

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

June 8, 1943.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met this day at 11 o'clock a.m. The Chairman, Mr. W. G. Weir, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I do not know what the committee wish to undertake, or the procedure it may wish to follow. Has any member of the committee any suggestions to make along that line? Personally I had thought, having regard to an observation that was made at one of our meetings, concerning a request for the tabling of certain agreements that the wheat board had entered into, that that might be done; and then, there are a couple of recommendations out of last year's report with respect to street sales; and in the elevator agreement, about the size of cars recognized as a carload lot. Then there are such matters as the distribution of cars for the delivery of grain and the storage position generally, and the movement of grain from the elevators or elsewhere. Then in particular there is this cleaning fee that is now in operation in respect to sales of coarse grain. Are there any other items that the members of this committee might wish to have considered or questions that might be reviewed with Mr. McIvor?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Mr. Chairman, if I might, there is just one question I would like to have brought up, and that is the right of the men who are called up and enlist in the armed services to have disposition of their wheat over and above the quota. As I understand it, the rule at the present time is this, that the man called up during the year 1942 is allowed now to have disposition of his wheat over and above the quota but, that a man who was called up in 1940 or 1941 and whose farm has continued in operation is not given that right.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is a fair question.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I think that is a matter that might very well be discussed. There are quite a number who are affected by it, and who find themselves in a position that is not favourable to recruiting in the district in which they live.

Mr. GOLDING: Are they recruiting these fellows who are on the farms?

Mr. WHITMAN: You mean, the ones who are called up?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Yes, the ones who are called up.

Mr. GOLDING: Do you mean the fellows who live on the farm, who own them?

The CHAIRMAN: Regardless of that feature of it, I think perhaps the board should state their policy frankly.

GEORGE MCIVOR, called.

The WITNESS: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if I might speak of that now, if it is satisfactory?

The CHAIRMAN: Is that the wish of the committee?

Some HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Has anyone else a question they would like to have brought into the discussion here?

Mr. WRIGHT: I would like to bring up the matter of the disposal of flax at some time.