

occur. I believe it would be mistaken policy to take such powers, because the principle of seizing overages implies that the Crown should make good on losses. Because of the competition prevailing among the country elevator companies, the underwriting of losses would lead to competitive abuses in that direction.

Mr. Howe laid his finger on the problem when he referred to the "competitive abuses" which might arise. In the competitive struggle between elevator agents to obtain the handling of the farmers' grain, an agent, knowing that he was protected by the government against shortage in weights, might tend to be less careful in his weighing than at present.

These are matters to be considered in dealing with the problem of weighing grain in country elevators. The elevator companies do not desire revenue from overages—neither can they afford, under the existing tariff of handling and storage charges to assume losses.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lamont. Are there any questions?

*By Mr. Argue:*

Q. I would like to say that it was very interesting to get the views on handling as presented to this committee. With regard to my own community of Kayville—Mr. Lamont probably told the committee this, and I may have forgotten—I was wondering where those figures were obtained.—A. At six o'clock this morning I was not sleeping very well, and so I phoned to Scott Neal, the secretary of the McCabe Grain Company and asked him if he would get me from their records the percentage handlings of the two companies. Now, my understanding of the way they are secured is that on the daily report form the agent sends in to his company a record each day as to the handlings at the point. That would be made up from the record received by the agent. Sometimes an agent does not want to give the exact figure to his company. His records may not be very good for the day, and he might not show the exact amount—I do not know, but I have heard of it happening. But I would take those figures as being substantially correct that come from the secretary of the company.

Q. Those reports come from the Kayville elevator agent at different times?—A. Yes.

Q. I presume that what was shown was the percentage figure given by McCabe's added up and subtracted from 100, and the balance must have been the pool, because it is a two-elevator point?—A. No, they would get fairly close weights from the cars shipped. They would know fairly well from that. But the only way we could get down to the exact figure would be if the pool produced its figures and McCabe produced its figures from the record, and then it would be down to the bushel.

Q. I, as a farmer at Kayville, have not any way of knowing except by watching the trucks go by and talking to my neighbours. I am interested in this figure of 8 per cent for 1945-46. Should that not be 80 per cent?—A. No, the deliveries for that year were 12,000 to McCabe's and 1,000 to the pool. That is what I was pointing out to you, the danger of percentages.

Q. We will go into some of the dangers of percentages. The total mean average of the percentages you have given was 61.7. That is my figure.—A. 67 per cent for the pool.

*By Mr. Argue:*

Q. No, the mean average of the percentage figures you read on the record is 61.7. I have taken the percentage figures that you gave, as I heard them.—A. That does not mean anything, once again. If you take the bushels it is more accurate.