

# National Commercial Co-operative

Grain Investigation Supplement

Ottawa, Canada, June 25th, 1921

Volume One

## THE FACTS IN THE GRAIN INQUIRY CASE

### Being an Impartial Survey of all the Evidence Submitted and a Review of the Circumstances Leading up to the Appointment of a Royal Commission to Investigate the Complaints Made on Behalf of Western Grain Growers Before the Government in Parliament

The growing of grain is the country's biggest interest and, naturally, anything which affects the marketing and handling of the grain crop is a matter of national importance. It is a fact, reflecting the will of the people, has dealt specially with the trade by the passage of Grain Acts from time to time, and by the appointment of a Grain Commission, with the object of safeguarding in every possible way the interest of the grain growers, upon whose prosperity to a large extent depends the prosperity of the whole country. No one has ever disputed the right of Parliament to legislate in the matter, on the part of every succeeding effort of Government towards making more strict and thorough the supervision over the marketing and handling of grain. While nothing is ever entirely perfect in this imperfect world, the public were disposed to believe that on the part of the Grain Act and the Grain Commission were operating in a reasonably satisfactory manner, supplemented as they were by co-operative movements among the farmers themselves with the object of conserving their own best interests to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, when, at the last Session of Parliament—farmers themselves—representing farmer growers were getting the western grain growers were not getting justice even from the co-operative companies established ostensibly for the benefit of the farmers. And it was a still greater surprise to learn recently that the Grain Growers Limited—the great co-operative company—had applied to the courts for an injunction to restrain the Royal Commission, appointed to investigate the matter in which they conducted their business.

A most serious situation develops from this attitude of these companies and inasmuch as the question is bound to become an important one politically, it is desirable that there be a clear understanding of the facts. We set forth these facts as we understand and believe them.

**Reasons for the Commission**  
In the first place, we think it well to submit to the public a summary of the speeches made in Parliament upon which the demand for the appointment of a Royal Commission was based.

Mr. R. C. Henderson, M.P., formerly president of the United Grain Growers' Association, said:—  
"If there is a question that is agitating the minds of western farmers as to the time of the marketing of their wheat products, rumors are rife, charges and counter-charges of wrong-doing are in the air, and the result is that the minds of the western producers are agitated abnormally on this question."  
"Farmers hold the Grain Exchange to be to blame for the serious drop in prices after the Government control had been removed."

**Farmer's Objects Thwarted**  
"Farmers, with the object of getting better prices, decided to put out on the market their grain which was held in the elevators, as they believed, subject to their orders, but their object was frustrated, the grain being placed on the market contrary to their instructions."  
"If it is true that we have country elevators taking the wheat of the farmer, selling it without permit, utilizing the money, and then when the farmer does sell, possibly charging him storage and interest right up to date, it is a serious state of affairs and I can only repeat that this statement was made by a responsible minister of the Crown in Saskatchewan. It should be investigated very thoroughly by the Government."

**Price Fixed Daily**  
"Another point I should like to bring to your attention is this. I am credibly informed that the North West Grain Dealers' Association issues out daily statements of prices to be paid at country points by country elevators; that all the elevators in the province are to the word 'all' operating at a country point receive their statement of prices through the channel and that this fixed price must be the price at that point from the time the market closes until the opening of the market the following day, and must be adhered to by all the members of the Association, on pain of being expelled. Is that a just or equitable way of dealing with the farmers in the handling of their grain?"

"With reference to the grain exchanges, which I do not make any charges against their operation, arouse. Suspicion is rampant in the country that the operation of the grain exchanges is not strictly above board, and that a thorough investigation is made into the handling of the grain from the time it leaves the producer to the farm until it reaches the consumer."

