

GUIDE REPORTS CHALLENGED

Senator Jones Denies Statement in Guide Regarding His Actions, but is Completely Answered by Guide's Correspondent.

Senator L. Melvin Jones, president of the Massey-Harris company, is chairman of the special committee of the Senate which has been hearing evidence on the new Canada-Grain-Bill which is to regulate the operation of the terminal elevators. Mr. J. W. Ward, The Guide's special correspondent at Ottawa, attended the sessions of the committee regularly and had an opportunity to see how affairs were conducted. Senator Jones has sent the following letter to The Guide for publication, criticizing the statement of our correspondent:

MASSEY-HARRIS CO., LIMITED.

Office of the President.

Toronto, Ont., April 29, 1911.

To the Editor of the Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Sir:—In your issue of March 29, in an article under the heading of "The Grain Bill in Committee," by The "Guide's" special correspondent from Ottawa, you refer to the work of the committee, and, in so doing, make special reference to myself in the following words:

"The chairman, Senator L. Melvin Jones, has been very active in endeavoring to prevent evidence favorable to the clauses from getting into the official records."

I desire to say that this statement is absolutely untrue. It is without the slightest foundation of fact. As chairman of the committee I desired to have, and endeavored to obtain the fullest possible information from everyone desiring to give information and especially from those interested in the growing of grain.

I have no interest, nor have I ever had, directly or indirectly, in either terminal or country elevators, nor have I any interest, directly or indirectly, with any grain buyers or sellers, my only interest and my business interest necessarily being with grain producers. The absurdity of the statement quoted above must be apparent.

I would ask you to give to this letter the same prominence in your next issue that you have given to the article in which the above statement is made.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

L. MELVIN JONES.

Guide's Statement Correct

As soon as Senator Jones' letter was received at The Guide office a copy of it was sent to Mr. Ward, at Ottawa, in order that he might justify the statement he made regarding the actions of the Senator. The reply is as follows:

"Press Gallery, Ottawa,

"April 28, 1911.

"With regard to the letter of Senator L. M. Jones, complaining of my reference to his conduct as chairman of the committee on the Grain Bill, I can only say that the statement to which he takes exception is absolutely true, and entirely founded on fact. His partisanship was very obvious throughout the sittings of the committee, which I attended regularly, and was commented on both in and out of the committee by members of the committee and by witnesses who appeared in support of the clauses under investigation. Senator Davis, of Prince Albert, repeatedly protested against the attitude of the chairman, and there was a warm discussion in the committee on the point. When the elevator men were giving their evidence they received a courteous hearing and were allowed to make their own statements in their own way, but as soon as the representatives of the Grain Growers and the milling interests began to give their testimony in support of the clauses under discussion, the chairman, Senator Jones, as well as Senator Loughheed and Senator Power, commenced to interrupt and to suggest that what they were saying was not material. Senator Jones frequently ordered the official stenographers not to take down portions of the evidence given by Mr. Bower, Mr. McKenzie,

The Grain Growers' Guide

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Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and the United Farmers of Alberta.

THE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO GIVE UNCOLORED NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF THOUGHT AND ACTION and honest opinions thereon, with the object of aiding our people to form correct views upon economic, social and moral questions, so that the growth of society may continuously be in the direction of more equitable, kinder and wiser relations between its members, resulting in the wisest possible increase and diffusion of material prosperity, intellectual development, right living, health and happiness.

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Canadian Subscriptions, \$1.00 per year in advance. Foreign Subscriptions, \$1.50 per year in advance. Single Copy, 5 cents.

Advertising Rates may be had upon application. Change of advertising copy and New Matter must be received not later than Friday noon each week to ensure insertion.

Published every Wednesday at Winnipeg, Canada. Authorized by the Postmaster-General, Ottawa, Canada, for transmission as second class mail matter.

Address all communications, upon whatever subject, to The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg. Do not send anything but personal letters to individuals.

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Mr. Maharg and Mr. Watts, and also directed them to omit from their report the protests of Senator Davis against the manner in which the witnesses were treated and the discussions which took place in consequence. Many times in the course of the proceedings of the committee, when a witness was testifying in favor of the clauses, Senator Jones waved his hand in front of the official reporter and said "Don't take that." In addition, when one of the Grain Growers' representatives was explaining some complicated point in connection with the grain trade, Senator Jones repeatedly interrupted with a question or a remark on an entirely different subject, with the result, if not with the intention, of putting the witness off his line of thought. Discussion among the members of the committee followed in some instances, and when this was over it was with difficulty that the witness could again take up the thread of his argument.

Favored Elevator Men

When the elevator men were giving

their evidence it was entirely different. Mr. Black, of the Ogilvie Milling Co., was permitted to give a lengthy history of his company relating among other things how, some years ago, the company had reimbursed farmers for grain which had been burned in one of the Ogilvie elevators, and he also quoted figures at length with the evident intention of discrediting the Manitoba government elevator system, all of which was recorded in the report of the committee. But when the Grain Growers' representatives were speaking Senator Jones complained almost continuously that they were "burdening the record." His partisanship was also displayed by questions which he addressed to Mr. McKenzie as to the profits of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., a matter entirely foreign to the question under consideration, and it is a fact, as any unprejudiced person who attended at the sittings of the committee and who has read the official report can testify, that Senator Jones not only endeavored to prevent evidence favorable to the

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clauses from getting into the official record, but that he succeeded to a very considerable extent. Senator Jones says that the absurdity of the statement to which he objects must be apparent, and gives as a reason the fact that he has no interest in elevators or with any grain buyers or sellers. Neither in my report nor anywhere else as far as I know has this been suggested, but Senator Jones' statement might lead one to believe that his actions as a public man and as a member of the Canadian Senate were dictated by his own financial interests. J. W. WARD.

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