

the control of all grain storage from the hands of the combine of grain dealers and operate it as a public utility for the benefit of the public.

The bogey of constitutional difficulties brought forward by the three Premiers as a reason why Government interior elevators should not be established failed to serve the intended purpose. The Grain Growers refused to take it seriously. The demand for the public ownership of the elevators kept gaining strength. The undercurrent of public opinion began to make themselves felt. The constitutional difficulty was insurmountable in the summer of 1909, but disappeared as far as Manitoba was concerned in the following December. In the fall of 1909 the Manitoba Government's attitude changed. The Honorable G. R. Coldwell, Minister of Education, appeared at the convention in Brandon, December 17, and on behalf of the Government accepted the principle of Government ownership and operation of elevators, making the following statements to the Grain Growers:—

"The Government of Manitoba accepts the principle laid down by the Grain Growers' Association of establishing a line of internal grain elevators as a public utility, owned by the public and operated by the public, and is prepared to co-operate with your Association in carrying out that policy and working out a plan to that end.

"I am here to ask you on behalf of the Manitoba Government to send a representative committee to meet the members of the Government to discuss the proposition in all its details.

"We ask you to prepare a careful report, giving full particulars and details of your proposal and come, and discuss it with the Government so that a measure may be prepared for submission to the legislature soon to meet.

"We acknowledge that the matter is of first importance to the farmers of Manitoba and the policy of this Government is to do everything that will assist and build up this, the greatest interest in our Province.

"We feel that we must have your help and experience to put this question into proper shape. The House will not meet until some time in February next, and ample time will be given to discuss the proposals and prepare a bill."

The Grain Growers gladly accepted the Government's proposal as submitted by Mr. Coldwell. The convention appointed the Board of Directors (with power to add to their numbers) a committee to assist the Government in preparing a bill to be submitted to the House when it met in February. That there should be no misunderstanding as to their attitude as to how