"Rumour has it that inquiry abroad—I can use no milder term—in connection with the sale of futures."  
**Promotion of Grades**  
"I notice that they took in a lot of smutty, and tough wheat but they shipped very little of this low grade wheat out. In other words they bought the low grade wheat at a low price from the producer, and then by a process of mixing with higher grade wheat got it past the inspector. This is called promotion of grades and is practised by all the private elevator companies at the

head of the lakes.  
"You have no doubt been surprised at the figures of the averages in the public terminal elevators, but I want to say, that every member in the House would gasp if figures were produced showing the earnings of these private elevators for the five or six years. It is up to the Government to get these figures."  
"I would like to know what right has this association, and what right have the elevators to load grain out without the proper surrender of the documents. It appears to me that great laxity has been shown."  
"All the evidence goes to show that a most important duty expected from the Government, is that of enquiring into the handling of our wheat crop."

**Questions the Overages**  
Mr. M. R. Blako, M.P., for Winnipeg, said:—  
"I join with the hon. member for Manitoba (Mr. Henderson) in pressing for an investigation into the grain dealing of the West. The report of Price Waterhouse & Co., and the other reports we have got since the elevators of there being something over 1,000,000 bushels of overages called for investigation. It is admitted that the United Grain Growers and the various grain companies in the Farmers' organization handled about 25 per cent of the grain of the West, and therefore they must have shared to a great extent in the overages which have been called for by the farmers. I know they are allowed a certain percentage of overages, but those percentages could not have amounted to anything like the amounts that were found in the elevators. Whether these are the local overages or not, God only knows; they must have shipped out a great deal of it beforehand."

**Prises for Investigation**  
"When the leader of the Agrarian party organized the grain growers, giving the farmers the full benefit of the sale of their produce—to give them a better price than they had been getting, the farmer must be sure that there would be no thefts from them in the matter of short-ages of wheat at the elevator."  
"I think the farmer would like to know, Mr. Speaker, whether the grain business in the West is being run as accurately and as honestly as it properly should be run. I want to press most strongly for an investigation."  
Mr. I. E. Argue, M.P., for Swift Current, said:—  
"Take my own little city of Swift Current. Nine miles west of us is Beverley with two elevators. Now I have seen farmers haul their wheat from Beverley to the elevator and make fifteen cents a bushel. Then nine miles south is Dumelin on the Vancouver line. I have seen there a farmer haul his wheat to Dumelin and make eight cents a bushel on the same grade of wheat."

**Split Between Trackage and Street Price**  
"There is the question of trackage price and street price. When I sold my wheat there was eleven cents difference between the trackage price and the street price. Now all the elevator men had to have a man come in with a load of wheat to pay eleven cents less than what the elevator man paid. The farmer must sell his wheat because he must have money to buy coal and provisions for his family. The elevator man will give him eleven cents less than he paid for it. These are the things which are denigrating the farmers of the West. We are not satisfied with our grain handling system, and we are asking that the Government appoint a commission to investigate the whole matter and take control not only of the terminal elevator but of all the individual elevators up and down the line."

**What Becomes of Surplus?**  
"We want to know how much they make out of what they call the promotion of grade. We want to know how many thousands of bushels they have left in their elevators at the end of the season, and what becomes of it."  
"What we are asking the Government to do is to appoint a commission to make a thorough investigation of the wheat handling system and ascertain the best system of handling wheat from the time it leaves the producer until it gets to the consumer."

**Urges Government Action**  
Mr. W. I. Blair, M.P., for Battle River, after reciting some personal experiences, declared:—  
"I want to urge most strongly on the Government that they investigate every phase of the marketing of wheat and other grains from the time it leaves the producer to the farm until it reaches the consumer."

"I am James Kittridge, of the city of Fort William in the province of Ontario, do solemnly declare that I am a millwright in elevators B and E owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway and leased to the United Grain Growers Company, Limited, in the summer of 1913, and I have been employed in such capacity ever since."  
"That I was ordered by the foreman, Murdoch McKay, to put in false bottoms in certain bins in elevator C before the annual weighing that usually takes place about August of each year."  
"That on such orders from the foreman, McKay, I did build and

place the false bottoms in bins in Elevator E."  
"I further declare that this work was done in the absence of R. J. Henderson, the superintendent at that time, and as far as I knew Mr. Henderson had no knowledge of this work being done."  
"I further declare that Mr. Henderson never gave me any orders in connection with this work or any work of like nature."  
"And I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and of the same force and effect as if sworn to by me under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act."  
(Signed) J. L. Kittridge.  
"Declared before me at the city of Fort William in the province of Ontario, this 9th day of May, 1921."  
(Signed) "A Notary Public."

