

They still believe that the failure, which was apparent to ordinary observers from the commencement, is due to the utter neglect by the Government of applying the first rudiments of business success, first in acquiring and establishing the system and subsequently in the methods of operation of the elevators, leaving the impression on the public mind that the system was undertaken with ulterior motives, and that the purpose intended by the Grain Growers was a secondary consideration.

Now that the Premier has intimated that the Government intend to abandon the operation of the elevators and dispose of them to the best advantage possible, there is no need of silence on the part of the Grain Growers. A review of the negotiations that have led to the Government undertaking the operation of a system of elevators is opportune, so that the public may judge for themselves as to whether or not the Grain Growers are responsible for the failure of the elevator system and whether the failure is not due to the Government not accepting the methods of acquiring and operation of elevators that the Grain Growers had planned and had reason to expect would be adopted.

The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, by a resolution passed practically unanimously, officially accepted the principle of public ownership and operation of grain elevators at the annual convention held January, 1907. The Executive was directed to bring the matter to the attention of the Government, which they did shortly afterward. The Government did not reject the proposition, but suggested a joint conference of representatives of rural municipalities, grain interests and railroads with the Grain Growers' representatives, the Premier undertaking to abide by the decision the conference would arrive at regarding interior elevators. The conference was held on June 5 and 6, and resolutions were passed favoring the Manitoba Government to acquire and operate a system of government elevators in the Province, and the Dominion Government to acquire and operate terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur. These resolutions were discussed very fully for parts of two days and received practically the unanimous support of the Grain Growers and representatives of the rural municipalities and the opposition of the grain interests and representatives of the railways.