

Q. Whether or not it would serve any useful purpose to have your opinion as to what the sales would be, I cannot say. It is entirely for the committee to say. My own opinion is I attach not too much importance to expectations; perhaps that is because I am inured to disappointment?—A. I really have not mentioned any figures. I merely covered the situation with a view to try to give some explanation of the position as it is to-day.

By Hon. Mr. Ralston:

Q. Have you said something like this factor, and on the other hand this factor?—A. I do not think you will find it in here.

Q. Not on the other hand?—A. No.

Hon. Mr. STEWART: What I do not like about these market predictions is that they are usually wrong.

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: Outside of that they are perfectly all right.

Hon. Mr. STEWART: No. Nobody on earth can tell what is going to happen to-day, it is so dependent on so many factors.

The WITNESS: There are really no market predictions, Mr. Stewart. However, it is a matter for the committee to decide.

The CHAIRMAN: If he has prepared the statement and desires to make it, I suppose we have no objection.

Hon. Mr. STEWART: I am not objecting.

The CHAIRMAN: What do you say, Mr. Ralston?

Hon. Mr. RALSTON: Yes, certainly.

The WITNESS

Stabilization and Exports

In the press and before this Committee, the suggestion has been advanced that stabilization has in some way interfered with the export movement of Canadian wheat. I therefore propose to deal with this matter and present some views which may be of interest to the Committee.

Let me first advance the point that we have been operating under conditions of a limited world demand and that nothing that this country could do would alter this fact. I make this statement with one reservation—that if Canada, along with other exporting countries, had so acted as to depress world values still further, the net result might have been to cause even further restrictions on imports into those countries which were endeavouring to maintain an artificial price level for their producers, and hence a further restriction in the volume of world trade in wheat.

Furthermore, in a discussion of this subject the question of world surplus stocks of wheat is not involved. The fact is clear that there has been more surplus wheat in the world than importing countries were prepared to buy at any price and an accumulation in world wheat stocks was inevitable. The international wheat position would not be affected by the shifting of such stocks from one exporting country to another. It would still be available for the market. Therefore, an effort to redistribute surplus stocks among exporting countries would have had only one effect upon the international price level; the destructive effects of methods which might be employed in the attempt to force redistribution.

The problem therefore resolves itself into the clearcut issue of what percentage of world trade Canada has received and the possibility of having secured a larger percentage of world import requirements.

In his speech in Parliament on the second reading of this Bill, the Prime Minister submitted a statement showing the percentage of world trade secured by Canada over a period of years. That statement shows what has been accomplished in maintaining Canada's share of world trade in wheat, and provides