

Q. Now, there is another point, Mr. Riddell, that I want to get at, because this is rather important. As to the spreads in grain during the operation of the Wheat Board, the spreads between 1 and 2—A. Yes, sir, I understand.

Q. Between 2 and 3, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, and tough; can you give us that, or have you it with you?—A. Well, those are all contained in the regulations of the Board. If you wish me to look them up I could find them, but they are a matter of record, and I presume that the regulations—

Q. Let me quote you a figure. On September 1, I find that in Fort William No. 1 was \$1.59.4, No. 2 was \$1.52.4, that is,  $6\frac{2}{5}$  between 1 and 2—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Between 3 and 4 it is 15 cents a bushel, between 4 and 5 it is 15 cents a bushel, and between 5 and 6 it is 15 cents a bushel. Now, there is no quotation here for tough wheat, but as I understand it, when the Wheat Board was in operation these spreads were definitely fixed, and you sold your wheat at the same spread that you charged the farmer; is that right?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, if you can give us any idea of what spreads were in operation during that year, we will get an idea of what advantage it was to the farmer in this connection?—A. You will have to excuse me a moment while I look them up, because I am not—

An hon. MEMBER: Will you tell the Committee the difference in spread between 1 and 3, contract grades?

Mr. SALES: On September 1, 9 cents. They vary in different periods. On October 15, here is No. 1 at \$1.30, and No. 3 at \$1.13. There is 17 cents there between 1 and 3 on October 15.

The WITNESS: I have the regulation here covering the first 3 grades. There are some subsequent regulations covering the lower grades. As between 1 Northern and 1 Hard, and No. 3—those are contract grades—there is a spread of 7 cents, 7 cents a bushel.

*By Mr. Johnson (Moosejaw):*

Q. That is two grades?—A. There is 3 cents between 1 and 2, and 4 cents between 2 and 3, an aggregate spread of 7 cents. What was your other point, Mr. Sales?

*By Mr. Sales:*

Q. Then there was a spread, of course, between 4, 5 and 6, but the spread on tough especially, I think it was 8 cents?—A. I do not think it is so much; I think it is 6; I am not sure. Six cents on the first three grades. This is regulation No. 25 on page 82 of the Report. Low grade tough is \$2.09, that is low grade tough No. 1 Northern.

Q. Six, then, is less than the \$2.15?—A. Yes. Low-grade tough No. 2 is \$2.06, and low-grade tough No. 3 is \$2.02. Each of them, I believe, are 6 cents under the straight grades.

Q. Now, what is it on the average spread between tough and No. 1 Northern without the Wheat Board?—A. Well, it is very, very considerable; I would not be able to give you an intelligent answer to that unless I looked up the records.

Q. There is no tough?—A. They are easily ascertainable, and I would only be venturing an opinion that would not convey a correct impression.

Q. It has been 12 cents?—A. It might be easily 12 or 15; it might be 3 or 4, depending on conditions.

*By Mr. Duncan:*

Q. What effect would the Wheat Board have upon the small millers of Ontario and Quebec? I live in a locality where there are four or five small mills around and they claim that during the last Wheat Board they all lost money.—A. That would

[Mr. F. W. Riddell.]