

This act went into force in the year 1900, and during the succeeding two years received a fairly complete trial. It was found, however, that it was defective, in that it did not relieve the farmer from the monopoly which the grain dealers and elevator owners enjoyed, and which was due to the fact that they were able to command the supply of cars to the exclusion of the farmers.

#### AMENDMENTS OF 1902.

Let it be noted that this fact which constituted the cause of the whole trouble had not been given any prominence whatever in the discussion prior to 1900. When it became evident that the Act was defective in this respect, it was decided to amend it, and an amendment was consequently passed in the year 1902, which provided for the distribution of cars so that every farmer desiring to ship his own grain was put in the same position as an elevator owner, or a grain buyer. The Act of 1902 having come into effect was acted upon during the last year, and the result was to show that the Act was effective in destroying the monopoly which had existed prior to that time; the farmers being able to procure cars upon the same terms as elevator owners and grain dealers, with the result that they were able to procure much better prices than they would have procured had they been compelled to ship through the elevators. That the Act of 1902 was very effective in removing the monopoly enjoyed by the grain dealers, is shown by the fact that in January, 1903, Mr. Sifton was asked to attend a meeting of the grain dealers at Winnipeg for the purpose of hearing their protest against the Act. They protested because the Act gave the farmer power to get cars which destroyed their monopoly. The position which Mr. Sifton took on behalf of the Government in regard to this question, can best be shown by the following quotation from the reply which he made to the complaints which were then addressed to him by the members of the Grain Exchange.

#### MR. SIFTON'S REPLY.

"Mr. Sifton, who was received with applause, stated that he was bound to say that this was a country of rapid transitions. He had been accustomed for the past four or five years to attend meetings of a somewhat different character to the one he was now addressing; and at these meetings he had frequently been accused of conspiring against the farmers for the benefit of the grain men. He supposed that at fully one-half of the public meetings at which he had spoken for the past four years that he had to defend himself against this accusation. In the