

Hon. Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is the report of the select standing committee on agriculture and colonization for 1928. This is the same committee in 1928—not the same personnel, but the same committee. Here is the correspondence. You know who Mr. Urquhart is, Mr. F. W. G. Urquhart, secretary of the Liverpool Corn Exchange, and this particular year followed three years that we had a lot of complaints—1925, 1926, and 1927, and it got so bad that Mr. Urquhart, acting on the instructions of his board, wrote this letter. This is a long communication, and I will not read it all:—

There is no doubt whatever that, during the last two years—1926-27 and 1927-28 (so far as the latter has gone), there has been a very serious deterioration in the quality and condition of Canadian wheat shipments, especially in respect of Manitoba wheat grade number 3 Northern and my directors cannot accept the explanation that the weather has been entirely responsible for the poor quality of wheat received in this country and on the continent.

There was practically if not actually no Garnet at that time:—

It is quite apparent that the standard sample of number 3 Northern Manitoba wheat 1927 is greatly inferior to the relative standard for 1925. My directors submit that to try to maintain a regularity of standard from year to year is essential and, if Canada has an inferior crop, that it ought to be graded accordingly.

And that was certainly before Garnet wheat. Now, this is in the middle of the letter, and I take one quotation from the very last of the letter:—

Our merchants and millers have, during the last year or two, lost a not inconsiderable sum of money owing to their having trusted in the value and independence of Canadian Government Grain Certificates, and if their confidence is not to be further shaken, my directors state emphatically, that it will be well for Canada to review her grading system and to abolish its obvious faults.

I may say we have done that with success after very extensive enquiries in 1929 and 1930. Of course, you have heard of mixing of grades I have no doubt?

The WITNESS: Yes.

Hon. Mr. MOTHERWELL: That has been abolished by law and I think in practice too. We were naturally looking for improvement, and I think there is improvement. The letter continues:—

As this letter goes far beyond the particular complaint regarding the "Albertic" shipment, and as the matter is of such grave importance, my directors have instructed me to send a copy to the Prime Minister of Canada, in the hope that the government will take immediate steps to make alterations which will meet the views of Canada's best customer for her exportable wheat and at the same time be approved by her wheat producers, millers and merchants. Signed F. W. G. Urquhart, secretary.

Now, the Prime Minister of Canada at that time was the Honourable Mr. King, and I naturally was interested in this, very much interested. I endeavoured to look into the matter; in fact, I took a trip to Europe and the United Kingdom myself in 1928 to see "what was the matter with Hannah" as we sometimes put it, and I found there was a lot the matter with Hannah, and there were a lot of Hannahs, not only in the United Kingdom but all over Europe—some terrible examples of the mixing of wheat will all sorts of truck in it that would not make flour. Somebody had to pay for exporting that. Mr. Hamilton was with me on part of that trip and he saw what I saw, and when we came back to Canada, as far as I was concerned, I did not let the grass grow under my feet until I endeavoured to get this corrected. And parliament did correct it; this committee