

Q. There were twelve distinct points in this editorial, all of which have been answered (with the exception of one) specifically and publicly by the evidence brought out here, and we shall not need to deal with them. The one exception does not affect the country generally but does affect the people in the country: How did the Canada Wheat Board of 1919 deal with the question of choice seed grain and the distribution of seed generally, particularly what we know as Registered or Elite seed, by producers and by the Provincial Seed Commission? Probably Mr. Riddell can explain that.

Hon. Mr. MOTHERWELL: You mean the Federal Seed Commission?

Mr. JOHNSON (Moosejaw): No; I mean the Provincial Seed Commission under the management of Mr. Wilson.

Hon. Mr. MOTHERWELL: Well, that is Federal.

Mr. JOHNSON (Moosejaw): I beg your pardon. I thought it was provincial.

The WITNESS: In so far as the Wheat Board doing anything detrimental to the grower of registered seed or of seed in that classification is concerned, other than the ordinary commercial seed, to my knowledge nothing detrimental was ever done. It was not in regard to the same commercial classification of seed at all.

By Mr. Johnson (Moosejaw):

Q. There was nothing to prevent the transfer of seed from one farmer to another?
—A. No, sir, whether it was registered seed or anything else, so far as that is concerned, absolutely nothing. Mr. Clark is here, I see, and he will know better than I whether or not there were any complaints from the seed men. I did not hear them.

Mr. CLARK: Might I state something, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. CLARKE: At the request of the Seed Purchasing Commission, in issuing the regulations the Wheat Board exempted from those regulations registered seed and left to the growers of the registered seed the opportunity to sell it at as high a price as they could get.

Mr. JOHNSON (Moosejaw): The elite seed, Mr. Clark—you understand these technical terms; what is the meaning of the term "elite" or second or third generation?

Mr. CLARK: Elite seed is registered seed. We have several grades of seed. The highest grade is registered, the next now is extra No. 1, which is true to variety, the next is No. 1, which is handled by our Seed Purchasing Commission, and in some years No. 2, in years of scarcity, also handled by our Seed Purchasing Commission. In grass and clover seeds, of course, we take the lower grades.

The WITNESS: Might I make a further statement in connection with this, Mr. Chairman? Mr. Wilson, who was out West in connection with the Seed Purchasing Commission, made his grain transactions direct with the farmers as he saw fit without any interference by the Wheat Board as far as I remember. Moreover, to the extent he did not get by that process his requirements, he got them from the Wheat Board, and there was never any trouble or complaint that I heard of.

Mr. CLARK: In obtaining supplies the Seed Purchasing Commission had two sources, one to coax the wheat into the Government interior terminal elevators by paying a premium, and the other to force the wheat to the elevators as a result of orders from the Wheat Board. We obtained our No. 1 and No. 2 grades of seed wheat, also of seed oats to a limited extent, on the orders of the Wheat Board. The Wheat Board issued orders that for certain areas, nominating shipping points, all the wheat from those areas would be moved to the Canadian Government interior terminal elevators, specifying the elevators. The Seed Purchasing Commission took delivery of all the wheat that came to those elevators during that period, selected therefrom the wheat

[Mr. F. W. Riddell.]