

board?—A. The advisory committee, as outlined in the report, during the crop year, had four meetings. They met among themselves and they met with the board.

Q. Were the four meetings held with the board?—A. No, the four meetings were divided, partially with the board and partially among themselves.

Q. Do they make recommendations to the board in respect of policy?—A. Yes.

Q. How often have their recommendations been accepted?—A. Well, the advisory committee's recommendations are usually made to the government through the wheat board. I think I have seen some discussion on this question, Mr. Chairman, in the house. Now, I could not tell you how often.

Q. I am trying to find out if they are of any value?—A. Yes, I appreciate that.

Q. Because the expense is considerable.

The CHAIRMAN: Do the reports or recommendations, or whatever you call them, of the advisory committee go to the government through the wheat board direct?

The WITNESS: They go to the government through the wheat board.

Mr. SENN: Are they considered to be confidential?

The WITNESS: I think they are.

*By Mr. Perley:*

Q. I was going to ask whether any of these reports should be tabled. Do you take the position that they are confidential?—A. I do not think I am in a position to take a stand either way.

Q. How are we going to find out if they are of any value, if their recommendations have been accepted or considered, or if they have any value at all?

The CHAIRMAN: You do not find that out from any advisory committee, apparently.

Mr. GOLDING: That is not a new policy.

*By Mr. Perley:*

Q. The chairman of the board might answer the question. Does he himself think they are of very much value today as a board?—A. I think you asked me that question last year.

Q. You evaded it a little last year.—A. Pardon me, did you say I was trying to evade it?

Q. I do not think your answer was very satisfactory. You did not give the committee to understand that they were of any great value.—A. I would like to read you last year's report of what I said about that. I said last year that the advisory committee had performed a very useful service to the board, and you asked me if their advice was good or bad and you asked me further if we always took their advice, and I think my reply was that we tried to take it when it was good. That was what happened last year as I recall it.

Q. I would like to know if they are of any value for the money that they cost in travelling expenses and salaries? You could table that, I suppose—since last year's report?

Mr. WHITMAN: Would you advocate doing away with them?

Mr. PERLEY: I was talking with some of them myself and they cannot see that they are of any value—at least three of them I spoke to.

Mr. LEGER: Is there any leakage from the advisory committee?

The WITNESS: I did not suspect there was any up till now, but somebody has been telling Mr. Perley that they are not of any value on the advisory committee. It seems to me there is some leakage.