



## The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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### GLAD TO MAKE AMENDS

We are very glad to note that the Winnipeg Tribune has taken us to task for the statement that we are the only paper that is truly taking the part of the farmers in the live questions of the day. There is no statement we have ever published that we should like to see disproved so much as that one. We should be delighted to know that every paper that lives on the farmers is protecting the interests of its patrons. We have not the slightest desire to adopt any "Holier than Thou" attitude. The Weekly Tribune has stood by the farmers of the west for years on a number of most vital matters and was a valiant friend at the time of the organization of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. We gladly record our appreciation of the work of the Farmers' Tribune in the past and we hope it will continue to go even more earnestly into the fight and remain there till special privilege has disappeared and the farmer has a fair show with other citizens in the blessings which a free country should bestow. There is one point, however, on which we wish to disagree with the Tribune. It calls us its lieutenant. This is a new one on us. We did not know before that we were a lieutenant to anybody or took orders from any superior officer. We think the Tribune made an error in the choice of words. If they will keep up with us they will find enough to do without taking on the duties of superior officer. We sincerely desire that every paper in Western Canada will be able to disprove our statement—by deeds and not by words. And every paper that does this can consider that we are glad to see it.

### SIGN THE PETITIONS

It is of the utmost importance at the present time that the farmers of Manitoba should circulate and sign the petitions for public elevators, that are being sent out by the elevator commission. Under the Elevator Act, unfortunately, no elevators can be taken over by the commission "unless and until" there is a petition requesting it signed by at least 60 per cent. of the farmers tributary to that elevator point. Two forms of petitions are being sent out. One is for use in the case where elevators are to be purchased and the other where new elevators are to be built. As soon as the petitions are signed by the required number of farmers the commission is empowered to act, so the necessity of having the

petitions signed at once is evident. Petition forms can be had on application to the Manitoba Elevator Commission, 279 Garry Street, Winnipeg. We would urge that all grain growers take hold of this matter at once. It must be remembered that the fact that a properly signed petition is presented for purchasing an elevator does not compel the commissioners to pay an unreasonable price for an existing elevator. This would afford too good an opportunity to the elevator owners to hold up the Government for an exorbitant price. If the price demanded is beyond reason they can secure another petition and build an elevator. The further the work progresses, the more unsatisfactory the Elevator Act will be found to be. But that can be remedied by further legislation. However, the Elevator Act as it stands is all we have to work upon and we should make the best of it for the time being. By going to work at once the farmers can have the petitions signed in a few weeks and there should be a large number of public elevators in Manitoba in time for the present crop.

### ELEVATORS FIRST; THEN ELECTION

As far as the ordinary person is permitted to know, there is but little doubt that a general election will be called in Manitoba during the month of July. This is a subject which is of the deepest interest to every man in Manitoba. THE GUIDE is a non-political paper and has no preference for parties. We are, however, absolutely devoted to the interests of the farmers of the West. It is for this reason that we feel it our duty to discuss the plan of holding an election in July.

It is one of the privileges given under a British constitution that any government may call a general election whenever desired. This is one of the principles of our system of responsible government. In Manitoba the term of the present legislature does not expire until September, 1911. The only reason for calling an election before the term expires is because of some important issue upon which the voice of the people is required. This would be entirely unnecessary if Direct Legislation were in force. But in Manitoba today there is only one big question in which the farmers are intensely interested. That is the elevator question. It was only by the force of enlightened public opinion that the legislature was induced to enact the Elevator Bill. Then there was a two months delay in naming the commission. Three good men have been named. But the government holds full power over the commission. Up to the present the Elevator Bill has meant nothing to the farmers. It was not what the Grain Growers wanted, but still it could be made to afford considerable relief to the farmers. Moreover, and this is the important point, there has been no opportunity to test the Elevator Act nor the government's promise that the Elevator Commission should have an absolutely free hand in their work. In view of this we consider that the government has no moral right to call an election in July. The elevator question will be the big one in the campaign and all the talk by both parties will be mere hot air and of no benefit to the farmers. What the farmers want is a system of public elevators, and they want it badly. Now, in face of this, we submit that the government of Manitoba would be giving the best possible manifestation of its good faith if the commission were given time to procure the elevators before an election was called. We have seen so many governments become forgetful after an election that we like to see pledges fulfilled before a renewal of confidence is given. We cannot forget how two years ago both the political parties on the eve of the Dominion election promised "immediate construction of the Hudson Bay Road." What have we got? Nothing.

At present in Manitoba both political parties are red hot to give the farmers public elevators. No matter which party may be in power after the election they may forget,

which is to say in plain English that they may fool the farmers merely to get into power. Now, we do not want to see this. It is well known to all the farmers that neither political party in Manitoba as a whole, would be in favor of public elevators if public opinion had not driven them to it. The chief object of any political party in Canada is to stay in power. That accounts for the wonderful pre-election promises that are so freely made. But in Manitoba the party in power has been driven to give the Elevator Bill and now we say they should give the elevators. The farmers will appreciate such action on the part of the government. If the government will provide the elevators in Manitoba the farmers will then know that they really mean business, and will act accordingly. But if an election is called in July it leads us to wonder if the government will provide the elevators throughout the province. When the Grain Growers demanded an independent commission it was not because they distrusted the present government. But if the government is to remain free from distrust they must produce the elevators before an election is held.

### MEETING SIR WILFRID

At a meeting of the executive of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association held on June 3rd, it was decided to make full preparations to meet Sir Wilfrid Laurier on his western tour and take up with him the four questions advocated in THE GUIDE, namely, taking over of the terminal elevators by the federal government; the actual and immediate construction of the Hudson Bay Railway; the inauguration of a chilled meat industry under the Dominion government and also a reduction in the Tariff. The delegation will also urge that Canada accept the offer of United States for free trade in farm implements.

This action on the part of the Manitoba Association will result in much good. But the greatest success will be achieved by the Saskatchewan and Alberta farmers organizations meeting Sir Wilfrid in pursuit of the same end. Saskatchewan is the largest province and its population is growing the most rapidly. Any action taken along this line by the Grain Growers of that province will command the immediate attention of any public man. Nowhere do these problems present themselves to the farmers more than in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Alberta farmers feel the need of the chilled meat industry more forcibly than the two other provinces, but it will be a splendid thing for all three provinces. The farmers of the West can meet on common ground and by presenting an united front they will be making a most important move for the benefit of the country. By the time Sir Wilfrid is met at Brandon, Moose Jaw and Edmonton by the organized farmers he will begin to realize the importance of the farmers in the West. It is only right that the farmers should meet him as all the other interests will do so. From the time Sir Wilfrid lands at Fort William the big interests will be ready for him and will demand all kinds of special privileges. If the farmers are not on hand he will think that the farmers in the West are satisfied with things as they are. But this is not to be. The farmers are not satisfied and will present their views in a clear cut and business like manner to the real head of the Canadian Government.

### INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS

The allied questions of the conservation of natural resources and the control and operation of public utilities is demanding much attention from thoughtful men in Canada at the present time. The Dominion Government has manifested its appreciation of the important character of the former by appointing a commission of leading men to whom it has entrusted the important duty of safe-guarding in every possible way the natural resources of the nation. The abuses incident to and

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