

that accrued from withholding it from the market. As to the cost of flour, during the month of January the price of wheat dropped to about \$1.10, where it remained for a time, and then went up to a much higher level during the month of March. I imagine if you bought a barrel of flour to-day it would be made from wheat sold during the late period. I would like to ask you if you could go and buy a barrel of flour on the basis of the ruling price during the month of January? I venture to say you could not. The miller, of course, will take the supplies just as cheaply as he can, but I venture to say his flour price during the nine months of the year when the delivery is very light—and the prices possibly higher—is based to some extent at least on the ruling price for grain. The whole point I want to make in connection with this is that the Wheat Board would make it possible for the greatest percentage of the price that the grain brought in the ultimate market to go direct to the man who produced it, and it would not materially affect any advancement in the price of flour.

I do not think I need further trespass upon your time, but if there are any members of the Committee who desire to ask questions I shall answer them to the best of my ability.

Mr. McMURRAY: In your earlier remarks you used this expression: "The farmers of the West have no confidence in the present system." I do not suppose you were referring there to the fact that you were getting as large a price for the grain. What are the elements of the present system? Is there an elevator combine there?

Mr. ROBINSON: The farmers lack confidence in the methods of handling grain in the open market at the present time. I gave an illustration of men going out and selling grain before the seed was in the ground. They did that with a view of making money for themselves. On the other hand, supposing the Wheat Board was in existence, they would probably do something similar, but every deal they made would be a contract for the delivery of actual grain, and whatever that grain brought would go to the man who produced it.

Mr. BROWN: You are not referring to the physical handling of the grain?

Mr. ROBINSON: Oh, no. I do not think there is any combine in the physical handling of grain.

Mr. McMURRAY: You are not complaining of the elevator companies or the merchants on the Exchange?

Mr. ROBINSON: I am complaining that the present system does not lend itself to rendering to the farmer the full return to which he is entitled.

Mr. McMURRAY: Your objection is to the option trade?

Mr. ROBINSON: I gave that as an illustration. That is one of the things.

Mr. MILLAR: I obtained the impression that your evidence on one point was in direct contradiction to that given by Mr. Woods. I understood Mr. Woods to say that a little better price would be obtained on the ultimate market because of the one selling agency. Your evidence a moment ago was, I think, to the effect that the price on the ultimate market would not be raised.

Mr. ROBINSON: Not the general level. That, I think, will be determined by the demand for grain. I think what Mr. Woods probably meant is that the Old Country buyer would not be able to secure grain during these particular slumps.

Mr. MCKAY: Have they in the United States a Board controlling the wheat similar to the Board you ask for?

Mr. ROBINSON: I do not think so.

Mr. MCKAY: Is there a Wheat Board in the Argentine or other South American States?

Mr. ROBINSON: I do not know.

Mr. MCKAY: Is there a Wheat Board in India?

[Mr. James Robinson.]