

On the basis of these facts, we consistently recommended to our customers to cover their winter supplies, and it is reported also by a number of other firms, that perhaps 85 per cent of the feedmills, at least in our province of Quebec, have bought their winter feed grain at very low prices. As a matter of fact, even the present price the Canadian wheat board is asking for its feed grain, is cheap considering the tremendous demand for Canadian grains from other continents.

For example, still as late as December 6th the Canadian Wheat Board price for No. 1 feed oats in store Fort William was 74½¢ per bushel and \$1.11 per bushel for No. 1 feed barley. Basis these prices in store Fort William, what is the return to the western grain farmer when this grain leaves his farm? Wheat board prices in store Fort William are, for:

	No. 1 Feed Oats	No. 1 Feed Bly
	.74½	\$1.11
Less: freight from western country point to the Lakehead, cost of elevation, interest and other expenses: .....	.18	.21
	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> .56½	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> .90

Converted to 100 lbs. the western farmer realizes on this basis: \$1.65 for No. 1 feed oats and \$1.87 for No. 1 feed barley, and I have yet to meet a grain farmer in eastern Canada who has, in the last decade, been willing to sell his grain even near those prices.

People who, for whatever motive, want a totalitarian system like in Russia, controlling the shipment and the distribution of western feed grain in eastern ports, will run against a stone wall. According to long-standing legislation, the Canadian Wheat Board is an agency established for the purpose of protecting exclusively the interests of western producers of wheat, oats and barley which cannot sell cheaper than at the highest price they can obtain on the domestic or export market, whichever level is the higher. The prices published daily by the Wheat Board are the same for a buyer of 1,000 bushels or 10 million bushels. However, if those proponents of a feedbank, which I will hereafter call "feed bankers" for short, should even succeed to eliminate the Wheat Board and trade directly with prairie grain growers (a chance in a million), their costs in buying the grain directly from prairie growers to be delivered by them to eastern farmers, will be considerably higher than the prices at which the Canadian Wheat Board is selling the wheat, oats and barley in store at the Lakehead ready for shipment to eastern ports.

First of all, the costs of elevation and storage of western grain in eastern elevators, are fixed by the Board of Grain Commissioners at a reasonable rate. Secondly, the railway freights from prairie shipping points to the Lakehead, are the cheapest in the free world, unchanged since 1898 and subsidized to this effect by the federal government.

The Canadian Wheat Board, having operated successfully for over 25 years, disposes of a most experienced staff of about 1,000 employees, supervised by the four commissioners in Winnipeg in charge of purchase, storage, transportation and distribution of about one billion bushels of western grain a year. I doubt that those "feed bankers", even if they are supermen, can do a better job, the more as the eastern domestic demand requires only about 6 to 8 per cent of this billion bushels. Sometimes I wonder why the four commissioners, with their outstanding knowledge of the grain trade, stay on their job for so many years instead of taking a lucrative position elsewhere, when they are criticized so often by uniformed publicity seekers and know-it-all people.