



# The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



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## MANITOBA ELEVATOR BILL

The cause of the Manitoba Grain Growers is steadily gaining ground and new converts are daily being added to the ranks. The latest accession is that comprising all the members of the opposition in the legislature. All over the province the Grain Growers have been demanding a system of publicly owned elevators under the control of an absolutely independent commission. The government has remained obdurate on the crucial point of the whole matter. There seemed but little more hope from the opposition with the exception of a few of the individual members. However, there has been one real, live, bona fide Grain Grower, with the cause of the farmers of Manitoba at heart, working for the cause in the House. That member, G. H. Malcolm, M.P.P., of Birtle, has at last convinced the opposition that the cause of the Grain Growers is the right one. The opposition, through their leader, T. C. Norris, M.P.P., have declared in favor of the demands of the Grain Growers. The second reading of the Government Elevator Bill was moved on Monday evening by Hon. G. R. Coldwell, who held that the government could not give the farmers more than the bill stated. Last night (Tuesday) about midnight, Mr. Norris continued the debate on the second reading. He reviewed the reasons why the elevator systems should be under an absolutely independent commission and dealt with the entire subject in a very able manner. On behalf of the opposition he moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Malcolm:

"That this bill be not now read a second time, as it takes wider powers than are possessed by this legislature; but that in the opinion of this House it is desirable to embody the following principles in an act to be passed this session to provide for a system of government owned elevators: That such system should be controlled and operated by an independent commission, satisfactory to and accepted by the Grain Growers of Manitoba; that said commission should have full power to locate, construct, purchase by valuation (but in such case without any allowance for goodwill or prospective profits), operate, maintain and administer all elevators under such system, with power to appoint or dismiss any employees, and to deal with any moneys entrusted to their charge under this bill; and said commissioners shall be irremovable except by a two-thirds vote of the legislature; but provided always that all moneys borrowed or expended for the purposes of this system shall first receive the express authorization of this legislature by special act, or by submission and approval in the estimates of the current year; and that all accounts of the commission shall be treated as trust accounts and shall be submitted to the legislature at the same time as the public accounts are, after being duly audited by the provincial auditor."

This resolution which the Opposition has brought before the legislature embodies in principle all the demands of the Grain Growers and outlines a system that the farmers of Manitoba want to see inaugurated in their province at the earliest possible date. The Grain Growers must not relax vigilance in any respect. They have still much to do. There are thirteen members of the legislature now in favor of the demands of the Grain Growers. Seven more converts will ensure that the Bill enacted will include all that the Grain Growers consider right and fair. It is to be hoped that the Elevator Bill will not be made a political question. The Grain Growers have endeavored in every way to keep away from party politics. They know they have a just cause; they know they have the farmers of Manitoba behind them and they consider that the government of the province should enact the legislation which they have demanded. The government by so doing will lose none of its prestige nor will it be renouncing any of the principles of responsible government. The Grain Growers' Elevator Committee have refused to take any responsibility for the government Bill. The government has refused to discuss further the control of the commission and the Grain Growers' Committee has refused to negotiate further in view of this fact. The government is assuming a most serious responsibility. If the government cannot fulfil the demands of the people who put them into office, then there will be a day of reckoning very soon. No government in this enlightened age can long refuse the mandate of the people. Farmers of Manitoba, you are the rulers of the province and you must see that your servants obey your mandate.

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## WHEAT MANIPULATIONS

On another page we publish a letter from Mr. George Fisher, representative, in Winnipeg of the Scottish Co-Operative Society, correcting some statements which Mr. T. W. Knowles, of Emerson, is alleged to have made at a meeting of the Grain Growers at Oak Lake. In addition to correcting the alleged mis-statement of Mr. Knowles, Mr. Fisher states that "In Scotland, they are seeing better wheat every day than the best Manitoba wheat. Australian is five cents better, and fine Russian is three cents better than No. 1 Nor. Man."

The opinion prevails throughout Canada that Manitoba hard wheat is second to no other wheat that reaches the British miller for making baker's flour and for blending with the softer wheats of other countries. The people of Canada have been congratulating themselves that the western prairies produced the highest class of wheat that is grown anywhere, and the western farmer has been patted on the back for raising wheat that would produce stronger flour and make more bread to the bushel than any other wheat sold on the European market. The bald statement made by Mr. Fisher will cause surprise unless some explanation of the cause is made.

