

will greatly assist; at least I find it does assist in studying this and similar problems—that the owner of the wheat, the man who ships it, in most cases the producer, is the one who should determine the course that that shipment shall follow. If he desires that wheat specifically consigned to a certain elevator, undoubtedly it should find its way to that destination.

Mr. LOW: That is provided for in the bill.

Mr. STEVENS: If the minister had been in the House a little while ago he would recall that I said that whatever observations I made were offered in good faith and in entire ignorance of what was to be enacted by the bill. It should be kept in mind in all this legislation that the two objects of parliament should be first to safeguard the right of the owner of the commodity to the direction of that commodity until he parts with the ownership; and second, that back to the owner shall come the full return for his commodity less the exact cost of handling, such as freight, elevation, insurance and storage.

Mr. HOEY: How would the hon. member work it out in the case of mixing? I do not think he dealt with that.

Mr. STEVENS: I am glad my hon. friend referred to it. Under the present system you give a man a warehouse receipt which gives him, not the ownership of a specific carload of grain, but the ownership of a certificate of a No. 1 grade or No. 2 grade—a contract grade. I hold, and have held for seven or eight years, that it would be distinctly to the advantage of the grower if he would make a sample market a practical issue in this country instead of what it is now, something that is shelved; so that a grower could sell his wheat on sample. For instance last year my friends from Alberta shipped hundreds of carloads of wheat to the coast—I think I am safe in saying that—weighing sixty-six pounds to the bushel. They did not get the advantage of the excess weight or the extra grade. They may have got some slight advantage in some cases, but in the main they did not get the advantage. If they had been able to sell that wheat in Vancouver on a sample market they would have got the full advantage, or at least the full advantage less the ordinary shrinkage. But here is what happened. A man sells a carload of wheat weighing sixty-six pounds to the bushel. It goes in and is mixed with probably some carloads of No. 2 grade. That raises the No. 2 grade to No. 1, and the dealer, not the farmer, gets the advantage. For the shipper to get the full advantage of

his high grade, there is only one way that I know of, and that is by selling on sample market. I recall a case in Minneapolis, last winter or a year ago last winter, where a certain producer sold three carloads of wheat. The wheat came into the Minneapolis yards and he called up one or two dealers. One dealer offered him nine cents, I think it was, above the quoted contract price. It was extra fine No. 1, and he thought he should get more. He telephoned to a dealer just outside of Minneapolis, who came in and examined the wheat and gave him nineteen cents premium on it. He got that additional price because he sold on sample. Had he sold that on a contract grade he would have got No. 1 and he would have got what was quoted in the Minneapolis market for it.

Mr. BROWN: Do you think an efficient sample market would be possible, apart from either a milling proposition or such a terminal at Vancouver? For instance, as applied to Vancouver?

Mr. STEVENS: I presume what my hon. friend means is this: Is the sample market possible without recognizing the principle of mixing?

Mr. BROWN: That will enter into it to a degree; but apart from a large milling proposition such for instance, as they have at Minneapolis.

Mr. STEVENS: I think undoubtedly the stimulation of milling in Canada would bring an immense return to the producer in Canada. I do not think there is any doubt about that. I will not say a sample market would do it, but I recognize that it would help. I know I am not voicing the opinion of any large number of the producers of wheat on the prairies to-day, as far as I have been able to learn—and I have watched them closely for some years—they have rather resisted it. But I do believe the establishment of a sample market—and the law at present permits of it—would be of distinct advantage to the producer of wheat, and I think perhaps a concentration upon the establishment of such a market would bring a larger reward than any other single redress or reform in the grain movement.

Mr. EVANS: Does the hon. gentleman think this is applicable, if you take into consideration the transfers the grain has to go through before it reaches the seaboard?

Mr. STEVENS: In the case of the establishment of a sample market, naturally it would have to be established at Fort William