

effect that it depended upon the extent to which it was patronized.—A. Yes sir.

Q. Now, there is no other appreciable difference between a voluntary Board and a compulsory Board than the extent to which they are patronized, and the success of any kind of Board depends upon the volume of business that goes through?—A. Yes sir.

Q. The larger the volume the smaller per bushel expenditure?—A. Would you just permit me a moment? My understanding of your meaning of a compulsory Board at the moment is, compulsory on the farmer insofar as the elevator is concerned. We are speaking of no other compulsory features except that.

Q. Compelling all the business to go through that particular channel?—A. Yes sir.

Q. Then with regard to a voluntary Board, there is no doubt about its constitutionality, nor is there any doubt about its having a non-monopolistic tendency. The Board is not monopolistic and it is not unconstitutional to raise the question of either Board, if the rulings of the law officers of the Crown are correct and sustained by judgments of the Court. Would the success of the voluntary system not be exactly in the hands of the men who will patronize it or not patronize it? In other words, won't it be in the hands of those who are asking for a Wheat Board? If they patronize it say fifty per cent they will get an appreciable value; if they patronize it to seventy-five per cent of the total grain they will get more value. Therefore it lies exactly with themselves, those for whom the Board is being asked. The extent to which it is patronized determines the value of that Board. If it is not patronized except to, say, ten per cent of the wheat, the expense of handling it will be so enormous that the man who patronizes it will be worse off than if he sent his grain through the ordinary channels. Isn't that the idea?—A. I would answer that in this way: The effectiveness of the whole thing would depend very largely if not entirely upon the extent of its patronage.

Q. You will perhaps recall in Regina—I do not know to what extent your attention has been drawn to it, because I know you are a busy man—that there was a voluntary Butter Board. We did not call it a Butter Board, but there was a voluntary control of not only the selling but the manufacture of Saskatchewan butter to the extent to about 60 per cent to 70 per cent for about ten years, and during that time that percentage of the butter gravitated toward the voluntary Board. We called it a Co-operative Creamers, but we could if you like call it a Butter Board, and under the actual test the people making butter in Saskatchewan voluntarily contributed about two-thirds of the entire production of Saskatchewan through that channel. Now, while that is not the same, while it is not exactly a parallel case with wheat, and we have no right to assume that the same volume would go through a Wheat Board, what I want to point out is this, that it was entirely dependent upon the people themselves, the dairymen of Saskatchewan, whether they patronized it or not, and if only 10 per cent had patronized it the thing would have been a complete failure, but with the larger volume going through it, with the large dairy industry that is now being handled largely by the farmers themselves, handed over to the farmers themselves as a co-operative concern—A. Might I ask a question in connection with that which might have some bearing? Have you any idea to what extent the butter manufactured in Saskatchewan is consumed domestically, locally?

Q. Well, a lot of it was shipped out.—A. It might have some bearing on the success or otherwise.

Q. It just depends on the local demand. In the early days the dairy butter was used a lot locally. Later a large percentage became creamery butter. However, what I wish to ask you is this: you know a great many people decried the voluntary Wheat Board, and as compared with the compulsory it is non-effective—there is no question about that. The greater the volume and the more closely you get to the 100 per cent handled through one channel, the more control you have. In other words, the greater volume of business any concern handles, the more it is a controlling factor on that

[Mr. W. W. Riddell.]