

particular market—there is no question about that. But I say that a compulsory system has been considered as unconstitutional. but there is another system of compulsory wheat selling that we might consider. If it is thought that that is the only possibility, there is no virtue or no relief to be found in the voluntary system, as some think. Then let us consider what we call the Australian system, or the report submitted by the sub-committee the last day we met. Have you read that?—A. No sir.

Q. Well, the sub-committee consulted with the law officers of the Crown, and they decided that by concurrent action of the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments a system of compulsory marketing might be established there that would be constitutional.—A. I have seen the press report only on that.

Q. That would involve three Provincial Governments—there being three vitally concerned—and one Federal Government. That means four Governments working along parallel lines, as it were, to one common object. Now, the question I would like to ask is, what do you think is the likelihood of that being practicable? I believe that will get what some people want, a compulsory Wheat Board. The other has been considered for the time being unconstitutional. Now, here is the constitutional means of effecting the same end. It has been tried out in Australia in the early days of the war. It has been abandoned there for a voluntary Board since then, and I think the voluntary Board is still in force. The law officers of the Crown in consultation with your sub-committee have indicated that that might be invoked here, and that the compulsory features might be carried out—those parts declared unconstitutional for the Federal Government to do would be quite proper for the Provincial Government. What do you think about it?—A. Well, insofar as either the Federal or the Provincial or both combined are able to pass along the powers which the Board previously held, speaking from a practical point of view, there is not any reason why the Board should not operate successfully that I know of. My point is this, that it does not matter very much—as far as I can see; I am not a lawyer—so far as the Board is concerned, where the power comes from, so long as it has it.

Q. Do you think a Board of that nature should handle options?—A. If under a compulsory scheme—and by “compulsory” I mean compulsory so far as the farmers’ deliveries are concerned—we would not have any option market at all; there would no markets to operate in, but I would say that there would actually be no necessity for it.

Q. But with the voluntary Board, you think it would be almost necessary to handle options then?—A. Yes; I think you would have to, on occasion, do the same as the people outside of the voluntary Board.

Q. Just another question before I sit down. If it was a voluntary Board, options would be indispensable?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, the old Wheat Board sold the wheat at a time when their judgment told them they would get the best results. In other words, we poured our wheat into the Wheat Board, got our advance payments, and they sold it at their discretion. Now, no private concern does that on the market.—A. I would not say that, sir.

Q. Am I right in that?—A. I would not say that no private concern is buying and selling grain at their own discretion; I would not say that.

Q. The usual way of consigning grain, in my experience—A. Let me make this distinction. If you are speaking of a private firm handling grain for a farmer, then I would say that they must carry out the farmers’ instructions. That is a different proposition. But if you say that a private firm does not buy and sell grain at its own discretion, I would not say that.

Q. I did not mean that. I think we are all looking for some system that is a little better than the present, but any system that is established as a result of this enquiry, is it intended that farmers will still consign their grain with instructions to sell immediately, or on arrival, or on inspection, or on further advice, or is it the intention to transfer to the judgment of this Board the right to sell when they think they can sell to the best advantage? Which would be the better way?—A. I