

:: Newspaper Opinions ::

THE MIGHT OF EARNEST EFFORT

Every fair thinking farmer in the west must now understand that the only chance of securing the things which the agricultural interests so much need can only be secured by united action. As has already been said, while the Redvers Grain Growers' Association has become stronger each year, there are still many farmers who are not members. This should not be. Every landowner should become a member, and by so doing help his brother farmers, as in their fight they are struggling not only for themselves but for every farmer in the west. Each member of the association should go out amongst his neighbors and tell them of what has already been done, and while outlining to them the program for the future, ask for their aid in the work. No one need be ashamed to push the work of organization. It is not a selfish cause or one that works for the benefit of a few, but a cause which has the highest aim and the best ideals of any cause which has yet aroused the support of the farmers of any land.—The Redvers, Sask., Observer.

A TORONTO TRIBUTE

The Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba has gained a notable victory in its fight for government ownership of elevators. It was announced at its Brandon convention that the Manitoba government would co-operate with the association in working out the details of a scheme of government ownership of internal elevators. The association, which is the most powerful organization in Manitoba, has claimed for years that there was too great a difference between the price the western farmer was paid for wheat and the price the consumer paid in the east.

The association finally decided that the trouble lay in the elevators, which, it was asserted, were controlled by a virtual monopoly. A policy of government ownership of interior and terminal elevators was decided upon. It has been a long fight, and the Brandon announcement has been the first concession to the farmer.

The heart and soul of the fight for the grain-growers has been D. W. McCuaig, a prosperous farmer of the rich Portage Plains, who has been for six years president of the association, and R. McKenzie, the secretary, a man of wonderful organizing ability, considerable platform talent, and keen business acumen. He is also a trenchant writer, and is editor of the organ of the association, the Grain Growers' Guide.—Toronto Globe.

NEW BRUNSWICK INTERESTED

The question of public ownership of grain elevators is attracting much attention in the western provinces. Farmers in the prairie country, revolting against the arrogance of grain companies are conducting an energetic campaign in favor of a government system of elevators. A resolution favoring federal government ownership and operation of terminal elevators was passed in the Saskatchewan legislature a few days ago. The proposal to establish government elevators is giving much satisfaction to agriculturists in the grain-growing provinces. The movement is significant emphasizing the extent to which the principle of public ownership or control of transportation facilities is being accepted in the west. In view of such progressive movements in other parts of the country, it is somewhat interesting to observe the faith in the gullibility of the public certain private corporations and their mouthpieces have in respect to the retrograde proposal to revert from the principle of public ownership to private ownership or control of the main artery of transportation in the Maritime provinces.—Moncton, N.B., Transcript.

A NATIONAL MOVEMENT

The unanimous acceptance by the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association of the draft constitution of the proposed

National Council of Agriculture, previously adopted by the Grange, marks one more step in advance in the movement of looking to the formation of a Dominion-wide farmers' organization. The two central provinces of Confederation are now in line and there is every reason to expect that Alberta and Saskatchewan will follow suit at the conventions representing these provinces to be held in January and February. The creation of provincial bodies in Quebec and the Maritime provinces to be affiliated with the federal body, may reasonably be expected to come later. The day of weakness and division among farmers is passing; the day of union and strength is at hand.—Russell, Man., Banner.

FEDERATION AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT

The wisdom and tact of Premier Roblin and his colleagues was never better shown than when, through the minister of education, Hon. G. R. Coldwell, speaking at the Brandon convention, it was announced that the Manitoba government had adopted the principle of government-owned elevators, as laid down by the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association. The importance of this announcement is hard to realize as it is fraught with unforeseen results. It is an evidence of what an organized body of men can accomplish. Two years ago any man predicting this outcome would have been laughed to scorn. The Times is more convinced than ever that the federation of western farmers is an accomplished fact, though yet only in its embryo stages. The right men are at the head of it, and they have the right ideas. Owning and publishing their own paper is one of the reasons of their success; we venture to say that without it the movement would be slow and liable to failure, such as the Patrons of Industry experienced. Every farmer should become a member, a live, though not necessarily a life one, and hurl back the taunt that they cannot pull together.—Nokomis Times.

HOW THE MONOPOLY BEGAN

The present movement in farming of government ownership of elevators is the latest phase of a long struggle made by the farmers of Manitoba for free trade in the matter of marketing their grain. The struggle began 20 to 25 years ago.

It was the duty of the railway companies in the first place, as common carriers, to provide accommodation for receiving and shipping wheat and other grains, just as it was and is their duty to provide waiting rooms for passengers, freight sheds for general freight and stock yards for cattle. But the railway companies evaded their duty and because they evaded it all the subsequent difficulties have arisen which have embarrassed and hindered the grain grower in marketing his produce. Instead of doing their duty by providing elevator accommodation themselves they leased sites to the elevator owners whereon to build elevators and then refused to accept for shipment any wheat except through these elevators. Thus at one step the elevator monopoly was created and the grain grower put in bondage to the elevator man.—The Deloraine Times.

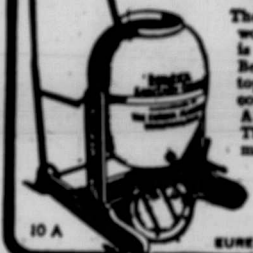
London, Jan. 12.—The Earl of Crewe, secretary of state for the colonies, has notified the British Cotton Growing Association that the government has decided to grant \$50,000 annually for three years to aid experimental work in the industry.

As the result of an early morning fire in Saskatoon January 14, no less than five persons were suffocated to death, while a sixth has since succumbed.

Just how the fire originated or what prevented the family escaping from the devouring element, is not yet plain; but the grim reality of the affair is realized when it is stated that a whole family is wiped out, while a second is minus two of its younger members.

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