

*By Mr. McMaster:*

Q. But if a Wheat Board is reconstituted, would it to be effective require to have powers of controlling flour as well as wheat?—A. Yes sir.

Q. Now, flour milled from Canadian wheat would when exported to Great Britain come in competition with flour milled in the States, would it not?—A. Yes sir. That is, flour in a general way, yes, but more particularly with flour milled in the States of the same quality.

Q. Which under ordinary circumstances is manufactured partly at least of our wheat, our Northern Manitoba Wheat?—A. Yes sir. Well, that may be. I would not say that definitely, sir, I would like to correct that. That might happen.

Q. Perhaps I had better put it in this way: The flour which the Canadian Wheat Board would export, let us say, to the London market would there come into competition with flour manufactured in part of wheat of grades of qualities similar to—A. It might, yes.

Q. Similar to our Manitoba wheat?—A. Yes sir.

Q. Well, how would that fact effect the Wheat Board's operations on let us say the London market?—A. I do not really see the significance of your question, sir. We must assume that the buyer of flour on the other side will know whether the flour that he is buying is a 100 per cent Manitoba hard spring wheat flour or whether it is 20 per cent so. I may say for information that we met similar conditions to that during the life of the last Wheat Board where—I am speaking once again from memory—the actual content of flour being shipped out from the United States as hard spring wheat flour was really somewhere in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent to 25 per cent of hard spring wheat flour; but then we must assume that the buyer knows that just as well as we know it, and that he is going to base his price on the actual relative values. I think that would be a fair assumption. If it is possible for us to find it out it ought to be possible for the buyer to find it out, and we have no right to assume that he does not know his business.

Mr. KNOX: Mr. Chairman, I wish to ask Mr. Riddell a question which, while it may hear more or less on his personal opinion again, I think may be answered by him.

*By Mr. Knox:*

Q. Supposing they had a compulsory Wheat Board, would it not have a beneficial effect on the producer with regard to lake freights and ocean freights, and also insurance?—A. I would say, sir, that most probably that would be so, just simply on this principle that with charges for services, the charges not being definitely set, competition would tend to raise the prices. For instance, bidding for boat charters on the lakes might result at certain times in higher prices being obtained, whereas with one organization the possibility is that you can make an arrangement on a reasonable basis for a long period of time at the uniform rate. There may be certain obligations on both sides; for instance, in obtaining that lower rate you might have to give some assurance of fairly uniform deliveries, in order that an economical handling can be made so far as the owners of the vessels are concerned, rather than spasmodic handling, which might come under other conditions. For instance, as I recollect it, the light freight lake freight rates were uniform all through the season, or at least for a greater portion of the season, and a certain number of vessels were engaged in moving grain. They were loaded almost regularly all through the season. The vessels just plied between certain ports, and there was no delay. Our object was to keep them moving all the time, the necessary number of vessels, I think, to move at the rate of some five or six million bushels of wheat a week from Fort William.

Q. While it would not have any effect on the changing of rates on the railways, would it not be of great benefit to the railway in the equalizing of rates?—A.

[Mr. F. W. Riddell.]