

EVENING SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: I think we can now proceed. The witness had just finished his evidence before we adjourned. As a matter of fact, we had reached the question period.

Mr. Cecil Lamont, of the Northwest Line Elevator Association, recalled:

The CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Argue.

By Mr. Argue:

Q. At 1 o'clock, Mr. Chairman, I had been going over some of the figures which Mr. Lamont had given to the committee in regard to the handlings at Kayville, the point where I live.

As you will recall, I had made a statement earlier in the proceedings of this committee that my home point was a very excellent example of a point where, because of the method of box car distribution being used, the pool elevator was bound to suffer; and it was my opinion, given free competition at that point, that in many years it would be the ordinary procedure for the wheat pool there to handle probably 85 per cent of the grain coming to that marketing point.

But as a counter argument, Mr. Lamont read into the record figures that he gave to be correct for the pool handling at the Kayville elevator point over the past ten years, and he gave as the pool percentages figures varying anywhere from 8 per cent to 84 per cent. That 8 per cent figure was given for the year 1945-46.

I felt at the time that there must be something wrong with those figures although I could not give an explanation from memory.

I might say to the committee that when the discussion was on, Mr. Castleden, the member for Yorkton, went out and sent a wire to Wes. Ball, vice president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. The wire read as follows:

Wire figures of wheat pool deliveries and percentage at Kayville for 1945 and any explanation Urgent.

A wire came back which reads as follows:

Reference wire to Mr. Ball. He is attending IFAP meeting in Nairobi. According to our records total station receipts at Kayville was approximately 30,000 bushels of which pool elevators handled 25,200 bushels. Must have been crop failure at Kayville that year. Do not know whether competitive elevator stayed open all season or not. Regards.

George W. Robertson.

It seems to me that that telegram constitutes a very substantial correction of the figures which Mr. Lamont read into the record.

As you will gather from the telegram, there was no request made for information as to other years. But according to the telegram the figures which Mr. Lamont put on the record are entirely wrong. Perhaps the figure 8 was a typographical error in the telegram. I do not know. Perhaps it should have been 80. But in any case, it shows that in that given year the pool handled well over 80 per cent of the grain at Kayville.