**Apartment of the Commission**  
As will be readily apparent, the Government could not, in the public interest, ignore these most serious representations, affecting, as we have stated, the most important single producing agency in the whole country. A Royal Commission was appointed, clothed with the fullest possible powers of investigation of the whole question of the handling of grain from the time it leaves the farmer until it reaches the ultimate market. The Commission appointed Mr. Justice Hyndman, of the High Court of Alberta, Mr. W. D. Staples, of Winnipeg, a Member of the Grain Commission, J. H. Haslam, of Regina, and Mr. James Goldie of Guelph, a prominent miller.

Mr. Crerar, the Leader of the Agrarian party, in the House of Commons, declared in Parliament that his Company welcomed the fullest investigation. For days the atmosphere in the House of Commons was charged with talk and gossip about serious disclosures which would be made before the Commission, and there was much speculation as to the ultimate outcome.

The Royal Commission organized, and proceeded to investigate. It ran along smoothly and quite amicably, when, suddenly, something serious happened. A special extraordinary session of the Commission was held at Fort William, at which the trade on the full benefit of the sale of their produce—to give them a better price than they had been getting, the farmer must be sure that there would be no thefts from them in the matter of short-ages of wheat at the elevator."

**Meeting at Fort William**  
"The first witness called was R. J. Henderson, grain dealer, who, being in part followed by Charles Birkett, deposed in that he followed the trade on the full benefit of the sale of their produce—to give them a better price than they had been getting, the farmer must be sure that there would be no thefts from them in the matter of short-ages of wheat at the elevator."

**Statutory Declaration.**  
After he had left the company he had seen in the millwright, Kittridge and on May 9, 1921, Kittridge had furnished him with a declaration, R. A. Bonnar, K.C., here produced a typewritten copy of a statutory declaration which the witness, Henderson, stated that he recognized as the one which he had read over to Kittridge and which Kittridge had declared before J. L. Morton, a notary public. The declaration was admitted as Exhibit A and filed. It read as follows:—  
"Statutory declaration No. 1.  
"I, James Kittridge, of the city of Fort William in the province of Ontario, do solemnly declare that I am a millwright in elevators B and E owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway and leased to the United Grain Growers Company, Limited, in the summer of 1913, and I have been employed in such capacity ever since."  
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**Witnesses Still Missing.**  
At 2 o'clock the commission reassembled, but the missing witnesses being again called, were absent, and Mr. Bonnar then decided that he would not examine the two grain inspectors who were present as they had been called specially with a view of testifying in regard to evidence which he had expected to secure from the witnesses who had not turned up.  
"Asked as to what action would be taken in regard to them, Mr. Bonnar admitted that he considered it equitable to contempt of court, but also admitted that he did not know if they could be sent to jail. In fact, to quote his own words, he "had not thought anyone would be so discourteous as to disobey the summons of a royal commission and had, therefore, not taken it. My fears of the disappearance of witnesses."

**Reason for Special Session.**  
An explanation of the reason for holding a special session at Fort William, with Mr. Birkett, Secretary of the Commission acting as Commissioner, Mr. Bonnar, the Counsel for the Commission, made the following statement:—  
"I left the Commission in the West in order to return to Winnipeg to deal with the matter of questions sent out by the Board to account for the fact that the 'Billy' Staples, after having been obliged to go before the head of the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, had removed to the office of the Board of Grain Commissioners, of which he was or is still a member, made the declaration that he would 'get me yet'."  
"So far as the Commission is concerned, they have, before the last of living committee at Ottawa and in the case of the Pricewaterhouse audit of terminal elevators, shown their willingness to furnish information to any fair and just body. I have no doubt that Henderson's statements will be dealt with in due course."

