

on the Minneapolis market. What would be the sense, as a business proposition, of our putting wheat on the Minneapolis market, thereby creating a condition whereby the European buyer would buy off that market?

Q. You could get the best price irrespective of where the purchases were actually made?—A. We sold to that market all the market would absorb without interfering with the general flow of prices. Our sales on that market were in small quantities—I mean our sales on the basis of that market, not our sales on that market, were in small quantities. We made sales on that basis, and those sales were made for delivery in store in our Canadian Government elevators in the West. We wanted to see that nobody else put it on that market for the purpose of deflating prices.

Q. What would have happened to the Wheat Board in 1919 if Mr. Stewart and yourself had become seriously ill at the same time?—A. The point you have raised is an important one. In connection with the operations of the Wheat Board, it is rather a mistake to assume that they were carried out by either one man or two men. The whole organization of the Wheat Board were the people who controlled the business and all the prices.

Q. Do you mean to suggest there was not either one or two dominating minds on the Committee that ran the Wheat Board?—A. No.

Q. Because there were?—A. Your point is that if one or two men were taken seriously ill—

Q. Both Mr. Stewart and yourself at the same time?—A. We have intelligent employees. Somebody is in charge of every section of our work. A man may not know all the rest of the business but he knows his own job.

Q. You do not need to map out your policy from day to day as to what was the best thing to do in regard to the sale of the wheat crop?—A. I would not say from day to day, but from time to time.

Q. From week to week?—A. No.

Q. From ten days to ten days?—A. Oh.

Q. I do not know whether Mr. Stewart gave this as evidence before the Committee or not, but at any rate it was not in a private conversation. He said: "I have seen myself follow a course of policy in regard to the matter of export business down to twelve o'clock, I have heard at twelve o'clock that there has been a shower of rain in Australia and have taken a different course in the afternoon by reason of that fact." That led me to believe that there must be a very careful watch kept by the dominating minds on the Wheat Board in order to have efficient management, and I therefore think my question is not improper when I ask you whether you decided your policy at least from ten days to ten days?—A. I am not objecting because I think the question is improper, and I am sorry if I conveyed that impression.

Q. Oh, no. There is absolutely no offence taken?—A. It is impossible for me to say it would be ten days or two weeks. It might be two minutes or it might be two months. For instance, you mention the instance of a shower of rain in Australia, which means an improved crop condition there.

Q. Or the expectation of an improved crop condition there?—A. Yes. That is something that enters into the consideration of every man in the grain exporting business today. He has to take all these things into consideration. He bases his judgment on all the information he can get. The condition to which you have referred is not an unusual condition to the men engaged in the business.

Q. You may address yourself to the objection contained in my question. It appears to me that the management of the Wheat Board has to be centred in comparatively few minds?—A. Yes, I agree with you.

Q. I would also lay it down as being true that the policy of the Wheat Board may have to be changed within very short periods of time?—A. Yes.

Q. I would think that if there were two dominating minds on a Wheat Board and those two men were laid aside by illness for any substantial period of time, that would very seriously affect the success of the Wheat Board. Is that fear on my part

[Mr. F. W. Riddell.]