

Wheat

USE OF WORD "DOMINION" FOR COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

Mr. Fulton:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between or on behalf of the government of Canada and the government of the United Kingdom or the government of any other commonwealth country during the last five years concerning the use of the word "dominion" as applied to commonwealth countries, and particularly with reference to any suggested change or alteration in the description or style of title of commonwealth countries.

Mr. Speaker: This motion also stands?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Until tomorrow.

WHEAT

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. Baer (The Battlefords): I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the anxiety of the western grain producers, is the minister in a position to make a statement in regard to wheat payments?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to advise the house of the details of the final payment on wheat delivered to the Canadian wheat board during the crop year ended July 31, 1951.

Members will recall that the 1950 wheat crop in the prairie provinces was very late in maturing and suffered severe frost damage. In addition, unfavourable harvesting weather resulted in the delivery of substantial quantities of out of condition grain, with the result that a large scale drying program had to be carried out. Owing in part to the late harvest, transportation was a continuing problem throughout the crop year. These problems, inherent in the 1950 wheat crop, were tackled vigorously by the Canadian wheat board, the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada, and other agencies. I think that the operating results which I shall describe will meet with the approval of producers and that the distribution now of the substantial surplus in 1950-51 wheat board operations will be of great assistance to producers who are affected by the delayed and uncompleted harvest this fall.

During 1950-51 producers delivered a total of 366.2 million bushels of wheat to the board. Of these deliveries approximately 150 million bushels graded No. 5, No. 6 and feed. Some No. 5 wheat was sold for milling purposes but the great part of the lower grades delivered to the board in 1950-51 had to be marketed as feed grain.

The 1950-51 pool account was closed out on October 20, and final accounting has now

[Mr. Speaker.]

been completed. In closing out the pool, a total of 95.3 million bushels of wheat was transferred to the 1951-52 pool under the provisions of section 24(a) of the Canadian Wheat Board Act. Of the amount of wheat so transferred, about 25.0 million bushels consisted of milling grades of wheat which were covered by open sales contracts for future delivery. These stocks of milling grades were transferred at prices in line with sales contracts after an allowance had been made for carrying charges. The larger part of the transfer—about 70 million bushels—consisted of lower grades of wheat which were partially covered by open sales contracts for future delivery. Having in mind these contracts and sales prospects, stocks of low grade wheat were transferred to the new pool on the basis of the board's asking prices on October 20, less an allowance for continuing charges and market risks.

The net surplus in the 1950-51 wheat pool is \$104,933,267.56. This means an average final payment of 28.65 cents per bushel on 366.2 million bushels of wheat delivered to the board in 1950-51. The final payments, and total returns to producers basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver for each of the principal grades are as follows:

	Final payment cents per bushel	Total return to producers per bushel
No. 1 northern	25-498	*\$1.85498
No. 2 northern	25-809	1.82809
No. 3 northern	29-343	1.79343
No. 4 northern	32-076	1.74076
No. 5 wheat	32-030	1.64030
No. 6 wheat	24-511	1.50511
Feed wheat	24-562	1.44562

*Basis Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver.

I would like to draw particular attention to the results achieved in the merchandising of lower grades of wheat. During the sales period of the 1950-51 pool, the board sold about two-thirds of the 150 million bushels of low grade wheat received from producers. Notwithstanding these large sales, the board was able to realize prices which now permit a substantial final payment on grades of wheat which, in the main, are marketable only as feed grain. I am sure that wheat producers in the prairie provinces who experienced the devastating results of the frosts of August, 1950, will be glad to know that these final payments are now coming to them, and that the final result is so much better than many people had anticipated.

The distribution of final payment cheques to producers will commence within a few days, and the final wheat payment will be completed prior to Christmas. The final payments on the 1950-51 oats and barley pools are just being completed.