It is quite true that during the fall months of this year, as far as price is concerned, Manitoba wheat suffers in comparison with wheat either from Australia or Russia. For that matter, our Manitoba wheat sold on the British market during October and November cheaper than any other class of wheat, soft or hard. We have not at hand quotations of prices for wheat in Scotland, but an analysis of the prices paid in Liverpool as reported by the Corn Trade News, indicates that, during the last few years, at the season of the year that western farmers are compelled to dispose of their wheat, Manitoba wheat did not bring as high a price on the English market as wheat imported from other countries, while as soon as the bulk of the grain passed out of the farmers' hands, our wheat sells at a premium over every other wheat that reaches Liverpool. A few extracts from the

weekly market reports clearly establishes this fact. Take for instance the Liverpool spot cash prices on July 14, 1908. They are as follows:—

	Per Bush.
Australian, .....	\$1.14 2-5
Californian, .....	1.14
Blue Stem, .....	1.07 2-5
White Walls Walls, .....	.92 2-5
No. 1 Duluth, .....	1.17
1 Man, .....	1.19 2-5
3 Man, .....	1.15 1-5
2 Red Winter, .....	1.08
2 Western, .....	1.08 3-5
Rosario, .....	1.11
Barusso, .....	1.08 3-5
White Chilian, .....	1.00 4-5
Feed Wheat, .....	.80 2-5

This indicates that at that date Man. 1 Nor. was worth five cents more than Australian, and from 2 2-5 to over 18 cents higher than other wheats. In this connection it is also significant that parcels of the new crop of Manitoba 1 Nor. were sold that day for Oct.-Nov. shipment at \$1.05 3/4, the lowest of any wheat sold for future delivery, while the same day a cargo of New South Wales, (Australian) was sold for \$1.09 1-8. That is to say nearly 4 cents higher than Manitoba, although in cash wheat Manitoba was 5 cents higher than Australian, making a difference of 9 cents.

On August 25, the spot cash wheat was as follows:—

	Per Bush.
Australian, .....	\$1.15 1-5
Californian, .....	1.12 4-5
Blue Stem, .....	1.10 2-5
1 Nor. Duluth, .....	1.18 4-5
1 Nor. Man. old, .....	1.24 4-5
3 Nor. Man, .....	1.19 2-5
4 Nor. Man, .....	1.14 2-5
2 Mixed Can, .....	1.04 2-5
2 Red Winter, .....	1.05 3-5
2 West Winter, .....	1.06 1-5
Rosario, .....	1.14
Barusso, .....	1.12 4-5
Red Chilian, .....	1.06 4-5
Hard Chilian, .....	1.08
Feed Wheat, .....	.79 1-5

It will be noted that in this case Australian wheat had advanced 1 cent and Manitoba 5 cents as compared to prices July 14. In futures again, 1 Nor. Man. sold at \$1.07 1/4 while cargoes of Australian sold at \$1.14 3-8. As soon as the new crop of Manitoba wheat, which was sold at depressed prices for future delivery, had reached Liverpool and become spot wheat, the relative positions had altogether changed. On November 3, spot cash Australian wheat was sold for \$1.20 and 1 Nor. Man. for \$1.16 2-5. That is to say, between August 25 and November 3, Australian had advanced nearly 5 cents per bushel, and Manitoba dropped 8 2-5 cents, making a difference in the relative values of 13 2-5 cents. After December of that year, Manitoba wheat began to resume its normal position on the British market. That is to say, it sold at a premium over all other wheats. We find on January 26, 1909, Manitoba spot cash wheat was quoted at \$1.18 4-5, while Australian was \$1.17. On March 23, 1909, we have the following positions on all wheat:—

	Per Bush.
Australian, .....	\$1.19 2-5
White Walls, .....	1.19 2-5
1 Nor. Man., new, .....	1.28 4-5
2 Nor. Man., new, .....	None Of.
3 Nor. Man., new, .....	1.23
4 Man., new, .....	1.18 2 1/2
5 Man., new, .....	1.09 2-5
6 Man., .....	1.05 4-5
1 Chilian, .....	1.19 2-5
2 Red Winter, .....	1.20 3-5
Rosario, new, .....	1.18 2-5
Plate, new Pacific, .....	1.17
Barusso, new, .....	1.17
Barusso, old, .....	1.22 2-5
Russian, .....	1.20
Danubian, .....	1.24 4-5

Here we have Man. 9 2-5 cents higher than Australian and 8 4-5 higher than Russian. On July 20, 1909, we find wheat on the Liverpool spot cash market in the following position,