the British Empire is the world's greatest democracy. Nowhere is there greater freedom in word, thought and action than in the great empire over which floats the Union Jack. God Save the King!

THE GRAIN BILL

The Winnipeg Telegram, in its issue of June 24, under the heading "The Grain Bill Gold Brick," says in part:

"When the bill was originally introduced it contained the following clause, number one hundred and twenty-three:

"No person owning, managing, operating or otherwise interested in any public terminal elevator shall buy or sell grain or be interested in any other form of storage of grain.

"The clause then goes on, reasonably enough, to exempt mill owners operating elevators at the same terminal points as their mills. From the farmers' point of view that is explicit enough. That clause, whether it forced the government into the business or not, would most unquestionably force the mixers out of it. The clause was made enforceable by very heavy penalties. Clause two hundred and forty-two reads:

"Every person is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a penalty of not less than five thousand dollars and costs and not exceeding twenty thousand dollars and costs and to imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years who—

to put it shortly, infringes clause one hundred and twenty-three, or mixes grain, or makes an untrue statement under the act as to receipts and shipments. Officers of corporations are also made personally liable and elevators of offenders are to be closed.

"These are the vital operative clauses of the bill. Outside of these the bill is of no value whatever. With them it goes very nearly to the root of the matter. It might reasonably appear to any farmer that Mr. Borden and the Conservative party should, upon their own declarations, support a bill containing clauses such as those, that opposition could not be otherwise than factious and inconsistent with Mr. Borden's platform declarations.

"A deliberate attempt was made to have it appear so by the political executive of the Grain Growers' Association, who knew all about the matter, in the eyes of the farmers who did not. The Opposition to this bill would have been factious, impolitic and disadvantageous to the country but for one circumstance. CLAUSES ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE AND TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-TWO WERE DROPPED FROM THE BILL BY THE GOVERNMENT AT THE BEHEST OF THE ELEVATOR INTERESTS, AND THIS PRECIOUS EXECUTIVE OF THE GRAIN GROWERS WHO MADE THE REPRESENTATIONS THAT THEY DID AT BRANDON KNEW ALL ABOUT IT."

All of this is true excepting that portion in black type, which is not in accordance with the facts. Clauses 123 and 242 were not dropped, but were amended in the Senate and read as follows in the bill now before the House for a second reading:

"123. No person owning, managing, operating or otherwise interested in any public or terminal elevator shall buy or sell grain at any point in the Western Inspection Division.

4. Sub-section 1 of this section shall not apply to any person who owns, manages, operates, or is otherwise interested in any terminal elevator,

(1) which has been leased to the board for operation, or which has been leased to any person, firm or company for operation with the approval of the board, or which is managed and operated by persons approved by the board; or

(2) which is used or operated in connection with any flour mill situate at the same terminal as such elevator.

"Provided, however, that such elevator shall be subject to such restrictions and regulations as are from time to time imposed by the board, with the approval of the Governor-in-Council."

"242. Every person is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a penalty of not less than five thousand dollars and costs, and not exceeding twenty thousand dollars and costs and to imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years, who—

(a) while owning, managing, operating, or being otherwise interested in any public or terminal elevator, buys or sells grain at any point in the Western Inspection Division, contrary to the provisions of section 123 of this Act,

(b) mixes different grades of grain while such grain is stored in any terminal elevator,

(c) makes any untrue statement (with respect to anything required by this act) as to the receipts or shipments into or out of any terminal elevator, or as to the quantity, kind or grade of grain in store in a terminal elevator.

2. If any corporation is convicted of an offence under this section every officer of such corporation and every person interested in or employed by the said corporation who had any part or share in the commission of such offence, shall also be liable to the said penalties.

3. Any terminal elevator in respect of which, or in which any offence mentioned in this section has been committed shall not be licensed or operated for a period not exceeding one year in the discretion of the board, after the conviction of the person committing the offence."

Any person reading clause 123 as amended, will agree with the Telegram "That this clause, whether it forced the government into the business or not would most unquestionably force the mixers out of it." At least this is the intent of the clause and is so understood by the Grain Growers. When the bill was before the House on May 18, the opposition members did not object to clauses 123 and 242, but Dr. Schaffner, member for Souris, stated that he was suspicious of clause 16 which is as follows:

"16. The Governor-in-Council may authorize the minister to construct, acquire, lease or expropriate for His Majesty any terminal elevator, if Parliament has granted the money for such purpose.

