

Mr. WARNER: I will let you ask him that.

By Mr. McMaster:

Q. You say, Mr. Riddell, that between your company—which is the Saskatchewan—
—A. Co-operative Elevator Company.

Q. And the other companies in the same line of business, you were able to pay
a couple of cents more per bushel for track wheat?—A. For street wheat.

Q. For street wheat, then were you competitors?—A. No, Sir. Now, I say that
our list is two cents over theirs, but I am perfectly satisfied that at places where they
compete with us they pay two cents over their list and compete with us, or else
they would not have got any business.

Q. Did that condition obtain the season before?—A. Not uniformly, no sir; in
fact, it may not have existed last year. I have seen the time when for several
months we have been four cents over; I have seen the time when we were one cent
over. We pay our own price, and it is merely accident as to whether it is the same
as theirs or whether it is higher one cent, two cents or three cents.

By Mr. Morrison:

Q. Did the other line companies ever pay a larger price than your company?—A.
Yes, sir, but not uniformly. I do not recall that their lists have been higher than
our lists.

Q. I meant, by the line?—A. I would say—mind you, when you say "did they
ever do that?" that is a long time. I do not recall any such case.

Q. I mean, in recent years?—A. I do not recall any such case.

By Mr. Warner:

Q. This may vary just a little from the questions you have been answering just
now, but there was an impression, I think, left by Dr. Magill that there was no
depression of the market by putting so much grain on the market all at once. He
stated, I believe, that there was some place in the world where farmers were placing
their wheat on the market at all times in the year, and that that was just a notion
that the farmers had, that this depression came about. Now, I would like to hear
your idea as to whether the market can be depressed by the farmers in Canada
putting their wheat on the market very rapidly?—A. I would answer that, sir, by
saying that I think that is an economic law. I do not think that the question as to
whether the price is higher or lower in the fall need be considered very much. If we
have a certain standard of prices in the fall with a large volume of grain on the
market, it is only a matter of conjecture what would happen if we had a smaller
volume of grain on the market. I think I tried to deal with that before. It is all
a matter of speculation, but I think it is an economic law that if you flood a market
in excess of the power of absorption you are going to have a deflated price.

Q. There is one more question I would like to ask there. Mr. Evans in giving his
evidence here claimed that there was an equalizing of markets all the time through
the season, and the farmers feel that this equalization does not benefit them, because
that comes about after they have sold their wheat at a lower market right after harvest?—
A. Well, Mr. Warner, I am afraid that I cannot give you very much assistance on
those things. Mr. Evans probably has devoted very much time to analyzing the
statistics of world conditions. I do not pretend to be a statistician in that respect.
My experience in the grain business has been confined very largely to the country
elevator end, the Commission office and the operation of terminals, and I have not
very extensive knowledge regarding that. I do not really understand what is involved
in the question, Mr. Warner.

Q. You think, then, there is no depression of the market at the time when we are
putting our grain on the market?—A. No, sir.