**Application for Injunction**  
Swiftly following on the heels of Mr. Murray's attack, the United Grain Growers Company, and the forty odd companies interested in the grain handling in Manitoba, applied for and secured a temporary injunction. Mr. Justice Hyndman respected the injunction as regards the proceedings in Ottawa to explain certain activities of the Board of Grain Commissioners, of which he was or is still a member, made the declaration that he would 'get me yet'."  
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**Hon. Mr. Crerar's Attitude**  
"The Hon. Mr. Crerar stated that the Royal Commission is a political plan to 'get him'."  
"As to the matter of the regulation of the grain trade is one for the Province and not the Dominion."  
"That the meeting held at Fort William was not a proper meeting."  
"That inasmuch as Mr. Staples is required by law to devote his whole time to the duties of his position as a Member of the Board of Grain Commissioners, he is prevented from sitting as a member of the Royal Commission."  
"It is not our desire or intention to enter into a discussion of the application for the injunction. The Courts will deal with it, without doubt, on the merits. But inasmuch as the Hon. Mr. Crerar has seen fit to assume the role of political martyr in connection with the whole matter, and has charged the Government with complicity in an effort through the Royal Commission to damage him politically, he cannot complain if his attitude and that of his Company are made the subject of comment. Here in the East, where this publication is issued, the wonder is as to the real reasons for all the fuss and trouble. The storm of indignation and the injunction proceedings have all the earmarks of a campaign to mislead and confound the public mind. The simple fact would appear to be that some what grave charges were made against the officials of the Grain Growers Company, and instead of replying to or disputing these charges, an effort is being made to squash the whole proceedings. One would imagine that apart from the alleged irregularity in the proceedings, the officials and the company concerned would be only too anxious to make their reply and place the facts from their standpoint, before the public."

**Further Explanations by Mr. Bonnar**  
Speaking at Calgary on June 16th, R. A. Bonnar, K.C., replying to the published reports and criticisms of the so-called secret hearing at Fort William, said:—  
"There was absolutely nothing secret about it at all. Subpoenas were served on the Friday morning on three employees of the U.G.G. terminal elevator at Fort William, also on two ex-employees, summoning them to appear before subcommittee on the following Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. Mr. McKay, superintendent of the U.G.G. terminal elevator, resides at Fort William and was in the city both on Friday and Saturday, so I was informed. I was also informed that Mr. Watt, one of the officials of the company at Winnipeg, was also in Fort William at the time; there was no difficulty whatever in the company at Winnipeg having anyone they desired present at the sitting. There was absolutely no secrecy on my part as many people in Winnipeg knew I was going to Fort William to attend a special session."  
"When Mr. Birkett opened the hearing, Mr. Kittridge, who was a millwright in the internal elevator of the U.G.G., was called and did not answer his name, although he had been subpoenaed. The policeman who was present went out and called his name three times in the corridors. There was no response. I then called one of the other employees who had been subpoenaed in the same way and he did not answer."  
"The two ex-employees who had been subpoenaed each answered their names but as my information was that their evidence was only supplementary to the other three who had not answered I did not think it necessary to take their evidence. I then called the policeman who had served the three employees and proved by him that he had served each of them personally."

**Witnesses Still Missing.**  
At 2 o'clock the commission reassembled, but the missing witnesses being again called, were absent, and Mr. Bonnar then decided that he would not examine the two grain inspectors who were present as they had been called specially with a view of testifying in regard to evidence which he had expected to secure from the witnesses who had not turned up.  
"Asked as to what action would be taken in regard to them, Mr. Bonnar admitted that he considered it equitable to contempt of court, but also admitted that he did not know if they could be sent to jail. In fact, to quote his own words, he "had not thought anyone would be so discourteous as to disobey the summons of a royal commission and had, therefore, not taken it. My fears of the disappearance of witnesses."

