

FINAL REPORT

THE SENATE,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 262,

Friday, 9th June, 1922.

The Special Committee of the Senate, appointed to inquire into the diversion of the Export Grain Trade of the Prairie Provinces to American instead of Canadian Seaports, opened its sessions on the 20th of April, 1921.

The witnesses examined were:—

- Thomas Harling, Steamship manager, Montreal.
- Charles A. Hayes, Vice-President, Canadian National Railways.
- P. J. Horning, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.
- W. B. Lanigan, General Freight Traffic Manager, C.P.R.
- Dr. Robert Magill, Secretary Winnipeg Grain Exchange.
- J. W. Norcross, President Canada Steamships Lines.
- J. A. Richardson, Grain Exporter, Kingston.
- J. S. Royer, of J. B. Renaud Company, Quebec.
- J. G. Scott, Chairman Transportation Committee, Board of Trade, Quebec.
- Geo. Stephen, Traffic Department, Canadian National Railways.
- Brig.-Gen. Tremblay, Harbour Commissioner, Quebec.
- W. A. Warne, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.
- D. O. Wood, General Foreign Freight Agent, C.N.R.

The evidence submitted to the Committee establishes the fact that at least half, and some witnesses affirm as much as 80 per cent, of the wheat raised in the Prairie Provinces and exported overseas, is so exported through United States seaports.

The Quebec Board of Trade submitted a copy of a Memorial which they had presented to the Railway Commission, at its session in Quebec on the 3rd February, 1921, according to which, as stated in Government reports, the movement of all grain, by water, from Fort William, during six years, from 1912 to 1918, was as follows:—

to Canadian lakeports.	577,888,581 bushels.
to Buffalo and other U.S. lakeports.	518,762,749 “
Total.	1,096,651,330 “

and the Memorial further stated that of the 577 million bushels shipped to Canadian lakeports, probably two-thirds were for the use of Canadian flour mills and a large quantity for seed grain in Ontario and Quebec, so that the quantity exported overseas from Canadian seaports was very small. The great bulk of the 518 million bushels sent through Buffalo was for export, because the quantity of Canadian wheat consumed in the United States is very limited, owing to the heavy customs duty.

All the witnesses examined seem to admit that this diversion of our export trade had taken place and gave various reasons for it which may be summarized as follows:—