

things printed which will be piled away where no person will ever read them.

Mr. GUTHRIE: May I inquire of the minister whether the tariff board on hearing an application makes any recommendation as to what action should be taken?

Mr. ROBB: No, the tariff board is a fact finding board.

Mr. GUTHRIE: They do not make recommendations?

Mr. ROBB: No. The government of the day must take the responsibility.

Item agreed to.

Trade and Commerce—amount required to refund money collected on overages in public terminal elevators, \$81,330.74.

Mr. STEVENS: We will have to have some explanation of this, I think. Will the minister give us some idea of what this is?

Mr. ROBB: This amount is the total of the sums paid under protest by the following terminal elevators to the Board of Grain Commissioners in accordance with section 95 of the Canada Grain Act:

Empire Elevator Company, Limited.	\$ 2,921 82
United Grain Growers, Limited.	13,281 48
Grand Trunk Pacific Elevator Company, Limited.	15,500 22
Port Arthur Elevator Company.	35,116 73
Thunder Bay Terminal Company.	12,107 62
Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company.	2,030 14
Fort William Elevator Company, Limited.	372 73
Total.	\$81,330 74

It was claimed that we had no right to collect these overages; they went to court and the judgment was against us, and we are refunding what was paid in.

Mr. STEVENS: Do I understand that now the government are not permitted under the law to collect any of the overages at all?

Mr. ROBB: The act was amended, so that now we have some right of collection. Under the old act we did not have that right.

Mr. STEVENS: What proportion does the government collect now?

Mr. ROBB: It is the same proportion as before, one quarter of one per cent.

Mr. STEVENS: The elevator company is allowed to retain any overage of one quarter of one per cent, and the government takes anything above that?

Mr. ROBB: I will read the section of the Grain Act and my hon. friend can interpret [Mr. Robb.]

it. In the year 1919 the Canada Grain Act was amended by adding to section 95 the following subsection:

In the month of August in each year, stock shall be taken of the quantity of each grade of grain in the terminal elevators; if in any year after the crop year ending the thirty-first day of August, 1919, the total surplus of grain is found in excess of one-quarter of one per cent, of the gross amount of the grain received in the elevator during the crop year, such excess surplus shall be sold annually by the Board of Grain Commissioners and the proceeds thereof paid to the said board. Such proceeds shall be applied towards the cost of the administration of the Canada Grain Act in such manner as the Governor in Council may direct.

Mr. STEVENS: How long has that section been in force?

Mr. ROBB: It is included in the new amendments.

Mr. BROWN: It was the clause bringing the elevators under the definition of works for the general advantage of Canada which made possible the application, I think.

Mr. COOTE: I would like to ask the minister if any overages were collected from the public terminal elevators last year?

Mr. ROBB: The returns are not available yet.

Mr. COOTE: Could the minister tell us whether they are collecting any overage at present?

Mr. ROBB: We have no returns from the Board of Grain Commissioners for this year, but they are expected daily.

Mr. STEVENS: How about the end of the last crop year?

Mr. ROBB: That is the year my hon. friend asked about.

Mr. STEVENS: The end of the last crop year was August 31, 1926. There should be a return showing whether there were any overages then beyond one quarter of one per cent.

Mr. ROBB: We have not yet received the returns for 1926.

Mr. COOTE: I do not know whether or not I am correct, but I think the Grain Act was last amended in 1925, and would apply to the crop year ending August 31, 1926, and if the act did cover that year I would like to know whether the Board of Grain Commissioners collected any overages in that year. If not, has the government any policy to set forth definitely here as to whether they intend to collect that overage this year?