

a great deal of dissatisfaction to everybody in western Canada. The member for Acadia recommended that the Board of Grain Commissioners should seriously consider the abolition of the use of these small lamp machines by local warehouses. They serve no good purpose for no accurate test can ever be made with them, and in the majority of cases I doubt whether even in the hands of an expert the results would be as satisfactory as with the electrical apparatus in the laboratory and inspection plants. Therefore I add my word to that of the member for Acadia in advising the minister that he will serve the interest of the grain growers best by forbidding the use of these small testing machines by the local warehousemen.

Now I come to another point. Early in the crop season this year, evidently convinced that the quality of the grain was not as serious as first anticipated, the Board of Grain Commissioners raised the standard of the moisture test required to 14.4. That gave a certain amount of relief and was of some benefit to the farmers. But at the same time the board made announcement which puzzled the farmers exceedingly, and of which an explanation should certainly be given, namely, that although the farmer would have his grain graded tough if it was more than 14.5, yet the board would permit the terminals to warehouse grain carrying 15 per cent moisture. That is an injustice. If the grain was in such condition as to stand warehousing, then according to all the laws of logic it should have been graded dry or standard grade. Instead of that the elevators got an enormous advantage over the unfortunate farmers of western Canada when their grain graded more than 14.5, and they lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. I would urge the minister that unless he is willing to sacrifice the prestige of the Board of Grain Commissioners, he should impress upon the chairman at the earliest possible opportunity the importance of a frank and clear statement being placed before the public, especially the public of western Canada. I hope the minister will take this into consideration, because he knows only too well that the continued satisfaction of our western farmers with the Department of Trade and Commerce will largely depend on the sympathetic attitude of the department in the case that I have mentioned.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I should like to say, Mr. Chairman, that the Board of Grain Commissioners have given too much consideration to the view put forward by the member for Bow River. As a matter of fact the better grain growing districts of western Can-

ada are losing by having a higher moisture content allowed in the straight grade. The damper grain from the northern portion of Alberta, southeastern Saskatchewan, and the greater portion of Manitoba is coming in as straight grade, and thereby cutting down the price of our Canadian grain in the markets of the world.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Absolute rubbish. I challenge the hon. gentleman to state a single fact that will prove the statement he has just made.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): The people buying grain in the markets of the world are not foolish enough to pay for water; and when you raise the moisture content you raise the amount of water that is allowed in the grade. That is the proof. The dry grain, or low moisture content grain, is grown on what is known as the bald-headed prairies, down in the southwest portion of Saskatchewan, part of central Saskatchewan, part of central Alberta the southeastern part of Alberta, and a small portion of southern Manitoba. They should be able on account of that dry grain to get a premium. As a matter of fact the grain today coming from these districts is mixed with damper grain from Alberta. It goes on the Liverpool market with the result that the whole grade is below what it should be and we receive a lower price than we ought to get. I should like the Minister of Trade and Commerce to take up the matter with a view to having the moisture content lowered instead of raised.

Mr. SPENCER: I support the hon. member for Bow River in his criticism of the moisture testing machines, particularly in respect to their use by local elevator men. These machines are so unreliable that samples taken from the same bin will often give different results. The minister will appreciate the seriousness of this. A difference of eight cents per bushel between dry and tough grain frequently amounts to between \$300 and \$500 to each farmer who has to bear a heavy loss. This is the reason for the discontent that prevails in regard to these machines.

Mr. MALCOLM: The question of testing grain for moisture is an important one. I have had some experience in the matter and it is difficult for the non-technical man to figure the relative humidity in grain, even when the tables are made out mathematically. There is a great deal of difficulty in the point he raises, but the trouble is to get a clever enough man to work out the humidity. There are however small machines which are easier