

to approval by the governor in council. All the act says is that the board of grain commissioners shall fix the maximum rates that may be charged for the handling, cleaning and storage of grain. If that board does not cut this price to the bone—I say it should be cut in two—then we should amend the Canada Grain Act in that respect, because I do not consider these prices either reasonable or right. I say that the cost of handling our wheat was \$50,000,000, not only on the authority of the statements I have mentioned but because of other statements I have heard to the effect that the grain people received in the neighbourhood of 13 or 14 cents a bushel on all the wheat they handled. I can give the committee those figures if necessary, because I know what they are.

Mr. CRERAR: Does that include freight?

Mr. DONNELLY: No, that does not include freight at all. That is something else which the farmer has to pay. This is just for elevation, storage, cleaning, loading into cars, service charges, diversion charges and matters of that kind.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): The gross earnings of the elevator companies.

Mr. DONNELLY: Yes. Some one raised the question of what the farmer will do when he cannot get his wheat into an elevator. That is one of the serious matters with which we have to contend this year. It will be necessary for the farmer to get credit in some way or another. If a big farmer has ten, fifteen, twenty or thirty thousand bushels of grain and can market only two thousand bushels, he must get credit somewhere. We shall have to do one of three things. We shall have to provide credit through the banks or through the elevator companies or through the government itself. I believe provision could be made by the banks or the elevator companies to give the farmers credit at reasonable rates of interest.

These are some of the questions that are bothering our people back home to-day. We hope a sane and sensible solution can be found for all these problems which are occupying our attention. I ask the government to consider not only fixing the same price at all elevators across the country, but also to consider this matter of cutting the rates charged for the handling of our wheat.

Mr. FAIR: I have only a few words to say this evening, Mr. Chairman, but because I have been held back for so long, and because I rushed back here after a sumptuous meal, I find it just a little difficult to talk. The fact that the hon. member for Wood

Mountain (Mr. Donnelly) has spoken provides me with a reason for saying a few more words than otherwise I would have said. With some of the suggestions he made I am in accord. I agree that there should be an equalization of freight rates and a reduction in handling and storage charges. We can walk hand in hand in connection with those two items. But with some of the other statements he made I am afraid I cannot agree. He told us that the British government had from 50,000,000 to 75,000,000 bushels of wheat in this country. A short time before that the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross) told us that the British government had 150,000,000 bushels of wheat here. There is not much disparity there!

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I made no such statement at all.

Mr. FAIR: Read *Hansard* to-morrow morning.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I said something over 50,000,000 bushels.

Mr. FAIR: Read *Hansard*, if it has not been changed, and you will find out.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I made no such statement, and the hon. member must withdraw.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must accept the statement of the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross).

Mr. FAIR: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for Wood Mountain referred also to the advisory committee. All along, the genuine farmers of western Canada have advocated the setting up of an advisory committee to work with the wheat board. Such a committee was provided for by the act of 1935, but we were deprived of the benefits of that committee, I believe late in 1935. I have no idea where our producer representation is to-day. The fact that certain men mentioned by the hon. member for Wood Mountain are on the board does not guarantee that they are producer representatives. The fact that they worked for the wheat pools is no guarantee that they are producer representatives. At that time they were taking their orders from the pools; to-day they are taking them from the government or perhaps indirectly from the grain exchange.

The hon. member also offered a plea for the independent farmer and asked that he should have representation on the wheat board. I contend that if there are any independent farmers who are not organized they do not deserve representation. I believe the fact