

least, as well as others who came to Winnipeg or elsewhere for the purpose of giving their advice to the board. So it will be observed that this advisory board, of whom four out of seven shall be producers, shall be paid their transportation and living expenses and a per diem allowance of \$10 while they are away from home. That was to ensure continuity of interest. But it goes further: it provides that the Minister of Trade and Commerce may ask them at any time to give their advice, to meet together. Further, this advisory board shall send a copy of its minutes to the minister in order that he may know what has transpired.

Those are the provisions so far as the operations of this board are concerned. I am not going to dwell longer upon them except to say that this committee and every member of it made, I think, a fair attempt to reconcile contending views in the light of the evidence that was given. I did not conceive it to be the duty of men to take their own fixed opinions with respect to a matter of this kind, but it was their duty, having called witnesses representing every phase of the situation, to listen to what they said, and out of the mass of testimony it became abundantly clear that one group contended they should have an opportunity to show the usefulness of their facilities and that their policies and their programs, based upon those policies, should have an opportunity of being again tried, free from any hampering control, as they contended, such as that of the Producers Limited. That is accorded to them in this bill, but it still holds over their heads the idea that the original provisions of the bill have not been taken from it, but are to be utilized if, as and when in the interests of the producers of this country and of the nation generally it is found desirable to exercise the powers conferred by those provisions. That is one side of the matter. Then the other side was that those who represented co-operative and individual marketing were of opinion that a fixed price was essential and desirable. Some of them urged that the factors indicating how that fixed price was to be determined should be stated in the bill. I am free to say that I urged as strongly as I have done to-night that that should not be done for reasons I shall not now traverse.

We have this bill which the committee accepted for the purpose of doing two things: one, taking care of the surplus accumulations of the wheat of this country at a time when the requirements of importing countries have been enormously reduced, as will be found from the returns, and the production has made

no corresponding diminution; second, this year's crop is to flow into the channels of consumption by the methods I have mentioned: a fixed price, a sharing in subsequent profits, if any, and the purchase by the board directly from the producers. It is hardly necessary for me to say to this committee that that is just what has been done, except that Mr. McFarland was buying hedges and that now he will not buy hedges; he will buy the actual wheat from the producers to the extent that this may be necessary, or that the wheat may not be absorbed by those who otherwise might purchase it.

I feel some measure of regret at the very false statements that have been published in the newspapers with respect to this bill. In a great heading by a well known inaccurate correspondent in one of Canada's newspapers appear these words:

Canada to offer surplus of grain in world market.

McFarland ideas and pool repudiated by proposed act.

To fix prices.

What is the effect of this? It is sent out to the world at large during the last few days, in fact during the last few hours as we measure hours relatively, and the price of wheat fell four cents on the Liverpool market to-day. Great rejoicing, I suppose that the wheat that has been accumulated under the conditions to which I have referred is to be offered in the world market! Well, nothing is further from this government than that that should be so. It well may be that other policies may prevail, but they will prevail at the expense of this country. Anyone who knows the intrinsic value of a bushel of Canadian wheat as demonstrated by analysis of its value in protein and other contents as compared with a bushel of wheat of other countries, will understand that the price at which our wheat has been sold is very low as compared with the general price of wheat in the world during the last five hundred years or more of which there is no record. It is true there has been objection, but not to purchasing from one person; there is no objection to that. Some people think there is objection on the part of importers to buying from one agency. To do so simplifies their business. Although I was not a witness, I endeavoured to ascertain from personal inquiry, and the objection was, as I tried to explain to the committee, that there was an endeavour to sell wheat without regard to the old established agencies. Anyone who knows something of, shall I say, the strength of vested interests who discharge great obligations in marketing, whether it be