

APPENDIX

(See p. 603)

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

REPORT OF STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE PRESENTED BY
HON. HAZEN ARGUE

Ottawa, July 6, 1972

The Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred the Report of the Canadian Wheat Board for the crop year ended July 31, 1971, tabled in the Senate on Tuesday, 25th April, 1972, has in obedience to the order of reference of June 26th, 1972, examined the said Report and reports as follows:

Your committee has learned with satisfaction that exports of Canadian grain during the current crop year ending July 31st will reach an all time record of approximately 800 million bushels, exceeding last year's previous record of 706 million bushels. The settling of the current labour strikes at St. Lawrence ports would increase the exports during the current crop year, but sales are firm and the 800 million bushel export figure will in all events be reached by July 31st or shortly thereafter. Your committee further notes the confidence of the board that there will be another increase in exports in the 1972-73 crop year establishing still another record breaking year.

It has learned that the two thousand hopper cars that will be placed in service in the transport of grain will add about ten per cent to the current railroad grain handling capacity and should assist the Canadian Wheat Board in reaching its high 1972-73 export goals.

The committee has noted that the Canadian Wheat Board is very much aware that current world market prices for wheat are low and the board supports, as

soon as it is practical, the establishment of an effective international grains agreement. The most important single event that would firm world prices would be increased world purchases of wheat to the extent necessary to reduce the current large wheat surplus in the United States.

The Canadian Wheat Board reported that the unload of box cars at Thunder Bay is now in excess of 1800 box cars per day, up from the 1200 box cars per day that a few years ago was considered a practical maximum.

Great difficulties in winter transportation through the Rocky Mountains were experienced during the current crop year. West coast unloads in recent months have steadily increased and are now in excess of 800 box cars per day, up from the previously regarded maximum of 600 cars per day. It is desirable to take action to assure that this high rate of unload is maintained and in fact increased. To this end the board believes that certain construction by railroads to protect transportation through the mountains from snow slides and rock slides is required.

Also there is need for an increase of from 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 bushels in grain storage capacity on the west coast which would provide available grain for an additional 15 to 30 days in the event of interruption in the delivery of grain from the railroads. A further study at a later date, by the committee, of railway transportation and west coast facilities may be useful.