

I would not feel inclined to encourage any further immigration into that part of my constituency until the railways are completed. In my opinion there is no need for giving occasion to the distress the newcomers would be called upon to undergo, and it would be both unkind and unfair to ask them to consider making their homes in these districts.

For the third time I appeal to the government to take steps to have these lines completed.

Arrangements which have been made with Great Britain for the disposal of the major part of our wheat crop appear to be in the main, satisfactory. Most of my constituents agree that the handling of the wheat by the Canadian wheat board is the proper way to do it.

In this northern country, however, large quantities of coarse grains are grown. It is felt that if the system of handling wheat by the wheat board is sound and satisfactory, then coarse grains, particularly oats, barley and rye, should be handled in like manner. The wheat board has certain authority over these grains, fixing quotas, arranging ceiling prices and the like; and it is felt—and I quite agree with the idea—that the one board should be completely responsible for all grain in exactly the same way as it has complete authority over the nation's wheat.

May I suggest that serious consideration be given to this request. It is already within the power of the governor in council to order that this be done, and I can assure the government that steps in this direction would be highly appreciated by the majority of the growers. I have heard it argued that while our wheat is mainly exportable, and can properly be handled by the wheat board, coarse grains trading is mostly interprovincial and cannot be handled by the wheat board because it comes under a different classification, and any definite attempt to have it handled compulsorily by the board might have the effect of upsetting the legislation and making it *ultra vires*.

If that argument is sound, then it is fair to say that if we were unfortunate enough to have two disastrous crop years, and no wheat were available for export, but just barely enough for the country's own needs, the wheat board act would become *ultra vires* and the Canadian wheat board would have to go out of existence. This, in passing.

I express the hope on behalf of my constituents that eventually the government will bring all grain completely under the control, regulation and sale of the Canadian wheat board. I am indeed happy to see this request made by the Canadian Federation of Agri-

culture, following the ideas and suggestions made by this organization fifteen years ago.

The matter of quotas for coarse grains, which is arranged by the wheat board from time to time, is causing some concern. As is generally known, the yield of oats is roughly twice that of wheat, and it would therefore be reasonable and logical for the delivery quota of oats to be twice that of wheat. This, however, was not done; and until nearly the end of the year only five bushels per acre could be delivered at country elevators. The natural result is that thousands upon thousands of bushels of oats are lying in heaps on the ground, without any protection, and now covered with several feet of snow—all this in spite of the fact that feed grains are badly needed, especially in eastern Canada. There is no possible chance of this grain being delivered to the elevators before spring, because all the country roads are blocked, and unfortunately there is a good chance of a great deal of it being spoiled and becoming a complete loss.

The same thing to a lesser degree is true with respect to barley. Farmers haul in wheat, the higher priced grain, first. And then, being short of storage accommodation on the farms, the cheaper grains have to lie in heaps with little or no protection. If the quota on these coarse grains could have been increased earlier—the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) told us a little over a week ago that the quotas were now open—I do not think the shortage of feed grains would have been nearly so serious. May I call this point to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) who may see in it some connection with the shortage of hogs and the consequent difficulty with the British bacon contract.

Another point in connection with quotas and the storage of coarse grains was brought up within the last few days, while Bill No. 23 respecting the Canadian wheat board was being considered. Fear was expressed by some western members—indeed an amendment was offered because of this fear—of the possibility that there would not be enough room in the elevators before July 31, 1950 for just the wheat crop. What, then, is to become of the coarse grains crop, if this fear is realized? Where and how is it to be stored? And if prices are descending, is the grower to take the loss because the elevators cannot make room for him? I fear the decision of the agricultural conference recently held in Ottawa to increase the quantity of coarse grains, and the desire of the Minister of Agriculture to see more barley grown will meet with disappointment, unless some definite consideration is given both as to quotas and to prices.