

Inadequate transportation and grain storage facilities.

When the Conservatives came into power in 1911 they found the west suffering from inadequate transportation and grain storage facilities. Every fall occurred disastrous grain blockades and car congestions, which hampered the development of the country, and resulted in a loss of many thousands of dollars to the farmers and the business men each year. Mixed farming under such conditions was languishing, while exorbitant freight and express rates prevented the people from realizing an adequate return upon their produce. The Borden Government deserves the support of the people of the west, if for no other reason, for having solved the grain blockade problem and for having furnished better transportation and storage facilities.

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During the years 1901 to 1911 grain blockades were the rule under the Liberal regime. Every season transportation was so thoroughly tied up that millions of dollars were lost through inadequate storage and exits. And conditions were growing worse. The Liberals had no solution to offer except to turn our products south over American lines. The fall of 1911 saw the most serious blockade of all, when the whole transportation system of the west seemed to collapse. The new cabinet lost no time in dealing with the situation. The Prime Minister, Hon. Robert Rogers and Sir George E. Foster took up the problem in earnest. The railways, in the first place, were given to understand that they must furnish improved and increased rolling stock. The grain trade of the west was placed under a Commission, with practical men at the head, and they have accomplished wonders. They have won the confidence of farmers, grain men, and elevator men alike, and their work is highly appreciated in the west. Car distribution, one of the great complaints of the western farmer, has been satisfactory under the Commission, inspection has been improved, and grain mixing in the west has practically disappeared. The removal of the annual car congestion has had the effect of placing almost upon a level the Canadian and American prices, and it is a striking fact that for the past two years Canadian prices have averaged higher than American prices. So successful has been the handling of the grain trade in the west by the Commission that last session of Parliament its scope was extended to Eastern Canada, and now the Grain Commission will exercise supervision and protection over the wheat of the western farmer from the time it leaves the farm until loaded on the ship for Liverpool. It was found that mere supervision in the west was not sufficient, as there was still a possibility of mixing evil by which the western farmer under the Laurier regime was robbed of thousands of dollars annually has been abolished, and the millions lost to that country yearly owing to the annual blockade have been saved by the progressive policy of the Borden Government.

The Government's elevator policy solves grain blockade problem.

One of the chief factors in solving the grain blockade problem was the policy adopted by the government of building terminal storage elevators. Sir Robert Borden made a pledge before the last election that if elected to power he would construct a system of such elevators. The western grain growers for years had urged such a step, but Sir