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He further claimed that at the same time he had accused the company of having made a cross trade whereby \$5,000 from the terminal elevator account was transferred to the account of the Grain Growers Export company. It was put in the form of an opinion table.  
Henderson claimed that Motzart, secretary of the company (Mr. Moffatt is now deceased) had wanted him to do this, but he had refused to transfer profits and commissions of the terminal company to the export company considering it was against the rules of the Grain Exchange and also immoral. His attention was called to it having been done by the auditors of the Pricewaterhouse company.  
The witness testified that Mr. Murray, accused the Grain Growers Grain company of loading out 2,000,000 bushels of wheat without having the warehouse receipts for soiling.

**Disappearance of Witnesses.**  
We continue to quote from the Manitoba "Free Press" report.  
"The witness Kittridge, who had been summoned, was officially called twice during the morning and failed to appear, as did also Frank Birch, electrician, and Peter Spence, house foreman of the Grain Growers Grain company."  
"The commission adjourned just before 11 o'clock to meet again at 2, and two witnesses, W. Falkner and B. Hill, grain inspectors, who had

before party and rallied to the support of Sir Robert Borden and the winning of the war are now denigrating the grain business in Manitoba and Conservative party under the leadership of Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen. The meeting exceeded in numbers and enthusiasm any meeting held in the South Winnipeg riding during 1917 election. Not only did it form an organization for South Winnipeg, but it started a movement now successfully being carried out to organize the Government forces in all the ridings in Manitoba. The Mayor of Winnipeg presided, and the executive chosen for the South Winnipeg association will command respect and inspire confidence all over the country."

**Signatures to the resolution calling the meeting follow:—**  
Samson Walker  
D. F. Rannard  
R. Sproule  
Thos. A. Van Vliet  
R. C. Parise  
W. B. Brookings  
A. E. Ham  
J. W. Hart  
L. Lightfoot  
H. L. Lusk  
C. E. Chown  
D. H. Bain  
W. F. O'Day  
J. J. Read  
C. N. Andrew  
H. J. Clure  
C. F. Woodward  
F. D. Burns  
Fred. W. Pace  
F. J. O'Connor  
R. B. Dason  
R. A. Rogers  
J. W. Morrison  
G. W. Furnival  
J. D. O'Donnell  
Arthur Gordon  
W. F. O'Day  
Richard Wilson  
H. G. Spurgeon  
J. B. Monk  
H. S. Strang  
D. H. McDonald  
D. H. Gardner  
W. J. Henry  
D. A. McDonald  
S. Brown  
G. H. Miner  
H. S. Strang  
W. J. Guest  
R. F. Rorke  
L. J. Ramsay  
J. S. Menzies  
John McRae  
Fred. J. Baker  
A. J. Abrahamovitch  
E. Pelliss  
D. N. Finnie  
S. G. Newall  
Herbert McDougall  
John Nairn  
John A. Machray  
William Page  
J. A. Thompson  
E. E. Holland  
Mary Speechley  
J. C. Kyle  
A. C. Ferguson  
H. J. Sharpe  
F. K. Smith  
Sarah M. Sidston  
F. W. Henry  
Minnie J. B. Campbell  
Grace M. Furnival  
L. E. Lewers  
C. Carruthers  
Charles Locke  
W. W. Kennedy  
Dewey Ostrossee  
J. S. Merritt  
F. de Sieyes  
R. A. Kaiser  
O. J. McCallum  
R. F. Downie  
T. Achison  
C. J. Atchison  
E. R. Dowdell  
Thos. H. Butt  
J. P. Turner  
Thos. Hamilton  
J. A. Henderson  
J. Clarke  
G. M. Black  
W. H. Reynolds

