

1937. I think the wheat crop was $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre in Saskatchewan and the elevators were cleaned out. Now, the next year there was a fair crop in Saskatchewan. But even with the size of the crop the pool could have taken care comfortably of 100 per cent of the crop. On the other hand if you go back in that period I think it might be that the pool had approximately 85,000 members. I do not recall exactly. They did not get any 85 per cent of the crop. They never had anything like the percentage of the crop that they have of the total farmers as members, delivering to them.

Q. I do not believe that they have 85 per cent of the active farmers as members.—A. They claimed here that they had 90 per cent of the farmers.

Q. However, even during the free delivery period they did not get all the boxcars they wanted. The boxcars were divided rather arbitrarily. For those five years, during the free delivery period, during that time the pool was able to build its business up until it had 50 or 51 per cent of the boxcars. Then when you get down to 1945 and 1944—and I believe the figures for this year are even down a way below that— —A. The year is not ended yet. I think if you will go through the pool records in the course of the year there is a fluctuating figure and if you will look at the figure next July it will be another figure.

Q. Perhaps a little fight may change the picture and get the Wheat Board to allow more delivery of grain. I am living in an area pretty heavily pooled and I am dealing with farmers day after day and I know what their feeling is. Today many farmers would like to deliver grain to their own pool, and cannot do it, and I know hundreds of farmers who are foregoing the right of delivering grain at all, and still have not delivered their three bushel quota, because they could not get it into the elevator of their own choice. They wish to deliver to their own company; it means more money to them. It means three cents a bushel to them. Three cents a bushel on a few million bushels is an important thing to a farmer these days. It means quite a bit to the farmers, but today they cannot deliver their grain when they want to. If you would open this up and let the farmer deliver the grain to the elevator of his own choice the pools will be quite pleased and quite satisfied.—A. At this point I would like to tell you that our companies have hundreds of farmers also who would like to deliver their grain but are not able to get them into the line elevators. There is the same situation.

Q. Then have your line elevators suffered a loss in the percentage of business over the past?—A. Certainly. We are suffering all the time.

Q. Have you lost a percentage of your business in 1953 as compared with 1949 and 1950?—A. There would be points. Are you talking about every pool point?

Q. No. Your percentage of grain you handle in the province of Saskatchewan as compared with the pool. They used to handle 50 per cent and now the pool only handles 45 per cent.—A. What year?

Q. 1953.—A. The pools have been operating for 30 years. Why pick out one or two years.

Q. In the past two or three years the distribution of box cars has interfered with the free delivery of grain and during that period of time the pools have suffered and the line companies have gotten a larger percentage of grain due to the distribution of boxcars.—A. The line companies have suffered too.

Q. Have you suffered losses of the percentage of grain?—A. Some have.

Q. If the pool handlings, are down, your handlings must be up. If we are only handling 45 per cent, you must be handling 55 per cent.—A. Look at your total business which was 214 million last year. Elevators can handle only so much grain.

Q. The pools can handle far more than they are handling this year?—A. So can we. That is the point.