

Mr. ROBINSON: I do not think so.

Mr. MCKAY: Is there in any part of the world a Wheat Board that supplies wheat to the British market?

Mr. ROBINSON: For several years past the whole of the Australian wheat crops have been handled through a similar institution to the Wheat Board.

Mr. MCKAY: Would it be possible, in the event of Wheat Boards being established in Canada, the United States, India—in short, in all the wheat exporting countries—for any collusion to occur to raise the price of wheat?

Mr. ROBINSON: If you ask as to the possibility of such a thing occurring, I must answer Yes. Anything is "possible", but I do not know what the probability is.

Mr. MCKAY: So far as the world's history is concerned, many such illustrations are afforded.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I think you made the statement that an organized campaign has been carried on through the press and other agencies against the Wheat Board?

Mr. ROBINSON: I said that what seemed to be an organized campaign was carried on in a certain section of the press. I repeat that.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: What was the attitude of the Canadian Council of Agriculture with regard to the Wheat Board at that time and also in 1920 when the matter was again before the House?

Mr. ROBINSON: So far as I know, the attitude of the Canadian Council of Agriculture has always been favourable to the Wheat Board, and as a matter of fact a resolution was passed unanimously by the Canadian Council of Agriculture asking for the continuance of the Wheat Board for another year at least.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: What was the objection to making the Wheat Board permanent if it was giving such satisfaction?

Mr. ROBINSON: I believe my friend, Mr. Woods, answered that question in a very satisfactory manner. He pointed out the possibility of a body becoming efficient after being continued for a number of years.

Mr. MCKAY: Mr. Woods did give me that answer, but I could not appreciate his point.

Mr. ROBINSON: I do not think I could give you any other answer, because I believe what Mr. Woods stated to be largely true.

Mr. BROWN: Was that the question relative to why the Wheat Board should not be permanent?

Mr. ROBINSON: The question referred to the reason why we are not insisting upon asking for its permanent establishment.

Mr. BROWN: The proper answer might be that it might be easier to get a temporary Wheat Board created than a permanent one established.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: That is a very important point. I think this Committee is entitled to perfectly good faith in this matter. We have been told officially by the Canadian Council of Agriculture which has put forward this request that they only ask for a temporary Board. If their motive in doing so is simply in order to enable them to get a foothold with a view to having it permanently established later on, the members of this Committee are entitled to frankness in the matter. I do not think it affects the situation other than as a matter of fairness to those who might have a different opinion. Both Mr. Woods and Mr. Robinson—and I would like to state that in my opinion Mr. Robinson has made a very excellent presentation of the case so far as he has gone—have stated that they ask for the re-establishment of the Wheat Board as a temporary measure. I would like to ask if that is a sincere statement or is the reason furnished by Mr. Brown the correct one?

[Mr. James Robinson.]