

to their reasonable demands, and it is surely up to us in this far western land, to get into line with our Saskatchewan and Manitoba friends, and by one great united effort have this corrupt system of monopoly among elevators done away with.

Here I should like to point out some reasons why we should get in touch with the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. As you are aware, this is an institution which has for its object, the improvement of the condition of those who depend for their living upon the cultivation of the soil; it is part of the world-wide protest of the workers, against the wrongs inflicted upon them by the schemers; it is one form of expression of the natural demand to enjoy God's bounties, and the fruits of their labor, grown so abundant through man's ever increasing mastery over the forces of nature.

Privilege Based on Monopoly

The first step toward the improvement of conditions is the discovery of the cause of the trouble. There is in this case a primary and a secondary cause, as farmers we do not recognize and are not prepared to deal with the primary cause, which is privilege, based on monopoly, by individuals of a common heritage—the earth. The farmers have now discovered the immediate cause of their failure to enjoy the fruits of their labor, which is because the price of nearly every article we consume, has been artificially raised by combinations among manufacturers, or the dealers, while the price of our own product, (grain) instead of being artificially raised by a combination among ourselves, to keep pace with the rise of those things which we consume, has been artificially reduced by a combination of the large milling and elevator interests.

The Elevator Combine

We are scarcely aware that the grain trade of the west, is practically in the hands of a small group of milling and elevator companies which by means of their possession of the storage facilities throughout the province, are able to throttle all real competition, both as buyers in the country and sellers in the secondary and ultimate markets. Possessing nearly all the storage at country points, they are able to buy considerably over half the grain, by the wagon load, at prices much under the quotations for car lots, since many farmers pressed by their creditors, and prevented by lack of cars from shipping in car lots, are forced to take whatever price is offered, by those possessing storage facilities. Then the grade given for this cheap wheat, is often as much lower, than the real grade, as the price given is lower than the real value. The giving of light weight, taking heavy dockage, the putting out wheat of inferior quality, in place of the farmers' special binned grain; the frequent refusal of special binning privileges, and the putting barriers in the way of farmers special shipment, through their houses, to rival dealers, are additional advantages which the possession of storage gives them over their competitors. Much of the terminal storage is also in the hands of those who own the country elevators. It is evident also that the large milling companies will desire to keep prices at a low level, while the grain is in the hands of farmers. The ability of elevator owners, whether millers or exporters, to extinguish competition is fully recognized by the trade.

C. B. Watts, in his evidence before the committee on Agriculture in Ottawa, stated that he considered it impossible to establish a small line of elevators, to compete with the owners of the present system already established, owing to their determination not to tolerate competition.

Government Ownership the Remedy

Now let me point out some of the advantages of a government owned elevator system. The many benefits can only be simply outlined here, and first of all the opportunities of plundering the farmers would be removed, the back-bone of the grain combine would be broken, the general level of prices would be raised; the creation of a Co-operative agency for the disposal of the farmers' grain at cost would be made easy of accomplishment. A scientific classification of grain according to its intrinsic value, or the requirements of the millers by the operation of a sample market, under the most

favorable circumstances would be made possible. The creation of storage in the interior, where weight and grade certificate could be obtained would permit the borrowing of money by the farmers, to discharge their pressing liabilities, at an early date, thus benefiting all who have business relations with them, except the grain dealer who formerly cinched him. Then again, his ability to finance on the security of the grain would allow the farmer to market the grain gradually, so that his offering kept step with the milling and export demands, thus making the price higher for the farmer, though not necessarily for the consumer, since the farmer would only obtain the benefits formerly absorbed by the speculator, and every additional dollar thus received by the farmers, will be a dollar more to spend with those with whom we do business.

Sample Market System

The establishment of a grain market where all types of grain in the West, can be found exposed for sale, and where all classes of millers, large and small, Western Canadian, Eastern Canadian and European, can meet on even terms, and the offering of grain for sale by farmers, in a leisurely manner through their own Co-operative agency, would be some of the results which would flow from the government ownership and operation of elevators at country points, and to government ownership of the terminals, with special binning privileges there. This state of affairs would make Winnipeg the most scientific and highly competitive grain market in the world. Thus with proper storage on our prairies, when Hudson Bay and Pacific routes are opened up, will put the owners of grain in a position to take advantage in competition, in both ocean freights and markets.

