

directly. I do not wish to be understood as condemning the board for not being able to get greater quantities of flour shipped. I realize the difficulties they had to contend with in that ocean rates on wheat were so much more than on flour that it was practically impossible for our Canadian millers to compete with the millers overseas. I have made reference to this question on a number of occasions and I do not think that any one could infer from my remarks that I was blaming the millers or the board. I did attribute the cause of our trouble to the fact that while the people of Great Britain and other countries are wide awake to the importance of the by-products of wheat, the people of Canada are asleep in regard to the matter. If we had a general awakening it would change that condition so materially that we would reap the benefit from it, and now that we have entered upon transportation, and the construction of ocean steamships we could afford to give a preference to the shipment of flour over wheat because it would be good business for Canada to do so. The ocean freight charge of 35 cents per 100 pounds on wheat and 60 cents per 100 pounds on flour discloses an outrageous difference; yet the ocean rates are largely controlled by the people of Great Britain. I pointed out the other day the manner in which the stock raisers of Great Britain are protected by the government of that country. The "free trade" government of Great Britain prohibit the importation of cattle from Canada. In addition they have charge of the transportation of products from this country, and in that way they not only protect the farmers of Great Britain but protect the millers as well. The Government of Great Britain are anxious to keep the mills in operation all the time so that they will have this stuff to feed to their stock at a cheap rate. With regard to the production of bread, I venture to say that the amount that is paid out for bread by the average family is only a small item compared with what they are paying for many other foodstuffs such as dairy products, beef, bacon and things of that kind which are dependent on the grinding and feeding of mill feed.

I am glad that the minister has moved this amendment. I would suggest that he go a little farther and see to it that these ocean transports for which we have paid \$20,000,000 will be employed, so as to bring these people to their senses and make certain that the millers of this country are not discriminated against in the way in which they have been discriminated against in the past.

[Mr. Sutherland.]

I desire to say a word or two in regard to the spread between the cost of bran and shorts. It came out in the evidence in the investigation before the Board of Commerce that this matter was in the hands of the wheat board, that the spread had been fixed at \$10. As a matter of fact that has been in force for a considerable time. What has resulted? This has resulted—that the per ton. The miller is grinding up bran that has been ground up fine; there is only one per cent of difference. Bran is said to contain 14 per cent of protein, 3 per cent of fat and 10 per cent of fibre, while shorts has 15 per cent protein, 4 per cent fat and 8 per cent fibre. The difference is so small that the Food Board, when they had control of this matter, fixed the spread at \$5 per ton. The miller is grinding up bran and selling it as shorts or middlings. In addition to that, it not being up to the grade in protein, he takes care to see that the offal or screenings that are taken from the grain,—mustard seed and things of that kind, which are high in protein,—are added to this poorer bran in order to bring it up to the standard that is required. There has been going on, and there is going on to-day, the worst system—I will not say of graft because it is permissible for the miller to do this by reason of the legislation which we have placed upon the Statute Books—but a system the continuance of which is nothing short of an outrage. We have the evidence of the leading millers, the Ogilvie Milling Company, the Lake of the Woods Milling Company and such others, that such a practice exists. Their contention is that they buy this stuff in the wheat and that consequently they are justified in calling it wheat and putting it in with the by-products of wheat in the milling process. That has been going on and is still going on. In that, I contend, the millers are pursuing a shortsighted policy. That stuff ought to be sold for what it really is. If the mill feeds were protected as they ought to be very few complaints would be heard from the farmers.

Just a word with regard to the province of Ontario. It has been stated that under the regulations of the wheat board the price paid to the farmers is about \$2.18 per bushel. As a matter of fact they have paid \$1.95 per bushel. It has been pointed out that of the 20,000,000 bushels of wheat grown in Ontario last year only about 90,000 bushels was handled by the wheat board. Where has the rest of it gone? Much of it has been ground up and fed to stock rather than take a chance with the dirt that