

on the Canadian and American sides of the line, so little wheat was selling in those parts of the province where the quality was low-grade that it did not amount to much in the total. My constituency runs 110 miles along the American boundary; it is practically a wheat field 66 by 110 miles, one of the biggest wheat-producing constituencies in the West. In that constituency not 10 per cent of the wheat paid the cost of cutting last year. We were hit worse than any other part of the country. The wheat was of a poor quality, but dozens of my constituents drove their wheat across the boundary line and got from 25 to 50 cents a bushel more for it than they could get at home. If this Government wanted to benefit the farmers why did they not put wheat on the free list last fall? Why did they wait until the great bulk of it had passed into the hands of the speculator? To-day it is estimated that only 21 per cent of the wheat of the West is in the hands of the farmer, 79 per cent, less wheat has been sold, being in the hands of the millers and speculators. Although the elevators are filled with the wheat bought for the millers at \$1.20 to \$1.40 a bushel, they are compelling the bakers to charge the poor people of Canada the price of bread not on \$1.40 wheat but on \$2.40 wheat. That is the way in which the Government have handled this free wheat question. They have played right into the hands of the speculators from the first to the last. The measure is a good one, brought down at any time, even at the eleventh hour, but if my hon. friends opposite had had the interest of the farmers at heart, they would have given the farmers free wheat last fall. They knew last fall that the crop in the eastern part of Saskatchewan was ruined; they did not have to wait until the month of April to find that out. Just imagine how the farmers were dealt with on this low grade wheat. Let me cite an instance. When I was in the West two or three weeks ago, I was speaking to a man and this is what he told me: "I drew a load of wheat into Carnduff and the elevator man offered me ninety cents a bushel." I said, "all right, I am satisfied with that price, but this wheat was grown on flax ground where flax had been grown the year before; there is a lot of flax in it and flax is worth \$2.30 a bushel; you should allow me something for the flax." The elevator man said, "I have no means of separating the flax from the wheat, but instead of docking you six pounds for the dirt in the wheat, I will dock you only two pounds." Just then a neighbour of his

[Mr. Turriff.]

came in and said to him, "my friend, you are very foolish to sell wheat for ninety cents a bushel; take it down to Sherwood and you will get a much better price." Sherwood is in North Dakota just two miles south of the boundary line and south of Carnduff. The man replied, "it is only a poor grade of wheat which would ordinarily sell as feed wheat." His friend said, "I do not care what it is, you take it down there and you will get a much better price for it." He, however, sold his wheat at ninety cents a bushel and the next day he loaded up a similar load of wheat and took it down to Sherwood. The elevator man there separated out the flax and paid him \$23.50 for the flax that was in it, viz., one bushel out of seven. Then he paid him not ninety cents, but \$1.58 a bushel for the wheat, out of which the farmer had to pay ten cents a bushel duty. Then he paid him 25 cents a bushel for the screenings that were screened from the wheat, so that the farmer got in Sherwood double the price that he received in Carnduff for the same kind of wheat. That is the way in which the farmers have been dealt with on this poor crop and the Government wait until they have practically sold it all before bringing free wheat into force.

It is not necessary to draw the wheat to the American buyers across the line. Another constituent of mine living at Maryfield, in township eleven, sixty odd miles from the boundary line, shipped a carload of this wheat down to Minneapolis. It was only feed wheat that went forty-six pounds to the bushel and the price at Fort William for the wheat was 98 cents on the day that he sold it in Minneapolis for \$1.70½. The man's name was Adolf Olsen of Maryfield, Saskatchewan. Out of the price he received he had to pay ten cents duty and three cents difference in freight, or thirteen cents altogether. That would give him 1.57½, whereas he could have got only 98 cents at Fort William.

Mr. LALOR: Is there a grain grower's elevator at Carnduff?

Mr. TURRIFF: There are three or four elevators there and it is quite possible there is one belonging to the Grain Growers' Association, but I do not know.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They could sell it to the Grain Growers' by shipping it to Fort William.

Mr. TURRIFF: There is a farmers' elevator owned by the farmers in that part