

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

February 10, 1937.

The Select Special Committee on Farm Implement Prices met this day at 11 a.m.

The Chairman, Mr. J. F. Johnston (*Lake Centre*), presided.

Members Present: Messrs. Bouchard, Brooks, Cochrane, Coldwell, Davidson, Fraser, Golding, Johnston (*Lake Centre*), Lacroix, Leader, McDonald (*Brantford*), McLean (*Melfort*), Needham, Reid, Robichaud, Senn, Thorson, Tolmie, Ward.

In attendance: Mr. R. T. Graham, K.C., Counsel for the Committee and Mr. Walter Macdonald, C.A., Auditor for the Committee.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on February 4, 1937, read and adopted.

The Chairman, Mr. J. F. Johnston, thanked the Committee for its confidence in electing him as Chairman and requested the co-operation of the members of the Committee in carrying out the Investigation.

Mr. Walter Macdonald, C.A., auditor for the Committee, was called and informed the Committee of the progress he had made during the recess of Parliament in regard to the questionnaire to the various implement companies.

Mr. Macdonald retired.

Mr. R. T. Graham, K.C., Counsel for the Committee addressed the Committee regarding the procedure that should be followed in regard to any information of a confidential nature that had been obtained from the various implement companies. After considerable discussion the following procedure was suggested by the Chairman, viz:—

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Graham, as I said, has a number of matters which he desires to place before the committee; and as I understand it, one has to do with a certain report gotten out by the Massey-Harris Company with regard to their whole operation. The Massey-Harris people have asked that Mr. Graham's submission of it to the committee should be made in camera. We will ask the reporters and the press to withdraw while Mr. Graham is making his statement; if that meets with the approval of the committee.

A discussion followed and after the discussion the following remarks were made by the Chairman:—

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I think the position is this, as we all understand it, that counsel gave an undertaking to the Massey-Harris people that this report would not be made public before representatives of the implement company were able to place their views with regard to the report being made public before this committee. What I suggested at the outset was that we hear Mr. Graham, who has gone through the report; and then immediately call in the representatives of the Massey-Harris people who are here, and hear their statement. Then we, as a committee, would be in a position to decide