

be made to grant them the fullest railway facilities, and I think that is a question which the commission should be empowered to inquire into. Then, there is the important question of the distribution of cars, so as to put all shippers, whether it is the farmer who grows the wheat or the middleman who handles the wheat for other farmers, upon an equal and fair basis. Two or three other questions which might be taken up are, for instance, the question of shipments at some of the sidings where there are no resident agents, and where railway conductors have been in the habit in the past of signing grain-shipping receipts and leaving them with the shipper. There are many other minor points which are disturbing the grain growers of the Northwest, which this commission should be empowered to inquire into thoroughly. Another matter which is exciting a great deal of interest in the Northwest is the question of forming a sample market at Winnipeg. Another question is the making of Winnipeg an order point in the shipping of wheat. Again, at a meeting of the Grain Growers' Association which I attended some months ago a resolution was passed to the effect 'that the experience of many years has demonstrated clearly that neither the present system of grading wheat nor the statutory description of grades have proved capable of classifying it according to its intrinsic value owing to the conditions which are constantly occurring,' and calling for inquiry into the whole subject. These and many other matters may well come before the commission and their instructions should be such as to give them the widest scope in the matter of the inquiry. These are matters of vital interest to the farmers of that country and it will be found that those farmers are very broad-minded and most reasonable and that they only wish to get the best solution of the difficulties with which they have had to contend in the recent past. They do not wish to rush to conclusions but want to have a thorough inquiry into all these matters.

There is another subject which the commission should inquire into, that is the condition in which the wheat when exported arrives at the Liverpool market and evidence should be taken from the British miller to see what his requirements are, and to make recommendations if possible as to the form in which our wheat can best be shipped in order to meet those requirements and make the wheat of the highest possible value to him. The wheat growing business of the country is bound to be such an enormous factor in the whole future of Canada that it deserves the very greatest care and consideration. I notice that \$10,000 only have been taken for this commission. I cannot help thinking that this is utterly and entirely inadequate, that the commission should have a much wider scope than it could possibly exercise with such a small sum at its disposal, and I

Mr. LAKE.

hope if it is impossible to increase that vote that under some other heading the minister will be able to put more money at the disposal of such an important commission as this. Considerable sums of money have been spent in the past in looking after the dairying and other industries. The wheat exporting industry is almost in its infancy and I think a very great deal of the future of this country depends upon establishing that on a proper basis from the outset. I hope the Minister of Agriculture when he is going into the matters respecting the commission will take these various points, and I dare say many others, into this consideration and see that the commission have the widest possible scope for inquiry given.

Mr. STAPLES. I attended the committee which took the evidence of the various witnesses brought from the west in order to try and ascertain what was really essential in order to set at rest the great dissatisfaction in the west as regards the handling and shipping of our wheat. As far as I could learn from that evidence the difficulty was to get the article from the producer to the consumer without its being meddled with in any way. I hope that this commission when they do undertake to investigate this very important subject will begin on the farms and follow the wheat until it reaches the foreign market, and I feel as the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Lake) feels that the appropriation to attain this very desirable result is inadequate, and I trust that when the commission is being appointed, the minister who, no doubt will have authority to make the selection of the personnel will see that above all the farmers are represented on that commission. I have no doubt when the commission is appointed the minister in making his selection will get men who have had practical experience in producing this commodity and I trust he will give them far reaching, wide powers, in order that we may not again be troubled with this question. It is a very live grievance in the west, and most of the farmers, whether rightly or not, feel that they are suffering an injustice. I am satisfied that if this commission goes into the work thoroughly, as I have no doubt they will, probably some of the farmers who think that they are being unfairly treated by other individuals and companies that are handling the products of the farms will get information that will satisfy them that while they may be receiving some unfair treatment yet it is not at all attributed to those through whom they are dealing.

Mr. FISHER. There has been rather an idea that the Minister of Agriculture had perhaps not taken so much interest heretofore in this particular work as in some