

obvious, if you give it a little consideration. In the one case you have complete control over the whole of the commodity. In the other case, if you have not the compulsory features, you have not complete control, and to that extent you have competition, and an undetermined proportion of the crop coming to you, which is a vastly different proposition from controlling the whole of the commodity.

Q. My second question is: In the event of the inauguration of what is known as a voluntary Wheat Board or voluntary Wheat Pool, do you consider that said voluntary pool would make any considerable contribution towards the solution of the present problems regarding the marketing of wheat?—A. I would answer that question in this way, that that would depend very largely, if not entirely, upon the support which any voluntary pool might get. The greater the support the greater the relief, and the less the support the less general good might be done; but it is impossible to say whether any relief would be granted; the amount of relief would depend very largely, if not entirely, upon the amount of support given.

Q. My third question is: The former Board did and the proposed compulsory Board would control the export of flour?—A. Yes. I would regard that as an absolute essential. If you have a Board whose duty it is to export the surplus of wheat produced in this country to foreign countries, it is impossible to conceive of a situation where the exportation of flour would be in the hands of private individuals or firms such as the millers, because you would be setting up a form of competition unless the millers were prepared to accept daily fluctuating prices for their own wheat supplies, based on export values. You see what is involved in that? Under the old Wheat Board, supplies of wheat were delivered to the millers at certain prices which ruled for fairly long periods, and the Wheat Board controlled the selling price of flour, which was based upon whatever price they may have been paying for wheat. During a period of time in which there was a uniform price for wheat to the millers, the prevailing price for Canadian wheat in importing countries moved, and in a general way moved upwards; so that if you could conceive a condition where wheat could be given to the millers at a stated price for a long period during which the foreign market was increasing, you would have the millers shipping flour to those foreign markets and killing the market and rendering it impossible for the Wheat Board to sell at the proper values. Consequently, wherever your control of wheat values is, there must be your control of export flour values unless you could meet the condition by making daily prices to the millers for their supplies of wheat.

Q. My last question is: What steps would such a Board take to preserve the market for flour built up over a period of years, and also to supply the incentive for the purchase of Canadian flour, resulting as it does now from the personal efforts of the miller? In other words, what steps or machinery could the Board put into operation to take the place of the machinery now in operation by the private exporters of flour?—A. That is a matter that would require some consideration, but I do not think it is an unsurmountable difficulty. For instance, there might be no objection to the millers keeping up their trade relations as now, so long as they were not permitted to export flour excepting at prices which would be regulated by the Board. In other words, they could occupy the position of agents of the Board in the export business. Speaking offhand, I see no objection to that. One of our large mills having certain trade relations with European importers of flour could still maintain those relations by getting the business on terms, so far as price is concerned, regulated by the Board so as not to interfere with wheat values in the same markets. Do you see the point?

Q. Yes. Assuming that the miller in Canada has bought at a given figure, say one dollar for the sake of illustration?—A. Yes.

Q. We must assume that at some period a corresponding price plus transportation charges, and so on, is obtaining in the consuming market, say Europe?—A. Pardon me.