

arrangements with all, or at least all the principal manufacturers of agricultural implements, whereby the manufacturers of implements use their organization for the delivery of the implements the soldier may choose, and they get those implements to the soldier at the wholesale factory price, and the wholesale cash price at that, without any further charge whatever. In addition to that, the manufacturers pay the cost of distribution. They pay the agent's commission for handling the implements. The soldier pays nothing at all except the ordinary bulk freight rate on his implements, and the wholesale cash price.

As regards harness, a still better arrangement has been made. The general saving which he makes on harness is 30 per cent of the retail price. It is even less than the wholesale price, and he gets his choice. Our arrangement is such that the payment is made through the board. The manufacturer of harness has no difficulty whatever. Shortly after the harness is delivered he gets his pay. Owing to the fact that there were considerable stocks on hand, we made an especially advantageous arrangement as regards that commodity. An arrangement is made as well whereby the wholesale price is secured for the soldier for his hardware. He can get it where he likes and pays the wholesale cash price and no more. He pays the wholesale cash price also for his lumber. They do not generally buy in less than carloads, in which case they get the mill price, but if they do not all they pay is the actual disbursement in handling. The same arrangements have been effected as to the other commodities he buys, and I have here tables to show what the soldier settler saves at each point and what he would have to pay if he were buying as an ordinary purchaser. The total he saves is a most substantial sum. I do not think I should delay the committee or burden Hansard with a recital of the various advantages he enjoys.

Mr. CAHILL: If it is not too long I think it should go on Hansard.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is rather long, but I can give some instances. I suppose it should be put on Hansard. The first point I have is Calgary. The average saving that he has from the United Grain Growers' ordinary price—and they have an especial arrangement for distribution at the lowest prices—is 13 per cent; 15 per cent, John Deere Company; 9 per cent, Massey-Harris; 18 per cent, Cockshutt Company; 19 per cent, International Harvester Company. He saves

[Mr. Meighen.]

30 per cent from all manufacturers of harness at Calgary; 20 per cent off the cash price for all lumber used. At Edmonton the rates on implements run as follows: 18 per cent, 14 per cent, 20 per cent, 10 per cent, 16 per cent, an average of 16 per cent better than the ordinary purchaser of implements; and on harness the saving is 30 per cent. It runs that way throughout, except that at one point he saves actually 40 per cent on the purchase of harness. The board undertook some months ago to purchase stock, including horses.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (East Lambton): Will these rates and arrangements apply in the older provinces?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, the arrangements as to stock and implements apply to every province.

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG: Will these figures be placed on record?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes. At Vancouver the average rate saved on implements is 14 per cent, harness 30 per cent, lumber 20 per cent. At Victoria, implements 13 per cent, harness 30 per cent, lumber 30 per cent. At Saskatoon, 15 and 11 per cent on implements from different manufacturers and 30 per cent on harness. There is no figure for lumber there, but it would be 20 per cent. At Regina the rates are 14 and 11 per cent on implements from the United Grain Growers' and John Deere Company respectively; 30 per cent on harness and 20 per cent on lumber. At Winnipeg, the United Grain Growers, 14 per cent; Massey-Harris, 9 per cent; International Harvester Company, 17 per cent; Cockshutt Plough Company, 13 per cent; John Deere, 15 per cent; Canadian Fairbanks-Morse, 15 per cent; on harness from 27 per cent to 40 per cent. In lumber the reduction in price at Winnipeg is 19 per cent. At Toronto on implements, the Massey-Harris, 15 per cent, the International Harvester 20 per cent. Harness, 26 per cent and lumber 20 per cent.

Mr. COPP: Are those reductions on the retail prices?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The retail cash prices. I have not the figures for Montreal. In Halifax the rate is 14 per cent on implements. I have not the figures for harness there but I presume the same arrangements obtain. At Charlottetown the rates are 20 per cent on lumber and 20 per cent on implements.

We ventured upon the rather perilous enterprise of purchasing horses and cattle.