

Mr. Woods: I cannot give you the price day by day of course but I think the figures I am giving you up to the last of November—I am not sure of that I think it was up to the last of November, there had been about six hundred million bushels of wheat sold in the United States. The average price to the farmer, delivered at the country elevator, I think in North Dakota was \$2.41 a bushel. The average price to the farmer in South Dakota was \$2.40 and I think the average price in Canada was \$2.16 and the average price in Oklahoma was about \$2.06 and in Texas about \$2.00. The average price of the six hundred million bushels was \$2.15 and a fraction.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: You are sandwiching in the Southern crop of good hard wheat. What I want to know was the price along the line in North Dakota.

Mr. Woods: It was \$2.41 and in South Dakota \$2.40 but keep this in mind, in 1919 they had approximately the same amount of Northern wheat, northern grade in the Northern wheat belt that they had in 1918, but they had I think approximately twice as much low grade and only half—I believe it was only one-third as much high grade as they had the year before. There was the greatest demand for winter wheat for flour supposed to be made out of this hard wheat in the United States that ever had existed. By raising the price of this little dab of high grade northern wheat that they had across the line the millers sold limitless quantities of wheat at the price based on it.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Suppose we accept your view and establish a Wheat Board and the price in the United States should go up as it did then 30 to 40 cents a bushel over the Canadian price and we compel the Canadian farmer to sell to this Wheat Board instead of smuggling it across the line.

Mr. Woods: If he can smuggle it across the line he can smuggle it away from the Wheat Board; there would not be much of that. This wheat that was sold in 1919 was not smuggled across there, it was sent across there by special permit.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: In some cases it was taken out of the elevator along the South Western line and anything that went over in a wagon was smuggled. There was a lot of it done. I think we are all agreed—it does not make so much difference what we pay for the sixty million we consume in Canada. If we can get 25 cents a bushel more for the other two hundred and fifty million so much the better. Supposing we determine to hold up our wheat until we get a certain price and we accumulate it until we have a hundred million bushels of wheat, what effect would that have on the markets of the world?

Mr. Woods: It would not have any effect on the actual markets of the world. The effect would be on the purchasing powers, the purchasing agencies by controlling the flow. A gentleman over here suggested a while ago "Here is the foreign demand, here is the buying agency for it." Our wheat is all being rushed on the market and ordered to be sold. They manipulate the market by withdrawing and forcing the price down because they won't buy. We can hold the hundred million, which is conservative estimate—there may be more than that, there may be one hundred and fifty million and we have that wheat in store under the control of one selling agency, and when they really want this wheat and get anxious to buy they will negotiate for it. You don't have any idea in the world trying to influence foreign markets by storing the wheat until they get without the wheat, because that would be impossible.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Would this destroy the very object we desire to obtain? Would it bear the market?

Mr. Woods: I don't think so, I don't see why it would.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Might it have a tendency to direct these purchasing agencies more to the other selling agencies?

Mr. Woods: We would have them to compete with.

[Mr. H. W. Woods.]