

interest reduction with respect to other claims on the Wheat Board, because the Canadian Wheat Board is constantly buying on credit.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** But it is the farmer who has to pay.

**Mr. Lang:** In a few months that money will be available to the farmer.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** What is the final payment going to be, Otto?

**Mr. Lang:** Between September 1 and the present, prices for Canadian wheat, as compared with prices for equivalent American wheat, have tended to be between 20 cents and 30 cents higher. That has been the margin of Canadian wheat over American wheat.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Because ours is better wheat.

**Mr. Lang:** Perhaps I should not have said that because of the competitive aspects involved. Let me point out that, by about September 1, some hon. members opposite began to say that we were out of wheat. Since that time the Canadian Wheat Board has sold approximately 300 million bushels of wheat at this constantly rising price, to the great good and benefit of the Canadian farmer. There is no way around the basic and fundamental fact that, in a competitive world market, the Wheat Board does not exercise absolute control over the price at which grain can move. Nevertheless, it has been meeting competition squarely and fairly. For our part, we have attempted to provide it with tools, in terms of grain facilities and a transport system which can carry that grain to market effectively and well. The results are obvious.

This year the figures show that shipments from the west coast are setting records in terms of volume moved. Except for August, when there were labour difficulties, the month-by-month figures for shipments from the west coast show all time records. Our forward selling has been good. The position is not one of certainty. The world is not a certain place, when one considers grain prices. However, it is quite possible that grain prices will be significantly higher six or eight months from now. The Canadian Wheat Board will still be attempting throughout that period to use its best judgment. After discussions with its customers, and after judging what competitors will do, it will attempt to sell grain at the best possible price. Although there is a differential of between 20 cents and 30 cents per bushel between our wheat and American wheat, our wheat has been selling because of the greater certainty in our ability to deliver.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Because our wheat was of a better quality, surely.

**Mr. Lang:** Apparently the hon. member for Crowfoot does not like these figures, but they relate to facts. He should face them and remember that they are a tremendous credit to the Canadian Wheat Board, to its judgment, and to the way in which over the years it has developed good will because of its ability to deliver grain. We have and will continue to enter into contracts to supply custom-

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ers. There is every reason to think that we can go after another tremendous year in sales.

As a result of grain movements, net farm income on the Prairies, particularly in Saskatchewan, the largest of the grain provinces, has risen phenomenally. It was greater by \$200 million in 1972 than it was in 1971, and will probably rise an equivalent amount in 1973, as compared with 1972. The increase in 1974, as compared with 1973, is almost certain to be as great again, as the full price effects are finally felt.

The hon. member for Crowfoot said something about deliveries and the need for deliveries. The truth is that the initial price is not the governing factor in whether a farmer will deliver his grain today. I am happy to say that deliveries are still coming in and that the Wheat Board has in commercial position something like 100 million bushels of wheat more than it will need for its commitments between now and the end of the crop year. Deliveries are coming in regularly, week by week. Now that seeding has been more or less completed, the amounts of grain coming in will increase. Some farmers, of course, are putting wheat in storage for delivery in the next crop year. That is a matter for their judgment and choice. That decision is based on the final price and no particular attention should be paid to the initial price. I think the hon. member knows that. If farmers misunderstand the position, we should try to explain it to them, rather than allow them to be under any misapprehension about it. Actually, more farmers write to me about their worries related to income tax. I have had more letters on that score, than on the score of their wanting an increase in price immediately. In short, they are more concerned about the total amount of income they are to receive in 1973 than how they can defer delivery. I am confident, at this stage, that they will continue delivering.

The hon. member for Crowfoot often manages to misunderstand what he is reading and attach an entirely different meaning to the subject matter. For instance, he referred to something that suggested I had said that the Crowsnest rate might come under review. He then said I was eager to have that review made. There is a slight difference there, which he does not see as being important. As well, he said that his figures show that there were fewer than 178 million bushels in storage. When I asked for the figures, he gave them, and the amount, according to his own figures, added up to 212 million bushels.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** I was talking about spring wheat, not durum.

**Mr. Lang:** In conclusion, it is a distinct possibility that, with the swift movement of grain which is to continue for the rest of the year, and with some farmers hesitating to deliver their grain before the next crop year, the amount in storage on July 31 will be less than 178 million bushels, although, of course, that is a hypothetical matter.

Let me say that the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act was never an ideal piece of legislation. I would be glad to come forward at an early date with a program which would help farmers much more than that program helped them, and I think this desire on our part is evidenced by the approach we have taken in attempting to make the grain industry of this country work effectively. Most farmers believe that