

" discussion of this vexed question Mr. Sifton thought that a
 " spirit of moderation and forbearance was very necessary.
 " Speaking personally, he had tried during his public life to pro-
 " mote such legislation as would solve the difficulty. He was
 " certainly not disposed to do anything that would in any way
 " tend to impair the efficiency of the elevator system. Because
 " of that disposition he had been most violently attacked, as one
 " desirous of starling in with monopolists who were said to be
 " plundering the farmers. He had had no desire from the be-
 " ginning of the discussion some years back, except that every-
 " body concerned in the handling of grain, whether producer,
 " buyer, or shipper, should get the fairest of fair play. The
 " subject was one, however, fraught with difficulties which he
 " had in the past, and would, in the future, do his best to remove.
 " resulted in the passage of the Act in its present form. There
 " In the past two years there had arisen a situation which had
 " was no object to be gained, Mr. Sifton continued, in beating
 " about the bush. The statement had been made that the farmer
 " who shipped his own grain on cars, received from 6 to 7 cents
 " per bushel more than the farmer who shipped his wheat through
 " an elevator. I have due regard for the men engaged in the
 " grain trade," went on the Minister; "many of my oldest and
 " closest friends are engaged in the business, and I never shared
 " any idea but that the grain men are an honest body of men
 " engaged in a perfectly legitimate business. They are entitled to
 " the same amount of consideration as farmers—as much and no
 " more—and, on the other hand, the farmers are entitled to, and
 " should receive as much consideration as the grain dealers. But
 " when the grain producer comes to Parliament and says: 'I
 " have produced a commodity which is in universal demand and
 " I object to its going through the hands of middlemen who will
 " take an undue toll on the product of my labor,' then I want to
 " say plainly that this is a complaint and an objection that Par-
 " liament is bound to recognize. And I tell you moreover, gentle-
 " men, that no Parliament will ever be elected in Canada that can
 " afford to disregard this protest "

" There may, of course," continued Mr. Sifton, "be some
 " explanations and other circumstances of which the farmer is
 " not cognizant. It may be said that the differences of from 6
 " to 8 cents a bushel is not too much under the exceptional cir-
 " cumstances this year, but it must be remembered that this dif-
 " ference existed before this year—before last year. According
 " to the statements of the most reputable men, there was this
 " difference, and it was felt that it constituted more than a