

MR. ROBINSON: Pardon me, they did. The grain was handled by precisely the same methods as it is to-day.

AN HON. MEMBER: And financed in the same way?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes; but the Wheat Board had nothing to do with elevator charges in the country. It did make provision for a carrying charge which would cover interest and insurance. That, of course, would depend entirely on the value of the grain.

HON. MR. ROBB: You could not tell us what that rate was?

MR. ROBINSON: No; I think Mr. Lambert could tell you.

MR. SALES: I think what Mr. Robb has in mind is the spread between the load and the special bin business.

MR. ROBINSON: I think it would be wiser to afford us an opportunity of furnishing these figures so that the information given here may be as accurate as possible. I can say, however, that the interest and insurance charges would be affected largely by the value of the grain. It would cost more to insure a bushel of grain worth \$2 than a bushel of grain worth \$1, and the same principle would apply to the interest on the money invested.

HON. MR. STEVENS: A little while ago you made the statement that the great majority of the farmers and grain growers of the Prairie Provinces were wholly in favour of the re-establishment of the Wheat Board. I think that is a pretty accurate statement, because I know from inquiry while passing through the prairies that many are in favour of re-establishing the Wheat Board, but I would like to ask you this question—

HON. MR. ROBB: Mr. Stevens, will you permit me to interrupt you in order to ask Mr. Robinson this question: What are the storage rates charged to-day for a ten or fifteen-day period in country elevators?

MR. ROBINSON: I can give you the maximum rates. Those rates are not uniform because an elevator company may charge any rate it likes provided it gives the same rate at every elevator—I mean any rate under the maximum set by the Grain Commission.

HON. MR. ROBB: What is the maximum?

MR. ROBINSON: For wheat, 2½ cents. That includes handling the grain, taking it into the elevator, storing it up to fifteen days if necessary, insuring it and shipping it. For any period after the fifteen-day period the rate is 1/30th of a cent per day.

HON. MR. STEVENS: The question I am about to ask you, Mr. Robinson, was put to Mr. Woods, and he was good enough to give me an answer: In regard to the preponderance of opinion in favour of re-establishing the Wheat Board, do you think it is fair—I will use that word—to the minority who might differ, frankly, from the others, and desire to market their grain personally, to force them by the compulsory measures which are characteristic of the Wheat Board?

MR. ROBINSON: It really makes no difference, because they are now forced, as Mr. Woods pointed out, to market the grain through certain channels whether they like it or not. It is true they have a choice as to the fifteen, twenty or thirty or whatever number of firms may be operating on the Grain Exchange, but they must market it through them, and I would answer your question by asking this question: Would it be fair to the majority of the farmers who earnestly desire the re-establishment of the Wheat Board to force them to sell their grain because a minority of the farmers objected to it?

HON. MR. STEVENS: As I said this morning, I do not desire to argue the matter. I am trying to get to the point that, in my opinion, permeates this whole question, and I can assure you that if my mind can be cleared up in regard to this point, it

[Mr. James Robinson.]