

of grain to the United States was prohibited by action of the United States authorities until December 15.

Mr. McMASTER: 1919.

The WITNESS: 1919.

*By Hon. Mr. Motherwell:*

Q. Did you say December?—A. December 15, 1919, as I recollect the date. The Wheat Board had no necessity even—

*By Mr. McMaster:*

Q. Except in wagon-load lots?—A. Yes sir, and that was by the same—

Mr. McMASTER: That was seen at Assiniboia.

The WITNESS: Yes sir. The action of the United States' authorities prohibited the export of grain to the United States until December 15, December 15 they lifted the embargo, and that was the time we stopped it going over, and we thought we had very good reason. I do not know whether you are interested in what the reason was or not.

Mr. McMASTER: I think the Committee would be.

Mr. JOHNSON (Moosejaw): Mr. Stewart gave us that anyway.

*By Mr. McMaster:*

Q. Let us have it again?—A. My recollection of the reason was this, that the embargo had been in existence prohibiting the importation of Canadian grain into their country a sufficiently long time to enable the Northwestern farmer to market his crop. He was marketing a commodity of which there was a scarcity in his own country. I am speaking now of the hard spring wheat. The consequence of that was there was a very big discrepancy in price between the high grades of hard spring wheat and the grades of Kansas wheat to which Mr. Watts referred. That spread went up to a considerable amount, perhaps 35 cents a bushel, a tremendous spread. Having then afforded an opportunity for their own farmers to take advantage of that high price, it became a question of the consumer, and their intention undoubtedly was to raise the embargo for the purpose of permitting Canadian grain to go into the market to depress that price which had been placed there owing to the shortage in their own market of high grade wheats. That was the reason we refused to permit the grain to go over. Had it gone over as they intended, the market would have dropped down,—less than one million bushels would have put it down—and thereby our larger volume of sales to the European markets would have been detrimentally affected.

*By Mr. Sales:*

Q. What did you do with regard to the Minneapolis market?—A. Prohibited the export of grain over the boundary. In fact, as far as possible we closed down on even wagon-load shipments, and then refrained from selling grain to the United States market subsequently excepting in small volume and under these conditions: The grain was sold in store in one of our large Canadian Government interior terminals, and invariably, speaking from memory, with the exception of the earlier sales sold to Montana County authorities for seed purposes, our prices of sale were higher than the existing price on the Minneapolis market. Our reason was this: Any American organization buying wheat under those circumstances could not possibly take that wheat and place it on the Minneapolis market for the purpose of deflating values.

Q. On page 193 of the official record appears chart No. 11, which was produced by Dr. Magill?—A. That is a very fine chart. Is this the chart that purports to give the prices of No. 1 Dark Northern in Minneapolis?

[Mr. F. W. Riddell.]