

Mr. PERLEY: You see the situation was a little different. Advances had been made on the pool grain. There is no way of telling what advances had been made by independent grain dealers or grain companies to their farmers, but it was not to a very great extent. Most of their grain would be bought outright, but the idea is they were speculating and using the option market, and so on. They were in such a position anyway that they thought they could take over these elevators. They thought the elevator pool was going to go into insolvency and the elevators would be sold or distributed. What I am saying I know for a fact. I do not know what arrangements the private elevators or grain companies had with the banks at all. I know what one had. I know they were talking that way and as I knew them they thought that company was going to go into insolvency, that the assets would then be divided up and there would be elevators distributed.

Mr. McNEVIN: At that time the pools practically were insolvent. That is the true situation.

Mr. PERLEY: You can say that, surely. I will admit that.

Mr. KINLEY: The government came to their aid.

Mr. PERLEY: Yes, and what have you got to-day? You have got one of the greatest grain handling institutions in western Canada, a credit to that province and an example of co-operative organization such as I do not think you can find anywhere else in Canada. The government came to the aid of the pool. They took over the whole thing, the handling of the grain, the warehouse receipts and started to carry on.

Mr. CLEAVER: Every grain grower participated in the advantage from that action.

Mr. PERLEY: Every pool member would.

Mr. CLEAVER: If this pool grain had been thrown on the market do you know what would have happened?

Mr. PERLEY: Yes, there would have been a calamity.

Mr. KINLEY: I suppose a lot of trouble was caused by the years of drought when you had no crops.

Mr. PERLEY: Yes, to a certain extent, but this is a different situation.

Mr. KINLEY: How did you go through the years when you had no crop? Who sustained your province then?

Mr. PERLEY: That is a question.

Mr. KINLEY: The rest of Canada?

Mr. PERLEY: You should ask that question of some of our witnesses, or of Mr. Wedd when he was representing the banks here. Put that question to them.

Mr. KINLEY: I am asking you as a member.

Mr. PERLEY: There have been years when we have had losses. There are certain conditions which I do not think any government can control. I might say to you that in 1915 I threshed on our farm one of the largest crops we ever harvested. In 1919 I had 1,700 acres of wheat and did not thresh a bushel, because I was hailed out on the 1st of July, and never took out a binder. Again in the depression period, in 1932, on my farm, we never took out a binder. In 1933 we never even took out a mower. Then we come along to another year and have a fine crop. There are questions in respect of farming in western Canada that no banking committee or government can do much about.

Mr. KINLEY: You had a difficult time.

Mr. PERLEY: Sure, and lost a lot of money.

Mr. KINLEY: And the banks had a difficult time too.