

APPENDIX No. 2

have got that machine in exchange for 1,800 bushels of wheat and the Manitoba farmer had to give 2,400 bushels. Therefore, in the purchase of that gasoline engine 1,800 bushels of wheat in Minnesota was worth as much as 2,400 bushels in Manitoba. I made inquiries on a visit to St. John's, Dakota, a little town about three miles from the boundary line. I was there about the 3rd or 4th of December last, and while in the grain elevator there, a farmer came in with a load of barley and he was paid 92 cents for it. If he had brought that barley to Brandon he would only have got forty cents a bushel for it. A McCormick eight-foot binder is sold in St. John's, Dakota, at \$150 cash. The same binder at Brandon costs \$175 cash; I paid that for one a year ago last fall.

By the Hon. Mr. Bell:

Q. Duty paid?—A. Yes. A farmer's wagon costs in St. John's, Dakota, \$75; in Brandon that same wagon costs \$85.

Q. Can they do that and pay the duty?—A. Well, they are doing it. It is the same class of wagons.

Q. There is 17½ per cent on binders?—A. The freight rate is not very much different. Now, that is in terms of dollars. Figure it out in terms of bushels of barley and it is more significant. A Dakota farmer could get an eight-foot McCormick binder for 163 bushels of barley, while a Manitoba farmer would have to give 437 bushels for the same article. A Dakota farmer would get his wagon for 81 bushels; the Manitoba farmer would have to give 212 bushels. One bushel of barley would pay for eight gallons of coal oil in St. John's, Dakota; but farmers around Brandon would have to be satisfied with a little over one gallon for a bushel of barley. Here is something else: The Cockshutt Plough Co., of Brantford, sells eight bottom gang ploughs in Minneapolis around \$500, where barley sells from \$1 to \$1.15; while in Manitoba they charge \$680 for the same kind of plough. A Minnesota farmer can get one of those Cockshutt eight-bottom ploughs for around 500 bushels of barley; while the Manitoba farmer would have to give 1,700 bushels for the same kind of plough. These figures illustrate what we are up against in the western province in trying to farm.

Q. Are those prices regular prices, ordinary prices that you have been quoting, or are those somewhat exceptional?—A. No, they are the regular prices. Of course I confess there are abnormally high prices for barley this year, and the difference between Canada and the United States is a little higher than it has been; but in the matter of wheat the difference in price for the last five years is pretty much the same as it is now and the difference in price of flour and those other articles I gave you for the last six years.

The committee adjourned at 4.20 at the call of the chair.