

grain ready for market early, do naturally, without any urging, rush their grain to the market in order to secure these prices. Then the other fellow who is not in position—the other farmer who is not in position to do this will be urged by the banker who has been giving him accommodation that the sooner he gets his wheat to the market the better will be the price he receives. The storekeeper will do exactly the same thing, likewise the man who he has bought his implements from. They are all telling him that they are advising him for his good, that he must get his wheat out early in order to get the good prices, and they overlook the fact that by taking this advice that is thrust on him by everybody, he is hastening a condition which they tell him they are trying to avoid, that is to say, they are forcing him to glut the market early in the season. Just to show you how this will effect the wheat market I will give you some figures relating to last year's crop, the crop for which the marketing is now being completed. In 1921—and I would just ask the members to make a note of the figures to see if they mean anything to them. In September the inspections at Winnipeg amounted to 33,011,520 of all grades of wheat and the price which this grain brought amounted to 53,725,000. In October the delivery was 56,165,090 bushels of wheat and the price received was \$61,876,000. In November the market was 38,836,775 bushels and the value of that was \$27,127,000. I want to draw your attention to the fact that in November the amount marketed more than was marketed in September was only about 5,000,000, but the amount which the farmers received for that is just about exactly one-half the amount a similar amount of grain brought in September. The grain forced on the market in November brought just a little more than half as much in value as it did in September. Now I spoke of the farmers' condition that it required something that would give him encouragement. The farmer has had an experience with the grain board and he is satisfied with it. I might say to you, Mr. Chairman, that I have met in one way or another a very large number of farmers from the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and I want to say that I have not met a single solitary individual who is not out and out in favour of the re-establishment of the Wheat Board. You will remember that at the time shortly after it was appointed the impression got abroad and rightly or wrongly a large number of farmers believed it—the question was that the Wheat Board was appointed, not that it might assist the farmer in getting a better price, but that it was appointed to keep the price of wheat, to keep it from soaring away up out of sight. Then a month or two or three months after it had started operation what seemed to be an organized complaint was carried on in a certain section of the press, and curious enough it was done in a way that looked very plausible. Farmers were being told that their grain, their main source of income, was being handled by a body over which they had no control. They did not know what price it was being sold for, and it was their duty to get up and insist that the Wheat Board should be forced to give this information. I don't know who inspired that, but some one did and it had a most excellent result. We were fortunate under the late Wheat Board in having men who were not only good business men but men of backbone. They paid no attention to these things believing that the information asked for, if published would not have the effect that was expected, and they held their peace and paid no attention to it. Finally they did give a statement as to how they were getting on. They did say a certain interim dividend would be distributed on the certificates, and from that day till this day I have not met a single solitary farmer who objects to the re-instatement or who is not an ardent advocate of the re-establishment of the Wheat Board. I say that in view of the determined influence that was used to make the Board do certain things that would not have been in the interest of the farmer in spite of the fact that they started out prejudiced against its appointment, they have to-day and they are not a bit backward in expressing confidence in that Board and I may further state that if their statements

[Mr. James Robinson.]