been summoned and who were present, were asked to wait until the afternoon.  
"Witnesses Still Missing."  
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W. B. Brookings  
A. E. Ham  
J. W. Hart  
L. Lightfoot  
H. L. Lusk  
C. E. Chown  
D. H. Bain  
W. F. O'Day  
J. J. Read  
C. N. Andrew  
H. J. Clure  
C. F. Woodward  
F. D. Burns  
Fred. W. Pace  
F. J. O'Connor  
R. B. Dason  
R. A. Rogers  
J. W. Morrison  
G. W. Furnival  
J. D. O'Donnell  
Arthur Gordon  
W. F. O'Day  
Richard Wilson  
H. G. Spurgeon  
J. B. Monk  
H. S. Strang  
D. H. McDonald  
D. H. Gardner  
W. J. Henry  
D. A. McDonald  
S. Brown  
G. H. Miner  
H. S. Strang  
W. J. Guest  
R. F. Rorke  
L. J. Ramsay  
J. S. Menzies  
John McRae  
Fred. J. Baker  
A. J. Abrahamovitch  
E. Pelliss  
D. N. Finnie  
S. G. Newall  
Herbert McDougall  
John Nairn  
John A. Machray  
William Page  
J. A. Thompson  
E. E. Holland  
Mary Speechley  
J. C. Kyle  
A. C. Ferguson  
H. J. Sharpe  
F. K. Smith  
Sarah M. Sidston  
F. W. Henry  
Minnie J. B. Campbell  
Grace M. Furnival  
L. E. Lewers  
C. Carruthers  
Charles Locke  
W. W. Kennedy  
Dewey Ostrossee  
J. S. Merritt  
F. de Sieyes  
R. A. Kaiser  
O. J. McCallum  
R. F. Downie  
T. Achison  
C. J. Atchison  
E. R. Dowdell  
Thos. H. Butt  
J. P. Turner  
Thos. Hamilton  
J. A. Henderson  
J. Clarke  
G. M. Black  
W. H. Reynolds

Company Would Know.  
"I have no doubt whatever but that when the subpoenas were served everyone connected with the company would know all about it as the witnesses so served were quite important employees in the company. I had been notified by the millwright and other employees representing the company in connection with the inquiry, otherwise I would have formally notified them immediately after the subpoenas were served."  
"I left the Commission to return to Winnipeg to look after the questionnaires and after arrival received information that made me think it advisable to secure the evidence at Fort William at once, and I think subsequent events justified me in moving quickly."  
"There is nothing that will afford me more pleasure than to have all witnesses who can throw any light on this matter give their evidence before the commission," he concluded.

**A Sensation in the West**  
Naturally, the whole affair has created a great sensation in Western Canada. It is a veritable cause celebre. Nearly every lawyer in Winnipeg in one way or another is involved in the hearing of the injunction. Whatever may be the outcome of the injunction proceedings, the case is likely to go to the highest court in the Empire.  
"There is nothing that will afford me more pleasure than to have all witnesses who can throw any light on this matter give their evidence before the commission," he concluded.

**Winnipeg "Tribune" Comment**  
"The Winnipeg "Tribune" commented on the matter editorially, as follows:—  
"The resentment against inquiry by Royal Commission has led to an appeal to the courts to dissolve the method of regulation as ultra vires of the body which brought it into force, and this question is now sub judice."  
"The accusation that a political animus against Crerar or not, does not matter whether any members of the grain trade, or all of them, or none of them, have anything to do with it."  
"What does matter is that the producer of grain should have confidence in the integrity of the process by which the grain is collected from himself and distributed to the people of Canada propose to see that he has this confidence."  
"As to the matter of the regulation of the grain trade is one for the Province and not the Dominion."  
"That the meeting held at Fort William was not a proper meeting."  
"That inasmuch as Mr. Staples is required by law to devote his whole time to the duties of his position as a Member of the Board of Grain Commissioners, he is prevented from sitting as a member of the Royal Commission."  
"It is not our desire or intention to enter into a discussion of the application for the injunction. The Courts will deal with it, without doubt, on the merits. But inasmuch as the Hon. Mr. Crerar has seen fit to assume the role of political martyr in connection with the whole matter, and has charged the Government with complicity in an effort through the Royal Commission to damage him politically, he cannot complain if his attitude and that of his Company are made the subject of comment. Here in the East, where this publication is issued, the wonder is as to the real reasons for all the fuss and trouble. The storm of indignation and the injunction proceedings have all the earmarks of a campaign to mislead and confound the public mind. The simple fact would appear to be that some what grave charges were made against the officials of the Grain Growers Company, and instead of replying to or disputing these charges, an effort is being made to squash the whole proceedings. One would imagine that apart from the alleged irregularity in the proceedings, the officials and the company concerned would be only too anxious to make their reply and place the facts from their standpoint, before the public."

