

Board of Grain Supervisors for Canada.

In Canada a different course has been followed. The government of Canada took into conference representatives of the producers and also of the trade, and especially of the Grain Exchange. The government heard all that our most experienced members had to say about the marketing of grain, and as a result of these negotiations the government of Canada created a body called the Board of Grain Supervisors for Canada, and clothed it with certain authority by an order-in-council under the Defence of the Realm Act. This Board is not a great buying corporation like that of the United States, on the one hand, and on the other it is not intended to usurp any of the functions proper to the Board of Grain Commissioners. This Board is a regulating body, not an operating body. Its primary functions are: First, to regulate the price at which grain shall be bought and sold during the period of its existence; and, second, to regulate the distribution of the grain so that the grain will go to the Canadian people and the Allied powers. It has sometimes been said that the Board has power to commandeer all the grain in Canada. It has no such power; it cannot go to the farms, for example, and commandeer the wheat there, and its power to commandeer at elevators is a power to enforce the price it has set. If the owner of the grain that is in an elevator refuses to sell at the price set, the Board has power then to take the grain at that price.

It has sometimes been said that this Board is a Grain Exchange body. Five of the eleven members of the Board are not members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. Of these five, one is the president of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, one is the representative of the unorganized farmers, two represent labor organizations in eastern Canada, and the fifth represents the remaining body of eastern consumers. Of the six members of the board who are also members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, one is the president of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., one is the president of the Wheat Export Company which buys for the Allies, and one represents the flour milling interests. It is a very curious mind that supposes that these three members represent the Winnipeg Grain Exchange on the Board of Grain Supervisors. It is safe to say, indeed, that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange has had but two representatives upon the Board.

The Board, in accordance with its authority, has fixed prices upon Canadian wheat. It has also, in conjunction with Mr. Hoover's department, put into effect the regulation of the export of wheat between Canada and the United States. It has prohibited future trading, which is no longer necessary when prices are fixed, and it has organized ways and means for seeing that its decisions and plans for price and distribution are properly carried out.

The fixing of prices, with the consequent prohibition of future trading, has affected certain sections of the trade and