

just as good quality and is as readily salable as if it had a lower moisture content.

If that is so, then I cannot see why farmers would suffer because of the amendment proposed in this Bill. On the contrary, I can see that the practice which this amendment seeks to sanction would lead to a larger demand for No. 1 Northern tough for purposes of mixing which, as it has been explained to me, does not reduce the quality. It has also been pointed out to me that the spread between No. 1 Northern and No. 1 Northern tough is now, as a rule, very much less than it used to be, the smaller spread being due to the wider demand for No. 1 Northern created by the mixing privilege. If I am right on my facts, I can see no reason for objection to this amendment; on the contrary, it seems to me the amendment would be beneficial to farmers. If I am not right on my facts, I should like to be corrected, because I feel that unless I am convinced they are wrong I should vote for the Bill.

Hon. R. B. HORNER: I will try to explain to the right honourable gentleman where he is wrong as to the facts.

Any miller will tell you that wheat of the best quality is produced by stacking it for about three weeks. By that process a slight heat is created and the grain acquires a perfect colour. The next best method is to stook the wheat in large stooks and let it cure naturally.

I was unable to understand why the amendment proposed in this Bill was favoured by Mr. Ross, the honourable member who represents Moose Jaw in another place, but as I was coming into the building this evening the reason suddenly struck me. It is this. On the plains out there the farmers use the combine, and it is nearly impossible to get grain perfectly dry when cut with a combine. They would get a higher price for their tough grain if they were allowed to mix it with our grain that is cut in the more expensive manner. Very often the grain which is cut with a combine contains tough kernels, green kernels, and other objectionable features. Only about 10 per cent of the Western wheat crop is cut by the combine, or combination thresher.

There has been a lot of discussion about raising the price of tough wheat. The spread between No. 1 Northern tough and No. 1 Northern dry wheat varies from month to month, from week to week, and from day to day. In a very wet year it is impossible to get your grain dry. For instance, in 1916, I think it was, we had rain almost every day, and consequently our grain was wet. There

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were 150,000,000 bushels on hand, and it was feared we might have great difficulty in selling on the English market. The Government of Sir Robert Borden guaranteed to make good any loss that might occur through heating of the grain in transit to Great Britain. Successful negotiations for sale of the grain were carried on with the British Government by the late Honourable Robert Rogers, who went to England, and fortunately every bushel of the wheat arrived over there in good condition; so the Government did not have to pay anything on account of their guarantee.

What I am concerned about is that mixing as permitted under this amendment would lower the grade of the wheat, and we should lose the special premium that we have enjoyed in the Old Country. As honourable members know, our grain has always been regarded over there as the world's best. We want to maintain that reputation. I am very deeply concerned about this amendment, and I say as forcibly as I can that it is an undesirable one. I will not detain the House any longer, but I should like to have the Bill put to a vote.

Hon. J. J. DONNELLY: Honourable senators, I cannot altogether agree with what has been said by my right honourable leader (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen). This amendment would permit mixing so long as the moisture content did not exceed 14.4 per cent. Wheat grown in the dry belt of southern Alberta contains less than 10 per cent moisture. We all know that the less moisture there is in wheat, the greater is the percentage of flour obtainable. The smaller the moisture content, the better the result will be when the miller grinds the grain, and consequently the higher the price that grade will command on the English market. I think that mixing as provided for here would in the long run have the effect of lowering the price of our No. 1 Hard wheat.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Would honourable senators allow me to read a statement concerning the section to which my honourable friend from Saskatchewan North (Hon. Mr. Horner) objects? I believe my right honourable friend opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) has expressed the view—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Would the honourable gentleman excuse me? I did not express a view. I simply said that if mixing would not reduce the quality, for selling purposes, I would support the amendment.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable members who are familiar with the facts will be able to judge whether or not the statements contained in the document are correct.