

With regard to net weight overages, they said:

As to net weight overages which are associated with grade losses resulting from overgrading by country elevator agents, these should give rise to no concern. They arise from competition in elevator service, and it is highly important that such competition be preserved.

You will recall that the U.G.G. did impress on the committee that competition does exist, and I think the quotes I have read to you from the Saskatchewan Pool report indicate that competition exists. The president of the Alberta Wheat Pool pointed out that competition between elevators, from which the producer generally benefits, is an important factor in the final results. In regard to net weights, he said:

...we do not think it would be physically possible to show any closer results in net weights than the figures covering our operations would indicate.

In regard to weights, grades and dockage and the administration of the Act, they said:

We believe that the Canada Grain Act, competently administered as it is, by the Board of Grain Commissioners provides ample protection for the producer in assuring him of accuracy in weights, grades and dockages, to conform as closely as possible to government standards.

In conclusion, I would just like to say in regard to the elevator trade and the men and women engaged in that industry—and I say “women” advisedly because the head and principal owner of one of the very large companies is a woman—that we are jealous of our reputations. We, like you, do belong to chambers of commerce, Canadian clubs, and so on, and take part in local activities, and we value our reputations. We do not appreciate having things said about our operation such as are being said in the country at the present time. We know this committee cannot stop them from being said. As I pointed out, it was being said, to my personal recollection, 45 years ago, and it will be said as long as there is a grain industry in Canada. It is fortunate that there are farmers’ companies operating, because I think they can come to you and you know very well that the story they give you is from the farmers’ standpoint. I think that a study of these figures will show and prove to you that the operations of the line companies are precisely the same as those of the pools and the United Grain Growers. There is the same degree of honesty in the operation of these elevators. Now, our proposal is this. The only alternative which we can propose is that of turning over to the proper authorities all gross overages in return for a guarantee against gross shortages. This might be possible through turning over gross net overages to the Canadian Wheat Board and receiving their guarantee against any loss in gross net weights. This could be arrived at by taking the gross weight of all grain and dockage received at a country elevator against the gross weight of that grain delivered to the terminal elevator or mill, plus the shrinkage allowance. If there was any overage it would be turned over to the Wheat Board, less the average of dockage on grain handled by the company. If there was a shortage on gross weight, plus shrinkage allowance, the Wheat Board, or government would make good the shortage to the company.

This proposal is not without problems. The Minister of Trade and Commerce pointed out a hazard in the House of Commons on May 30, 1951 (unrevised *Hansard*, pages 3542-3543), when he said:

Those who are familiar with the provisions of the Canada Grain Act know that the Board of Grain Commissioners have no power to weigh-over country elevators or to take possession of overages that