

This report, although not submitted to the House, became public and as a result of negotiations between Western grain growers and the Government, the matter was again opened up to the end that the Committee should carry out the arrangement made between the Government and the grain growers, and provide that the suspension of the Crow's Nest Pass agreement should not apply to western grain and flour.

In violence to the evidence - to their own honest conclusions - to their own self-respect - to the undoubted "great necessity of a general reduction in freight rates on basic commodities as a whole" - a reduction which could not be made as the Committee itself found unless the Crow's Nest agreement be suspended - the Liberal members swallowed themselves and adopted the agreement made with the grain growers. The right-about-face report was tabled in the House on June 24, 1922.

The Western grain grower was undoubtedly entitled to relief, but so also were other agriculturalists in the prairie provinces and over the whole country. So also were the producers of basic commodities everywhere. The great evil resulting from Government action is that it prevented any intelligent economic survey of the rate situation by the Railway Board. It entailed a cut of some 17 million dollars in railway revenues on the last year's figures. It prevented any fair, equitable treatment as between the grain grower on the one hand and the stock raiser, dairy and mixed farmer - the workers of our forests and mines, and the ultimate consumer of all products other than western grain and flour on the other. The proceedings of the Committee, and the attendance of many witnesses were rendered a farce. The final finding was utterly contrary to the evidence. The Committee did not function except to carry out an agreement made by the Government for the