

and my directors cannot accept the explanation that the weather has been entirely responsible for the poor quality of wheat received in this country and on the Continent.

"It is quite apparent that the standard sample of No. 3 Northern Manitoba wheat, 1927, is greatly inferior to the relative standard for 1925. My directors submit that to try to maintain a regularity of standard from year to year is essential and, if Canada has an inferior crop, that it ought to be graded accordingly."

These are just a couple of paragraphs taken from the letter?—A. Well, we had no complaint from the President. Would you allow me to state, Mr. Chairman, that in 1925 the practice of mixing the grades of grain became a legal operation under the new Act. Previous to that the various qualities and the different grades had been stored together in the public elevators, in bins, the usual size being 30,000 bushels capacity, and when it was drawn out it was a composite sample of the high, the low and the medium of the grain. That happened until the year 1926, when the new law came into operation, publicly and legally allowing mixing, which means that you will take enough of the best quality out of each grade to skim or grade down to the line, and the wheat which we ship to-day is skimmed wheat.

Q. It is down to the line?—A. It is down to the line.

*By Mr. Millar:*

Q. Are you speaking of the public elevators?—A. I am speaking of the general sample. Before grain goes into the public elevators, where there is no mixing or should not be, the grain companies are allowed to extract samples that will bear mixing. As far as possible, only the line grades go into the public elevator and only the line grades come out of the private elevator.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. So that practically there is no difference between what comes out of the public and what comes out of the private elevator?—A. Practically there is no difference.

*By Mr. Donnelly:*

Q. Do you think mixing is the cause of that?—A. I do not think it, I know it is.

Q. I have here an extract from a letter to the Prime Minister, which I might as well read also. The letter is from Mr. Urquhart:—

"In years gone by, complaints were few and far between, but since the autumn of 1926 they have been very numerous, and the confidence which the trade used to place in Canadian Certificates has been badly shaken. My directors find that the whole U.K. and Continental markets are becoming very dissatisfied with the arrivals of wheat under 'Certificate Final' and unless matters improve they are quite certain that there will be a strong agitation to discontinue this method of trading and to insist upon buying on Standard Samples in the same way as trade is done with other countries, such as the Argentine and Australia."

That is an extract from a letter from the same man to the Prime Minister?—A. Mr. Chairman, the result was unavoidable, directly they made the mixing of grades legal. It became a certainty, because the men who mix grain understand their business—they do. You do not get anything that is coming to you, in a mixed sample of grain delivered in a carload; it is all line grain. I saw a sample when at Liverpool of No. 3 Northern. I am very doubtful whether a farmer sending a carload of that wheat to Winnipeg to be graded could secure No. 3 for it.

[Hon. George Langley.]