

# The Grain Growers' Guide

ADDRESSED TO THE FARMERS OF



Published under the auspices and employed as the Official Organ of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, The Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association and the United Farmers of Alberta.

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## WHY THE GUIDE IS NEEDED

THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE has been criticised sometimes for stating that it was necessary that a paper should be in existence which would present the unqualified truth to its readers. We intend at this time to show the reason for making such a statement. The Grain Growers' Grain Company held its annual meeting on Thursday and Friday, July 14 and 15. Alleged reports of that meeting appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg Telegram. The following will show the Telegram report of what President Crerar said, and also will show what Mr. Crerar really said:

### Telegram Report

"President Crerar referred to the excellent work of the Manitoba government in placing internal grain elevators under the charge of a government appointed committee. Mr. Crerar declared this to be an excellent piece of legislation in the interests of the farmers of the province and one that should be appreciated by every farmer in Manitoba."

"The investigations made by the government showed that the only way to handle the elevator question was to place the control of the elevators under a commission. 'I don't know what induced the government to take this course in the interests of the farmers. At any rate it should have been adopted long ago,' the president said in part."

"President Crerar said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, during his present tour, would be met by many questions from the Grain Growers' Associations to which specific replies will be required. First of all the Federal government would be demanded to take over and operate the terminal elevators at the lake ports. The president declared that at present the people controlling grain are mixing grades and defaulting the purchasers and at the same time injuring the reputation of Western grain. The government was already maintaining a large number of grain inspectors at these points, but it would seem that they were not earning their pay."

### The Truth

"Those of you who were here at the last annual meeting will recall that the question of terminal elevators was discussed. It was taken up actively by our board of directors some little time after the annual meeting. The work of such a terminal elevator would by law have to be carried on by a separate company. Steps were taken and the application prepared for a charter for such a company. The announcement by the Manitoba and Saskatchewan governments, however, that they were prepared to give the farmer relief by providing a system of public elevators in the interior, and additional evidence that the Dominion government were considering the advisability of taking over the terminals, induced us to defer action. In this I think the Company acted wisely. There is reason to believe at the present time that in the no distant future the Dominion government will take over and operate the terminal elevators at the lake front, in which case the necessity for the Company having one, disappears."

On Friday morning, when the shareholders read the Telegram report and recognised its absolute untruth they were indignant and unanimously passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, there appears in this morning's issue of the Winnipeg Telegram a report and editorial based thereon, purporting to deal with the annual address of President Crerar to the shareholders of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, we hereby declare both the report and the editorial to be such a misrepresentation of the president's remarks as to give no adequate idea of what he said."

In the face of this resolution unanimously passed by upwards of 200 of the shareholders who were present, the Telegram editorially replied on July 19:

"As to what Mr. Crerar said or did not say The Telegram has no hesitation in accepting its reporters' statements of what occurred, notwithstanding the somewhat vague and non-committal resolution which Mr. Crerar brings to his defence."

Thus the Winnipeg Telegram which was not represented at the meeting, declares not only President Crerar but the 200 farmers who were present at the meeting to be incapable of telling the truth. We leave it to our readers to say which is liable to be the correct statements of the facts.

But this is not the only misrepresentation that appeared. The Winnipeg Free Press in its evening edition of July 15 published also an alleged report of the annual meeting and in that report made incorrect statements which we also give to our readers, and what is correct as well:

### Free Press Report

"President Crerar, of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, called the attention of the Free Press representative to an alleged synopsis of his address appearing in a morning paper of this city. Mr. Crerar states that the matter appearing was entirely a work of the imagination, and that his opinions and views were directly contrary to those set forth in this report. The real address of the president will be printed next week in the official organ of the Company."

Mr. Crerar did not tell the Free Press representative anything about what his views were on the Manitoba elevator question, and in fact did not express his views either then or at the meeting. Neither did Mr. Crerar say that THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE was the "official organ" of the Company. He merely mentioned that the report would be published in THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE. We might add, however, that THE GUIDE is the official organ of the farmers' associations of the three Western provinces, by whom it has been officially adopted. It is not the official organ of the Grain Growers' Grain Company and has not been adopted by them as such. We draw attention to those incorrect reports in the two leading dailies of Western Canada in order to show our readers what harm may be done by either intentionally or unintentionally by misrepresentation of facts.