**Further Explanations by Mr. Bonnar**  
Speaking at Calgary on June 16th, R. A. Bonnar, K.C., replying to the published reports and criticisms of the so-called secret hearing at Fort William, said:—  
"There was absolutely nothing secret about it at all. Subpoenas were served on the Friday morning on three employees of the U.G.G. terminal elevator at Fort William, also on two ex-employees, summoning them to appear before subcommittee on the following Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. Mr. McKay, superintendent of the U.G.G. terminal elevator, resides at Fort William and was in the city both on Friday and Saturday, so I was informed. I was also informed that Mr. Watt, one of the officials of the company at Winnipeg, was also in Fort William at the time; there was no difficulty whatever in the company at Winnipeg having anyone they desired present at the sitting. There was absolutely no secrecy on my part as many people in Winnipeg knew I was going to Fort William to attend a special session."

**Witnesses Still Missing.**  
At 2 o'clock the commission reassembled, but the missing witnesses being again called, were absent, and Mr. Bonnar then decided that he would not examine the two grain inspectors who were present as they had been called specially with a view of testifying in regard to evidence which he had expected to secure from the witnesses who had not turned up.  
"Asked as to what action would be taken in regard to them, Mr. Bonnar admitted that he considered it equitable to contempt of court, but also admitted that he did not know if they could be sent to jail. In fact, to quote his own words, he "had not thought anyone would be so discourteous as to disobey the summons of a royal commission and had, therefore, not taken it. My fears of the disappearance of witnesses."

**Reason for Special Session.**  
An explanation of the reason for holding a special session at Fort William, with Mr. Birkett, Secretary of the Commission acting as Commissioner, Mr. Bonnar, the Counsel for the Commission, made the following statement:—  
"I left the Commission in the West in order to return to Winnipeg to deal with the matter of questions sent out by the Board to account for the fact that the 'Billy' Staples, after having been obliged to go before the head of the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, had removed to the office of the Board of Grain Commissioners, of which he was or is still a member, made the declaration that he would 'get me yet'."  
"So far as the Commission is concerned, they have, before the last of living committee at Ottawa and in the case of the Pricewaterhouse audit of terminal elevators, shown their willingness to furnish information to any fair and just body. I have no doubt that Henderson's statements will be dealt with in due course."

**Signatures to the resolution calling the meeting follow:—**  
Samson Walker  
D. F. Rannard  
R. Sproule  
Thos. A. Van Vliet  
R. C. Parise  
W. B. Brookings  
A. E. Ham  
J. W. Hart  
L. Lightfoot  
H. L. Lusk  
C. E. Chown  
D. H. Bain  
W. F. O'Day  
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H. J. Clure  
C. F. Woodward  
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R. F. Rorke  
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J. S. Menzies  
John McRae  
Fred. J. Baker  
A. J. Abrahamovitch  
E. Pelliss  
D. N. Finnie  
S. G. Newall  
Herbert McDougall  
John Nairn  
John A. Machray  
William Page  
J. A. Thompson  
E. E. Holland  
Mary Speechley  
J. C. Kyle  
A. C. Ferguson  
H. J. Sharpe  
F. K. Smith  
Sarah M. Sidston  
F. W. Henry  
M