

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: No. He pays a certain amount, which is \$2.30 on the basic price. But whatever the basic price is, fifteen cents of it goes into the pool. Then the farmer gets his participation ticket.

Mr. PROULX: But in most cases there is no sale; A farmer goes to the grist mill with a load of wheat and gets it gristed. Then he receives back his flour and the offal less the toll?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: Yes.

Mr. PROULX: In that case would the farmer have to pay fifteen cents per bushel to the miller and would the miller put that sum into the pool?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The farmer has not, by the order of the board, to pay any fifteen cents. The miller has to pay his price, and of that price he has to see that fifteen cents goes into the pool. Now the miller in many cases, in some cases, is simply a buyer although he grists the farmer's wheat—that is, he takes and mills it and gives a certain amount of flour back. But he retains the bran and the shorts, and these go into the market and in competition. Now it would be manifestly unfair if he should be allowed to do that without the extra payment.

Mr. VIEN: Does the minister contend that the miller is going to pay fifteen cents a bushel to the fund, or to the pool as the minister calls it, without being repaid by the farmer who brings his wheat to be gristed?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That rests between the farmer and the miller.

Mr. ROBB: The Acting Prime Minister has made a statement which he intended to submit on the third reading, so I presume it is not out of order for me to speak now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any debate on the statement of the Acting Prime Minister would be out of order. With the unanimous consent of the House, the hon. member could reply to the statement, but not otherwise.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I will be very glad to answer so far as I can any questions that may be asked.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A debate would not be in order without unanimous consent.

Mr. ROBB: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to point out that the minister (Sir George

Foster) made a very carefully prepared statement from the point of view that the millers throughout the country are running their business along the same line as is the Government—with a surplus of clerks to do a lot of work that is quite unnecessary—and in answer to my contention that for many years the business of the companies has been carried on satisfactorily to their customers. Notwithstanding the explanation of my right hon. friend, the fact remains that he has made the custom millers the collectors of a tax of from 68 to 75 cents a barrel on the farmer's own product ground for the use of his family. He cannot get away from that. I do not wish to abuse the permission given and to initiate a debate along these lines, but I do wish to point out that the right hon. gentleman made the statement that the millers had asked for an increased price on flour, which was refused by the Wheat Board. That is quite correct so far as it goes. But there was something more connected with it. The millers did ask for an increased price on flour for export, not for the domestic trade, and they pointed out to the board that they had to make a certain profit out of the wheat. Seventy per cent of the product of a bushel of wheat goes into flour, thirty per cent into bran and shorts; and the millers pointed out that it was better in the interests of Canada that we should have a higher price for our export flour so that they would be able to sell bran and shorts to the dairymen of this country at a lower price; but this was refused by the Wheat Board.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: My information is that the increased price was asked on all flour.

Mr. ROBB: Well, my understanding is that it was only for export. But nevertheless, in connection with that, it was pointed out that if there was an increased price for flour, there would be a corresponding reduction in the price of bran and shorts.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM.

DOCUMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE BY HON. MR. MEIGHEN.

Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Minister of the Interior): Mr. Speaker, I wish to lay on the Table the correspondence that passed in connection with the negotiations resulting in the final understanding as to the acquisition of the Grand Trunk Railway. The House will observe when the correspondence goes on the Table that it contains four or five cables that passed prior to the