

or storing of grain is quite clearly and definitely the responsibility of the board, and we would strongly urge that this Committee make a definite recommendation that the present diversion charges be declared illegal by the Board of Grain Commissioners.

*Suggested changes in procedure at annual public hearings*

Following the public hearing of the Board of Grain Commissioners in Winnipeg last summer, the three farm unions were pleased to note that their objections raised to the applications of the majority of elevator companies for an increase in elevation charges for grain were sustained. We believe that on this point the board was well advised, considering the very substantial returns enjoyed by elevator companies during recent years.

One definite suggestion we would make for the improvement of future public hearings of this type is that all companies desiring to file briefs or to make submissions requesting review of rates, should be required to file same with the board a reasonable number of days in advance in order that individuals or groups interested may have an opportunity of perusing such applications in advance, and thus be in a position to prepare their rebuttal if they desire to do so. Under present procedure we have no means of knowing what proposals will be placed before the board and we are therefore in the dark to know how to proceed with the research necessary to check in advance of the hearings the effect of new proposals being implemented. The Board of Grain Commissioners is an important public body with a definite responsibility in protecting the public interest. Many of the public bodies in a like position require the filing of briefs in advance for the reason outlined above and we would strongly urge that this procedure be adopted forthwith to be applicable for the annual public hearings which are held by the board during the summer months.

*A study of the sale of screenings*

We believe that the sale of at least certain types of screenings for feed should be immediately discontinued. We also feel that the whole question of the sale of these screenings by elevator companies as feed should be subject to close examination and study. While it is admitted that certain types of re-cleaned screenings do have considerable food value for livestock, we would point out that the sale, particularly at the present high prices being charged, does not in the main tend to improve the regard of eastern feeders for western feed grains. We believe that the fact that large and continuous shipments of these screenings are fed onto eastern markets tends to have a certain depressing effect and very definitely every boatload of such screenings fed onto the market takes the place of, and is sold in competition to, the better types of western feed grains for which western farmers are desirous of maintaining and extending a dependable and high quality market. We feel that any move to impair the quality of this feed and unnecessarily lower the grade standard may result in undermining the confidence of eastern feeders in the quality of western feed grain. In fact we have sufficient evidence to indicate that, as a result of the present actions of some of the grain companies, this very condition has already been brought about to an alarming extent.

*By Mr. Argue:*

Q. On this point of screenings, what percentage of the screenings are weed seeds?—A. What percentage of screenings are weed seeds? That, of course, depends on the grade of the screenings. There are re-cleaned screenings and refuse screenings and various types. They are supposed to be sold by grade