

be for some time because of their experience in the past. So the speculator disappeared. Mr. Milner said the speculator disappeared in a large way. He said: What is the good of a speculator coming to the Winnipeg market when Mr. McFarland took all the hedges there were? But Mr. McFarland did not take the hedges, according to the evidence of Mr. McIvor, until there was nobody else to take the hedges.

What was the government's guarantee? As explained by a witness it was nothing more or less than taking the hedges of the Cooperative Wheat Producers Limited with the banks. They could not get a hedge taker. Nobody would buy their wheat, and so this institution acting under government direction has been able to provide hedges for the entire sales of the wheat crop in western Canada during the last five years. That is what it has been doing to enable the Canadian farmer to receive a decent price for his wheat, to receive enough money to pay him meagrely for the effort he made.

What has been the result? Some hon. members suggest in a spirit of reckless criticism what the results have been. I gave the figures the other day, and I think it is worth while to repeat them. During those years Mr. McFarland has sold one and three-quarter billion bushels of wheat. That is what the farmers have sold. That is what they got their money for. Wheat fell to 38½ cents on the exchange, the lowest price in four hundred years. Why did the farmers get a higher price for it? Why did they get fifty cents, sixty cents, seventy cents and eighty cents? Why? Because Mr. McFarland took the hedges on behalf of the Cooperative Wheat Producers Limited to enable the transactions to be carried on. That is the reason why, and there is not a farmer in western Canada who does not know it; there is not a farmer who as had a bushel of wheat to haul that does not know it.

Let us look at the results not from sentiment, not from the point of view of its effect upon the morale and spirit of the people, but let us look at it in cold dollars and cents. What did the farmers receive for 285 million bushels of wheat? The farmers of western Canada sold in 1932, 285 million bushels of wheat and they received for it \$86,000,000, and this year up to the end of April, for the same six months' period they have marketed 177 million bushels of wheat and they have received \$107,000,000 for that much smaller quantity. There are the facts. For marketing 108 million bushels less of wheat they received, instead of \$86,000,000, the large sum

of \$107,000,000. In other words they received \$21,000,000 more for 108 million bushels of wheat less. There is the story of its operations. There is the answer to the criticism, the unfair criticism that has been hurled over this country from one end to the other with respect to the operations of Mr. McFarland, and the man who could have given the explanation of every day's operations, and why he acted as he did was not able to appear and give his explanation.

But let us go a step further. Let us look at the facts with respect to the day after day operations. Last year Mr. McFarland when examined by the committee on banking and commerce said that he found terrific purchases in one day. The hon. member for Souris (Mr. Willis) has pointed out that nearly 16 million bushels of wheat was bought in one day by this agency. Why did they buy 16 millions bushels? Because it was against the public interest of the Dominion of Canada that wheat should go to a price where it would yield only \$86,000,000 for 285 million bushels. That is the answer. The effect upon the whole national life of Canada of the sale of wheat is better understood if one takes the trouble to examine what it means in our ability to pay the interest even on our national debt. A leading man wrote me since these operations began and said: It is a terrific responsibility which government have to carry but unless you are able to do these things and get a reasonable price for your wheat, it being the largest item of your external trade, what happens to you? I leave the answer to this committee.

I do not intend to deal with these matters in detail but I want to point out why this organization has functioned and why its accumulations have taken place and why the sales which have been spoken of have been made. An argument was made to-day which should be exploded once and for all. It was said that the reason Canada could not sell wheat in competition with the Argentine was because Canada's price was too high. All through the sittings of the committee Mr. Bredt gave the quotations and offers which he made to sell wheat at a lower price than the Argentine and every time the Argentine beat him. That is the answer to that.

Let us go a step further. It has been suggested that as the United States was not able to sell wheat it lessened the quantity. The fact that the United States was no longer an exporting country has very little to do with this. The true explanation was given a moment ago by the hon. member for Souris who read from the evidence given before the