

could be cited where the judgment of the commission was overruled in the appointment and the discharge of elevator operators by the minister in control. That the failure of the government system is due to the commission appointed to operate the elevators failing to provide proper service to the Grain Growers is undoubtedly true, whether that failure was due to incapacity on their part or by reason of being so hampered in their efforts by the minister under whose control the elevators were placed by the Cabinet, is a matter of indifference to the Grain Growers. The bald fact remains that while the Government under pressure acceded to the request of the Grain Growers, publicly accepted the principle of government ownership and operation of elevators, and every move they made towards establishing their system after they expressed their intention of accepting the principle, was against the view and opinion of the Association and leaders of the Grain Growers who were responsible. They completely ignored all the suggestions made to them on the matter of acquiring and operating the elevators. The commission did not think it worth their while to ask the co-operation of the directors of the Grain Growers in the establishing of their system, in the selection of points where to operate, in formulating the rules and regulations, under which their system was operated. Did the Government want to discredit public ownership and operation of public utilities, did they want to insure the failure of the elevator system they established they could not have proceeded in a better way than they did to accomplish that end.

STATEMENT OF THE PREMIERS OF ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA AS TO GOVERNMENT OPERATION OF PROVINCIAL ELEVATORS

Dear Sir:—

We have had under careful consideration the representations made by you to us in our recent conference concerning the grain trade and the necessity of certain remedial measures being adopted to remedy the grievances complained of. We readily assent to your position that anything affecting the agriculturist is of paramount importance and deserves most mature consideration. We understand that you take the position that nothing further can be hoped for by amendments to existing legislation insofar as internal elevators are concerned, and to obtain what your Executive desires, you request that insofar as the three Western Provinces are concerned that a system of Government ownership and operation of grain elevators be inaugurated. In reply to this request we beg to say as follows:—

The several matters presented involve, in their institution, carrying out and performance, the consideration of unusually grave and complicated questions, constitutional, financial and legislative, which we will more fully hereinafter indicate.

The three Provinces are asked to wholly provide, operate and maintain on the public credit, the requisite quota of elevators for the storage of grain and to regulate generally the manner in which the shipment or transportation of grain shall be conducted. This will necessarily involve, as you will recognize, a new constitutional principle not previously established and also means the incurrence from time to time of heavy financial