The Organization Needed

Thus far I have been pointing out the disease, or the difficulty under which, we as farmers, are laboring now let me explain what I consider to be the cure, and I say at once that the remedy lies in our own hands, and can be summed up in three words:—viz., "Organization, Co-operation, Agitation." I make bold

to say these three words if properly carried out, and acted upon, will revolutionize our farming operations, and inaugurate a wave of prosperity in this district that at present we do not even dream of. First of all, we want an Agricultural Society, with branches in every town, village and district of Alberta, and every name of every farmer, farmer's son and farm laborer, with complete organization, with a president, the best known and most popular man in the district, and a practical farmer, then vice-presidents, selected so as to represent every part of the district within which the Association operates, with a committee selected in the same representative manner, whose special business will be to get in touch with every farmer, secure their names as members of our Society. Then out of this general committee, appoint an executive of say twelve men, who must be all alive, and selected so as to represent every district embraced in our society. Then we must have a general secretary, who shall simply be on fire with enthusiasm, and who shall put fire into president, vice-presidents, committee and executive, in fact, the secretary must be the live wire through which the electric current flows, and which gives life and light to every thing it touches.

Then as an Association thus perfectly organized we must get in touch with similar organizations in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and further East, in fact all over our Dominion, get affiliated with these organizations, appoint our delegates to attend special meetings, on special occasions, for special purposes, also to attend annual conventions, thus we will have a network of perfect organization, for our own protection, and the advancement of farming interests in this country, which will in a short time become invincible.

Gentlemen, this is no mere dream, but as sure as we are in Summerview this Saturday afternoon, so sure can we become such a power, that the present monopolies, and present methods of plucking the farmers shall very soon disappear.

Must Sell Direct

Here in Summerview and Pincher Creek districts, we have as good markets as in the world, for all we can raise on our farms. Why by Co-operation should we not have a secretary, who would be constantly in touch with lumber merchants coal mine owners, hotel proprietors, livery barn owners, in fact all consumers of farm produce. Through our own society we could thus dispose of our oats, our hay, our pork, our beef, our butter and eggs, our vegetables, and our wheat, in short all we raise on the farm, and thus sell direct to the consumer or manufacturer and so cut out the middleman, this canker worm, who has been draining and plucking us farmers, all these years until he has grown fat and sleek, and many of whom are well able to retire into oblivion, during the remainder of their natural lives, and who can thank the farmers for being so easily gulled as simply to take whatever prices they were offered, and appear thankful, no matter how, or what they thought.

Farmers must be United

This thing can be done, and will be done, if only each one of us play our own little part. Then a word as to our implements, our harvest requisites, such as twine, etc., and also our seed grain. There is no reason why we should not, by Co-operation, purchase all these, through our own society, direct from manufacturers, and on much better terms than we can single-handed. Our farming implements are becoming a serious problem. There is no reason in the world why our implements should not cost us 25 per cent. less than we are paying at present, and leave a large revenue for the manufacturer, but with agents and collectors, and railway rates, and large protective duties, with heavy interest, the wonder is, that as farmers we can exist at all.

Gentlemen, in conclusion, let us look at these different matters as wise men. I know neither politics, nor religion in matters so momentous to us, as farmers, and residents in this district. We must be united if we want to help ourselves, and send to our own provincial and Dominion houses, men whom we know are no trimmers, but who will voice our demands, no matter what his political color may be. I end as I began, Organize, Co-operate, and Agitate.



R. A. BONNAR

In a fast and furious scrap
I've the vim and also the sap
To put up a fight,
In support of right;
And actions are better than yap.

The best for the farmers I'll do,
And act independently too:
I never will pause
In making good laws,
To win for the grower his due.

CORRUGATED IRON

Galvanized, Rust Proof
Made from very finest
sheets, absolutely free
from defects.

Each sheet is pressed, not
rolled, corrugations therefore
fit accurately without waste.
Any desired size or gauge,
straight or curved.

LOW PRICES—PROMPT SHIPMENT

Metallic Roofing Co.

Manufacturers LIMITED
TORONTO & WINNIPEG

Western Canada Factory:

797 Notre Dame Ave. - Winnipeg

BINDER TWINE

550 ft. per Pound at 8½c.

600 " " " " 9c.

F. O. B. WINNIPEG.

Manufactures Tag on each Ball
Special Quotations on Car Lots

W. EDDIE

179 Princess St. - WINNIPEG

BATES'

Mail Order Shoe House

Why not buy your
footwear by mail?

I can save you from

75c. to \$1.00 per pair

Write for Catalogue

289 Portage Avenue

WINNIPEG Man.



Imperial Hotel

Corner Main St. and Alexander Ave.
The Farmers' Hotel of Winnipeg.
Centrally located. Good meals
and warm, comfortable rooms.

Rates, \$1.50 per day

ANGUS McLEOD
JAMES MORTON Proprietors
FREE BUS