

from what I have to say to-night. However, I may have another opportunity to speak, if there should be an amendment moved, which I understand to be quite possible.

I shall now refer briefly to the subject I desired to draw to the attention of the government and of this house this afternoon. About nine o'clock last evening I was in my office in this building when the telephone rang. A member of the press called to ask me if I knew anything about what had taken place on the Winnipeg grain exchange yesterday. He said he had a telegram from a newspaper in Wall street, New York, asking for a 200 word message with regard to the meaning of the action taken yesterday. He came to my room with the telegram, but I knew nothing about the matter and could give him no information. I think he might better have gone to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon). However, in the air mail this morning, about an hour after the regular mail was distributed, I received a letter enclosing a copy of a notice that was posted on the bulletin board in the trading room of the Winnipeg grain exchange yesterday morning, as follows:

Winnipeg Grain Exchange

June 26, 1940.

Minimum prices for cash wheat

At the request of the federal government the council hereby establishes minimum prices for the certain grades of cash wheat "in store" Fort William and for Port Arthur, as follows, below which no transaction in the grades of cash wheat for delivery during the dates specified shall be made:

Then are set out the dates and the minimum prices for No. 1 northern Manitoba wheat, as follows:

1940	
June 26-29.....	71 $\frac{1}{8}$
July 1-Aug. 3.....	71 $\frac{3}{8}$
August 5-10.....	71 $\frac{5}{8}$
August 12-17.....	71 $\frac{7}{8}$
August 19-24.....	72 $\frac{1}{8}$
August 26-31.....	72 $\frac{3}{8}$
September 2-7.....	72 $\frac{5}{8}$
September 9-14.....	72 $\frac{7}{8}$
September 16-21.....	73 $\frac{1}{8}$
September 23-28.....	73 $\frac{3}{8}$
September 30-November 9.....	73 $\frac{5}{8}$
November 11-16.....	73 $\frac{7}{8}$
November 18-23.....	74 $\frac{1}{8}$
November 25-30.....	74 $\frac{3}{8}$
December 2-31.....	74 $\frac{5}{8}$

This would indicate that in order to receive 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents over what is termed the fixed price of 70 cents, the farmer will have to hold his wheat for about four months after the new crop comes in. Then the notice goes on:

The minimum prices for other contract grades shall be at the deliverable discounts, which are as follows:

	Cents under No. 1 northern
No. 2 northern.....	3
No. 3 northern.....	8
No. 4 wheat.....	10
No. 4 special.....	22
No. 1 C.W. garnet.....	12
No. 2 C.W. garnet.....	15

Then it states:

The aforesaid minimum prices shall apply as from June 26, 1940, at 11.30 a.m., and shall remain in force until cancelled or changed by authority of the council.

Also enclosed in this air mail letter was a copy of a broadcast sent out from the exchange at noon yesterday. The letter indicated also that as soon as this notice was posted the members of the exchange telegraphed all their agents in western Canada. The broadcast was as follows:

To all elevator agents in west:

The wheat market is now at "pegged prices" established at request of the federal government, and we are unable to hedge country wheat purchases at present. Therefore, all elevator agents are instructed to cease purchasing wheat, effective immediately, and all open market wheat prices are hereby cancelled.

You can, however, continue to accept wheat for wheat board account up to the five thousand bushel limitation, also for wheat cooperative marketing account, or for storage.

If a customer wishes to make sale of wheat, you must wire the party's name, bushels, grade and position, and if and when sale is made, you will receive confirming wire.

All orders will be handled in rotation.

The broadcast was made on behalf of the Alberta pool elevators, the Manitoba pool elevators, the Saskatchewan pool elevators, the United Grain Growers Limited, and the North-West Line Elevators Association. I am also informed that when the notice was posted in the exchange yesterday morning there was no trading done; there was no buying of wheat, even by the domestic milling companies. I should think the government must be rather worried when they allow such action to be taken without due notice to the public or to this house.

At this point may I ask the question: What will happen to coarse grains? No one knows. But it was stated yesterday in the broadcast that the price of oats, where the freight rate was 21 cents a hundredweight, would be 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents for C.W.; 11 cents for feed oats; 17 cents for C.W. barley; 12 cents for 3 feed barley; rye, 24 cents for C.W., and 17 cents for 4 C.W. Since May 16 many hon. members on this side of the house have on different occasions tried to get a statement from the Minister of Trade and Commerce or the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). We have asked what they proposed to do with respect to making amendments to certain