### The Truth

"President Crerar, of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, called the attention of the Free Press representative to an alleged synopsis of his address published in this morning's Telegram. Mr. Crerar states that the matter appearing was entirely a work of the imagination. He stated the address he really made would be published in next week's issue of THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE."

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## LAURIER AND THE GRAIN GROWERS

On Monday, July 18th, the Grain Growers' Association of Manitoba represented by 250 delegates from all parts of the province met Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Brandon and presented to him a statement of the requirements of the farming industry of the West and informed him that they did not consider that the Dominion Government had, up to the present time, given sufficient attention to the agricultural needs of this part of Canada. The addresses which they presented to Sir Wilfrid and the reply made to them by Sir Wilfrid and the Minister of Railways are published in this issue. We urge that our readers will give careful attention to these statements of the Grain Growers and of Sir Wilfrid, and will

feel free to discuss them in our columns. The Grain Growers at the meeting were disappointed in the reply which they received from Sir Wilfrid. The Grain Growers certainly expected that Sir Wilfrid and his government would be prepared to do for them considerably more than his reply indicated. The only statement that he made which could interest the Grain Growers was that the terminal elevator situation would be remedied. He did not say how. We submit that Sir Wilfrid should have been in a position to make a definite statement on the terminal elevator question. He stated that he had been discussing it for many months with Sir Richard Cartwright and was fully aware of the conditions that existed. Under these circumstances he had plenty of time to decide how far his government was willing to go. He declared that the buyers of the grain should not be allowed to elevate the grain, but of course this is what the law says now. But the elevator men can tramp over that law just as easily as though it were not on the statute books, and we believe that they can walk through any other law just as easily, unless the elevators are absolutely taken over and operated by the Dominion government. The farmers do not ask the Dominion government to spend one cent of the public funds on the terminal elevator scheme, but are willing and even anxious that their grain should be taxed sufficiently to pay for the support of the elevators. No fairer proposition was ever put to any government, and we do not believe that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his government can devise anything short of government operation that will afford any satisfactory remedy for present conditions.

In regard to the tariff, Sir Wilfrid expressed the surprise of himself and the Minister of Finance that the present tariff was not satisfactory to the farmers. We confess that we cannot understand where the surprise comes in. Sir Wilfrid was one of the greatest tariff experts in the world when he was leader of the opposition and condemned in every way every species of protection. Mr. Fielding was out in this country on the tariff commission in 1903 and the Grain Growers met him at Brandon and told him very plainly what they thought about the tariff. Sir Wilfrid did not answer a single argument that the Grain Growers put before him at Brandon last week and with all due respect to him, we do not believe that he could answer them. He said he would discuss the tariff question at his evening meeting at Brandon though we cannot see why he did not discuss the question with the Grain Growers. At the evening meeting he said—

"When I came into office I promised free trade and I think my record will prove that I have been consistent. When I am dead and gone my name, I venture to think, and the name of the Laurier government will be long associated with British preference. The British preference was not only an act of great statesmanship but it was a measure of political economy, and has been a regulation of prices."

Sir Wilfrid claims to have been consistent but we cannot see where he can prove his statement. In 1893 Sir Wilfrid said at Ottawa:

"I contend that protection, besides being the cause of the worst political corruption, is the deadly foe of all true freedom."

and in the following year at Winnipeg he said:

"I denounce the policy of protection as bondage,—you bondage, and I refer to bondage in the same manner as American slavery was bondage."

It is well known, and Sir Wilfrid will not deny it, that there is as much, if not more protection in the present tariff, than there was when he made those statements. Therefore, according to Sir Wilfrid's own remarks, there is now at Ottawa, "political corruption," and the people of the West are "in bondage." Yet Sir Wilfrid tells us now that he has been consistent and he also tells us what we will think about him when he is dead and gone. As he is in good health, and not liable to be "dead and gone" for some time, we do not think that this remark was hardly to the point.