

ROMANCE OF THE GRAIN GROWERS OF SASKATCHEWAN

Association has been worth tens of millions of dollars to the farmers of Saskatchewan.

The founders of this movement were well aware that in attacking the grain and elevator interests they must fight also the transportation companies, and the great financial institutions of the country, a powerful aggregation indeed for these dauntless spirits to attack. They knew also that in organization lay the hope of their ultimate success; and that, if the farmers of the country could but be persuaded to take an active interest in their own affairs, and to join the movement in great numbers, very much good could be accomplished. It has taken nearly eighteen years of earnest and persistent effort to build up from this small beginning all the great farmers' organizations of which the West is now so justly proud, and to which we to-day owe so very much.

Very early in the fight it was discovered that the greatest obstacle in the way of winning these important reforms, so essential to the saving of the farmers of this great wheat growing province from sinking into absolute serfdom, was not the Banks or the Railways, or even the oppressive Elevator Companies. The greatest barrier, and the most disheartening to those self-sacrificing pioneer leaders, was found to be the indifference and mistrust of the farmers themselves.

By patient and long continued effort this barrier has to a considerable extent been overcome. Farmers have learned that unless they take themselves seriously they will not be taken seriously by anyone else. Still, after eighteen years of steady growth, there are many farmers who have not allied themselves with the farmers' movement, and these, while of course benefiting by the vast amount of good work which has been accomplished, do not realize that by permitting their indifference or their suspicion to keep them out of the Association, they are a real obstacle in the way of the success of the farmers' movement, and a real help to those who are opposed thereto.