

INTER-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF PREMIERS

The conference between the Premiers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the Inter-Provincial Council of the Grain Growers and the Farmers' Association, which has been looked forward to with eager anticipation by members of the Grain Growers' Association in each of the provinces, has at length been held.

The conference was first called for June 29th, but had to be postponed owing to the absence of one of the Premiers from the Province. The election in Saskatchewan then intervened, and by the time the smoke from that combat had cleared away the Dominion election was announced, necessitating a postponement until after the date of that election. No time was lost in getting the Conference together after that date in view of the difficulty of arranging a day when the premiers of the three provinces could spare the time from other duty.

There were present on behalf of the Manitoba Association:—J. W. Scallion, Hon. President; D. W. McQuaig, President; R. McKenzie, Secretary; Andrew Graham, Director.

Saskatchewan.—E. N. Hopkins, President; R. C. Sanderson, Secretary; E. A. Partridge, E. M. Gates, A. G. Hawkes, Members of Executive.

Alberta.—T. H. Woolford, Vice-President; Ed. J. Fream, Secretary.

The proposition which had been previously submitted to each of the Premiers (published in a former issue of the "Guide"), was discussed from every possible view point, with the utmost frankness on the part of the Premiers and the Grain Growers. Two sessions were held occupying over nine hours' time. It was not anticipated that the Premiers would give an off hand decision on a question that involved so large an expenditure and presented many intricate features which had to be considered with care.

The Premiers promised to consult their respective colleagues and confer with the Inter-Provincial Council at some later date to be arranged for with the secretary of the Council.

At a meeting of the Inter-Provincial Council immediately at the close of the Conference, arrangements were made to circulate a petition for signatures in the three provinces, praying the Provincial Governments to take the necessary steps to provide elevator storage at each shipping point sufficient for the requirements for shipping grain, and one praying the Dominion Government to acquire and operate the terminals at Lake Superior and the transfer elevators that handle Western grain between the lakes and the seaboard.

The branches of the Grain Growers' Association will be largely utilized to circulate these petitions for signature. Every farmer and business man in the three provinces ought to have an opportunity to add his signature. To do this is a work of great magnitude and must be prosecuted with great vigor and determination if we are to succeed. Much depends on how the petitions are signed. We are satisfied that our governments will give us government ownership of elevators if we convince them that a majority of the farmers want them. These petitions will enable our people to express their desire on the matter and it will be unfortunate if the movement fails on account of our Associations failing to measure up their opportunity.

The Secretary of the Provincial Association in each Province will supply the Secretaries of the Branches with copies of the petition for circulation. Any one desiring a copy can write to any of those secretaries or to R. McKenzie, Secretary of the Inter-Provincial Council, 445 Main St., Winnipeg, and he will furnish any number desired.

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