

elevator, but the local elevator—at least we know by experience that we can only pay for that wheat what we can get for it from some other person. We are not choosers of the price we will pay. We buy as close as we possibly can but we can only pay the farmer for that wheat what some other person will pay us for it on the date we put out to make delivery. Consequently if the other man will say “I will give you”—as the hypothetical case “\$1.50 in store Fort William for No. 1 Northern Wheat, or I will give you \$1.45 for No. 2 Northern Wheat in store Fort William.” Then that is the basis we have to take. The elevator companies have not got the say as to what that price will be, and the more grain that is rushed onto the market, almost invariably these spreads will widen as it is this year. The spread between No. 1 and No. 3 Northern this year is about double what it was under the operation of the Wheat Board. You can get the exact figures for the committee if it is necessary.

An hon. MEMBER: I want to speak in regard to the matter which the hon. member for Vancouver raised. He said he knew quite a number of prairie farmers who are moving to British Columbia. He also knows a number of them who are moving back to the prairies. He thinks it must be very profitable when they move back to commence farming again. I have a number of neighbours who have moved to British Columbia during the last two years and they got so little money down on their farms that they were forced to come back and start working them just because the buyer threw them up. They could not get a penny. That is the reason they came back.

Mr. DICKIE: I might state in addition to what Mr. Neill says that my experience is that there are very very few people penniless, as he says. We quite realize and I think those of us from there have what we might term the spirit of the West. We from British Columbia I think can speak for that spirit. I would be pleased to see these eastern farmers get a price for their grain that would make them prosperous. We would feel that way although we expected to derive no benefit from our provincial trade. I think, sir, we will go just as far as can be gone constitutionally to afford any remedy which will give the farmers of the North West a good profit for their produce.

Hon. Mr. TOLMIE: I am thoroughly in accord with any such measure as can be put into force which will better the condition of the farmer in disposing of his products. You will all realize that agriculture is the most important industry of this country. There is nobody earns his money any harder than the farmer does. But he is well contented now to earn his money by this hardship. The prosperity of the prairie makes for the prosperity of British Columbia and we want you to feel that the prosperity of this country will be conducive to the prosperity of the prairies. We must work together. The development of one section of this country will improve the other. I think there is one thing that is keeping Canada back to-day, and that is the lack of knowledge on the part of the people east of the Great Lakes as to the condition in which the people live in Western Canada. I think the most we can do to disseminate information from one part of Canada to the other, from Western Canada to Eastern Canada, and from Eastern Canada to Western Canada the better it will be for this country. I would like to ask Mr. Maharg this question. Eliminating those sections of the country where we have to suffer from drouth where do we find hardship the greatest? In those districts where wheat growing alone is carried on or in those districts where mixed farming is followed? I have listened in this committee to a great deal of talk as to the low price of oats and barley. At the same time I have been struck by the fact that hogs are bought at 15 cents a pound on the market, due to the regulation or one of the regulations of our Health of Animals Branch, which makes it impossible to import hogs alive into this country without a quarantine of thirty days. I have also been impressed with the fact that lambs sold on our western ranges last year as low as \$2.40 a hundred and that

[Mr. J. A. Maharg.]