

Canada Grain Act step by step as I believe the committee a year ago intended that we should do. I think the minister's statements in the House will bear out that contention. We have, however, dealt with various aspects of the Canada Grain Act as we have, one way or another, the annual report of the Board of Grain Commissioners.

The first people to come before the committee were the Canadian Wheat Board. Speaking for the Canadian Wheat Board was Mr. George McIvor, the chairman, and Mr. William Riddel, commissioner, and Mr. Robertson was here but he did not say anything until the meeting was adjourned. I believe that both Mr. Riddel and Mr. McIvor, as I said at that time, placed before the committee the facts, disclosed the answers, gave us full answers to the questions we asked, and showed in their appearance before this committee a very full—yes, an extraordinary—knowledge of the grain business and on the basis of the evidence of the Canadian Wheat Board I for one believe that the Canadian Wheat Board is being managed efficiently and in the interests of the western producer.

When we got the Board of Grain Commissioners here, however, it was a different story. We asked them questions; we got answers; and then the answers were changed and this happened one time after another. The first thing had to do with the publication that apparently they did not know at the time was being published. That might be one of the minor points but that was at least one of the points. Then, Mr. Milner told the committee something that I think was misleading. I don't say he put it before the committee to mislead the committee, but I say the evidence was incorrect—I will put it that way—and that is that in his opinion and from his experience it had been a rather common occurrence that elevator operators would give a better grade in exchange for having taken excessive dockage with the agreement of the producer, and I said at that time and I repeat again tonight that as far as I am concerned I had never heard of that practice being done and as far as I was concerned—and I repeat—the overwhelming majority of elevator agents in Canada in all companies are honest and just as honest and just as honourable as the members of any other occupational group.

We have had testimony from the line elevator association, the U.G.G., the three western wheat pools and each of those companies in answer to questions said it was their instructions to their agents to take accurate weights, accurate dockage and accurate grades, and I say that that statement of Mr. Milner's cannot be borne out by the evidence that we had before the committee.

I am willing to let the record speak for itself as far as any statement I made on excessive dockage is concerned. I think that probably came out of the question I asked Mr. MacKenzie—I have not the publication with me here at the moment—in regard to the final gross and net overages. I may say when I was asked those questions I really did not have the foggiest notion as to what the real difference was between gross overages and net overages, but it would seem to me—and I think I am correct—that it was the net overages that accounted for value as far as the elevator company was concerned. I was attempting to get an explanation as to why the net overages were four times as great as the gross overages. I did not get that explanation from the Board of Grain Commissioners.

I was endeavouring to learn what explanation there might be for such a large difference in the net overage and the gross overage. While this has nothing to do with the committee itself I happened to speak to Mr. Mills of the wheat pool employees' after that session and he said, "Well, I can answer that question very easily. There is nothing to that. The gross overage—and this was before we got the authoritative, shall we call them, explanations from the people in the grain business, the companies themselves—the