

discussed the advisability of operating the proposed system by an independent commission. We are of the opinion that this method would be the most satisfactory to all concerned."

"We are pleased to note your assurance and willingness to co-operate with us in any measure or measures that will place the agriculturists in a more advantageous position to carry on their labor, and in as much as we are of the opinion, from your own memorandum that no constitutional or legislative difficulty exists to prevent the provinces granting the demands we made, on behalf of, and in the interests of the Grain Growers of the three provinces, we shall be glad to receive from you at an early date, an assurance that you will accede to our requests just as soon as you can provide for the necessary financial arrangements to inaugurate the proposed system."

R. McKENZIE,
Secretary Inter-Provincial Council.

Since the Weyburn meeting the matter has had some attention from the Alberta and Manitoba Legislatures.

On February 25th, 1909, Premier Rutherford introduced the following resolution which was passed by the Alberta Legislature: "That whereas the farmers of Alberta are dissatisfied with the present arrangements for the storing of grain at initial points, the legislature calls the attention of the Governor-General-in-Council to the desirability of the Government of Canada dealing with the question of initial elevators by making a provision for government ownership and operation of the grain elevators in Alberta; or by having conferred upon this province, either by Dominion or Imperial legislation, power to fully deal with the question of storage, transportation and grading of grain."

(The Premier in moving the resolution said it was the logical conclusion of the answer given by the Premiers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to the Grain Growers' conference. The governments did not think they should go into the grain business unless they had a public monopoly.)

On March 4th, the following resolution was presented by Premier Roblin in the Manitoba Legislature, and passed without a division, owing to an amendment moved by

Mr. Williams of Arthur, being declared out of order by the speaker:

"Resolved, that a memorial be presented to His Excellency the Governor-in-Council setting forth that:

"Whereas the farmers of Manitoba are dissatisfied with the present arrangements for storing grain at initial points, the elevators being in the hands of the grain dealers;

"And whereas the farmers believe that it would be in their interests and in the interests of the public generally, that the initial elevators be publicly owned and controlled;

"And whereas under our constitution the power to control and regulate the storage and handling of grain, the weights and grades, the power to control and regulate the transportation companies and make the provision for the granting of elevator sites on railways, as well as the distribution of cars and generally all matters relating to the grain trade of Canada, rests in the federal parliament and not in the provinces, as provided in the British North America Act;

"Therefore, this assembly begs to call your excellency's attention to the desirability of the Government of Canada dealing with the initial elevator situation, either by (a) making provision for government ownership and operation of the grain elevators in Manitoba; or (b) by having conferred upon this province, either by Dominion or Imperial legislation, the power to fully deal with the question of storage, transportation and grading of grain."

Mr. Willits' amendment, which was seconded by Dr. Thornton, omitting the recital of the farmers' demands addressed to the Premiers, reads as follows:—

"Therefore this Assembly begs to call your excellency's attention to the desirability of the Government of Canada co-operating with the Province of Manitoba, by supplementing Provincial legislation by such Dominion legislation as may be necessary to carry out the recommendations set forth in the proposals to the Premiers by the Inter-Provincial Council of the Grain Growers' Association and the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba."

The foregoing portions of this pamphlet are historical in character, being a narrative of the struggle for Government Ownership of Elevators, interspersed with the various documents connected therewith. It might be well

little house-maid says
your dining room
needs a new
side board



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