

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, May 15, 1929.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at eleven o'clock A.M., the Acting Chairman, Mr. J. L. Brown, presiding.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we are met this morning for the purpose of hearing Professor Harrison of the Agricultural College, Winnipeg and Mr. Bredt, a director of the Wheat Pool, in regard to barley grades. You will recall that at an earlier date, March 14th as a matter of fact, we had presented to us certain revisions of the grades of barley, but it seems that since that time investigations have been made in the Old Country by these gentlemen who have obtained certain new information, that they desire to submit for your consideration. We will hear now from Professor T. J. Harrison.

Prof. T. J. HARRISON called.

Prof. HARRISON: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, at the outset I wish to state that any information I am able to give you will be largely the result of three months' study of the barley markets in Europe. This study was made possible by the generosity of the Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers, Limited, who asked that I associate myself with one of their directors, Mr. P. F. Bredt in conducting an investigation to determine the possibility of securing a better market for Western Canadian barley. In the course of the investigation the markets in the largest barley importing countries were visited, namely, Germany, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Holland, Belgium and Denmark. According to Bromhall, Europe imported 20,184,000 quarters of barley in 1927, of which the above named countries imported 19,017,000 quarters, or over 94 per cent. In these countries data and opinions were secured from the research workers, barley merchants and importers, manufacturers of barley products and consumers of feeding barley. In all statements were secured from 196 people, so that it is fairly conclusive.

Throughout the whole investigation the one thing that was most forcibly impressed upon us was that Canada was not delivering to this market barley in the condition that the consumers wanted. It has been stated that there are three parties interested in the marketing process, the producer, the middleman, and the consumer, and of these three the consumer is the most important. This is particularly true with barley, for the consumer has so many choices that the market is a "buyers' market," and not a "sellers' market," with the result if Canada is to extend or even maintain her sales she must offer what the markets require. To do this the grades offered must be adapted to the requirements of the trade.

I think at this time we had better take up the grades which have been suggested. Mr. Bredt and I have worked on this for a considerable time. A draft was submitted to the sub-committee on grades of the National Barley Committee. This sub-committee met yesterday afternoon, last night, and again this morning and they are suggesting some slight changes to those that were adopted or suggested at a previous meeting of the Agricultural Committee.

[Prof. T. J. Harrison.]