2. The Expropriation Act shall, in all cases, apply to the acquisition or lease of such terminal elevators and to the ascertaining of the compensation to be paid therefor."

Dr. Schaffner said in part:

"The farmers of the West have asked for government operation principally, they have asked for government ownership, but to my mind it is not so important who owns the terminal elevators as it is who operates them, and there is absolutely nothing in the bill that grants government operation. Will the minister of interior answer this straight question: Is it the intention of the government at this session to provide in the estimates for money to buy or lease these terminal elevators and to operate them entirely by the government? If the Minister of the Interior answers that question in the affirmative, I will admit there is something in clause 16 of the bill to meet the demands of the farmers."

Mr. Oliver—"I am not authorized to speak for the government, but I would like to say to the farmer with my hon. friend, that if he will let this bill pass now we who are able to get a sum in the estimates to enable the bill to be operated in that way."

Dr. Schaffner—"I will have to be more definite in my questions and the Minister of the Interior will have to be more definite in his answer."

Mr. Oliver—"I said that if the hon. gentleman and his friends would allow the bill to pass, there would be some object in the government providing a sum in the estimates, but until the bill passes there is no

warrant for the government putting a sum in the estimates."

Dr. Schaffner—"I tell the Minister of the Interior—and I think I can speak for my colleagues from the West—that if he will promise us right now, no 'may' about it—to place a sum in the estimates to purchase or lease those elevators and to operate them by the government I, and I believe my colleagues from the West, will allow the bill to pass at once and give it no opposition. I am suspicious of that clause 16."

Mr. Oliver—"I might suggest to my hon. friend that it might not do any harm to try it. Let him allow the bill to pass and take chances on the government voting the money and the farmers would not be any worse off."

Dr. Schaffner—"We have had too much experience of letting things go through without a definite promise, to lead me to place any faith in the government. But I do say that if the minister would state right now that there would be a sum placed in the estimates to buy or lease these elevators and operate them, we will not oppose the bill for a moment."

Mr. Oliver—"My hon. friend knows that no member of the government can pledge the government out-hand in that way, and he is not fair in making such a challenge as that."

Mr. Campbell, Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Lake spoke along the same line, emphasizing that the farmers wanted government ownership and operation. None of the gentlemen raised any objection to clauses 123 and 242. There does not seem to be any difference of opinion as to the facts of these clauses, as "whether it forces the government into the business or not, it would force the grain dealers out of the terminal elevators."

BORDEN AND THE WEST

Mr. Borden has already met and heard the representations of the organized farmers in all three Prairie Provinces and has yet more of them to hear at other points where he will speak. He has stated his attitude upon the leading questions which appeal to the Western farmers. It is with mingled feelings of gratification and disappointment that the Western people will hear and read Mr. Borden's addresses. The Conservative leader is a man whose position and his public and private life, are such as to command the highest respect. Such a public man is welcome in the West no matter what his views may be. As a prospective premier of Canada he is wisely meeting the people of Canada and hearing their views. It is most pleasing to the Western people to know that a man of such wide experience and holding such a responsible position approves of their demands for state owned and operated terminals, state owned and operated railway to Hudson Bay and for encouragement and assistance to the chilled meat industry. The fact that Mr. Borden and his followers in the House of Commons have given their definite pledge in support of these three schemes for the improvement of the condition of the common people indicates that there is merit in the demands. Mr. Borden says that if he is returned to power that the Hudson Bay Railway will be completed and in operation in four years and that it will be operated by the government. The government has endeavored to convince the Western people that their demands upon these three questions, if acceded to, would be detrimental to the best interests of Canada. The Western people have, of course, known that they were contending for the right and have not been deterred by the attitude of the government. Mr. Borden and his party can now be expected to fight the cause of the farmers in the House of Commons until justice is secured. The thanks of the Western people are due to Mr. Borden for his straight forward and business-like statement of policy upon these questions. He has convinced the Western people of the wisdom of fighting persistently for their rights.

Mr. Borden has been equally frank and definite upon the tariff question. There has been no beating about the bush as is the usual