

a question on the order paper asking for a lot of information the other day and most of it was said to be not in the interest of the public to answer, but I think surely you will answer this; that is, the total number of employees—and that includes the executive officers, the advisory committees, and all employees of the wheat board at the present time. I would also like to have a breakdown as to the duties of different people on the board; that is a breakdown by departments showing who are employed in the department and what their duties are. I would like to have that if I can get it, but I would particularly like to have the total.

The CHAIRMAN: Now gentlemen, we have the commissioners here. If you have any questions, go ahead and ask them. I can imagine that there will be some questions they will not be able to answer, but I think they can answer most of them.

Mr. HATFIELD: I would like to know why their statement shows that they have on deposit \$35,000,000 and an overdraft of \$14,000,000. Why should they have money on deposit and at the same time millions of an overdraft?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. McIvor has just advised me that it has been the custom to read the report. If that arrangement is satisfactory to the committee I will ask him to go ahead and read his report before we have any questions asked in relation to it. Is there any objection to that?

Mr. WRIGHT: None, except that we want to know which report is being considered, whether it is the 1944-45 or the 1945-46.

The CHAIRMAN: He can only deal at the moment with the 1945-46 year.

Mr. WRIGHT: And then we will have an opportunity of referring back to the 1944-45 year?

The CHAIRMAN: That is right.

The WITNESS:

REPORT OF THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

CROP YEAR 1945-1946

To: The Honourable JAMES A. MACKINNON,
Minister of Trade and Commerce,
Ottawa, Canada.

The major task of all wheat exporting countries in 1945-46 was to provide maximum quantities of wheat and flour to assist importing countries through the first full crop year following the end of the war. In that effort Canada played a leading part and for the third successive year provided wheat exports (including flour) in excess of 340 million bushels. Into the effort of 1945-46 went the last of Canada's wartime reserves of wheat and in the latter part of the crop year exports were determined by the volume of wheat which producers made available at country elevators.

The exceedingly urgent demand for breadstuffs during the crop year was, in part, a legacy of six years of war and, in part, due to the small wheat acreage seeded in Europe in 1945 and a virtual crop disaster which struck the Danubian area, Greece, Italy and North Africa. Thus, import demands were expressed not only in terms of the normal requirements of importing countries and of special demands following the war, but also in terms of the effects of a devastating drought in southern Europe and North Africa.

Wheat production in Europe in 1945 was about 600 million bushels below the pre-war average and this was sufficient in itself to create an acute demand for breadstuffs in Europe. To the effects of reduced production must be added the accumulated food problem following six years of war, and the urgent