

figures given you by Mr. Robinson here yesterday, if you preserve them and then take the statement made here in this report that seventy-five per cent of the wheat sold at the time the market is depressed, I think you will readily see that Mr. Woods' statement of yesterday of twenty-five million dollars was a very very conservative estimate. In fact there was one statement given here yesterday between two months, that just figuring it out in my head at the time would show even a greater amount than that between the two months. Consequently I think it is naturally in the interest of Canada as a whole.

Mr. NEILL: I just want to give my own opinion about the men coming from the prairie. For one millionaire coming into the country I know of dozens of men coming from the prairie broken and helpless, seeking a day's work.

Mr. ARTHURS: Is Mr. Maharg asking for the re-establishment of the Board, for the purpose of equalizing the prices? Is that right?

Mr. MAHARG: Yes.

Mr. ARTHURS: Are you in favour of a permanent board, or only a temporary board and why?

Mr. MAHARG: In the matter of the permanency of the board, we have not at any time asked for it as a permanent institution.

Mr. ARTHURS: Why?

Mr. MAHARG: At no time. The reasons have been given by the former speakers but I have no hesitation in saying that the matter of it as a permanent institution has never been discussed at any of our large association gatherings. Not that I know of. It has never been discussed at our Saskatchewan annual convention by our association at any time and I am not aware that it has been discussed at either one of the provincial conventions. It has only been discussed as a temporary measure to meet what we hope is a temporary situation and as soon as things come back to normal it is not asked for.

Mr. ARTHURS: Would not the original and main idea of the board still prevail under any series of years, that is to say that the farmer must necessarily market his wheat during the time of low prices?

Mr. MAHARG: Not to the same extent. Up until those last few years there have been large numbers of individuals who were in position to hold their wheat, but from one cause or another, as it was outlined yesterday, drought, grasshoppers, hail, and such like, together with the tremendous drop in prices has reduced that to an almost negligible quantity and the position is that they have to sell their wheat. If they don't somebody else will sell it for them. They are forced to sell it, to put it on the market as soon as they possibly can. This statement here shows some of the reasons. The bank and railway companies are pushing to get the grain out as well. They are all in the same boat, if I might use the expression the wholesaler, the retailer, they are all in the same boat.

Mr. ARTHURS: I am not opposing the board. I would like to get for my own information—I cannot see any possible reason why if this board should be useful one year it should not be useful all the time. There is another complaint from the West regarding Street sales. This is said to be a big complaint from the small farmer, in small towns where there is only one elevator. This is set up as reason for the re-establishment of the board. Would that then be met by the board having only jurisdiction for one year, or would it not be better by having a permanent board.

Mr. MAHARG: It certainly will be met to a certain extent during the one year. For instance the spread has been greatly reduced. That spread has not always existed. The fact that the grain is forced on the market takes care of that spread to a large extent. I might just explain here one of the reasons. That might be attributed to the local elevator, probably the entire blame for it might be attributed to the local

[Mr. J. A. Maharg.]