

Mr. PURDY: Let me get one thing clear. Is it a fact that every grain producer in Saskatchewan produces the same amount of grain?

Mr. ARGUE: I would guess not.

Mr. PURDY: What is the argument about, that if they have so many customers at the pool that they must get so much grain? It is like one horse, one rabbit.

By Mr. Argue:

Q. Mr. Lamont went back and in one year he took box cars again—1937—and he said the Wheat Pool could have handled all the crop, but the Wheat Pool handled only 45 per cent of the crop. Is that the figure?—A. The figures were in the hands of the reporter when I spoke this morning. It was approximately 45 per cent.

Q. Approximately 45 per cent. Then in the chart and what you gave us in the Sanford evidence about the capacity in 1943-44, the Wheat Pool percentage of capacity, the furthest year back was 39 per cent?—A. I did not talk about capacity at all.

Q. I know, but I am saying that in 1943-44, the furthest year away for which we have the percentage capacity, the percentage capacity of the Wheat Pool in Saskatchewan was 39 per cent. The trend has been up. I take it that the trend was up, or I would assume that it was up from 1937 to 1943. It has been up ever since.—A. They have been acquiring a few more elevators.

Q. So that with a handling percentage of less than 39 in 1937, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool handled 45 per cent of the crop—in a year you took as one which would prove your point. But in the present crop year, even though the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool percentage of capacity has increased from a figure below 39 to a figure of 44, its handlings have fallen to 43 or thereabouts?—A. You are taking a figure in mid-season. You do not know what the figure is going to be at the end of the year. You have to take completed years.

Q. It will not be far off 43.—A. I do not know.

Q. It cannot be far off 43.—A. You know more about future grain deliveries than I do. I think you should wait till the end of the year.

Q. Unless the minister gets his car cycle going. If the Wheat Pool handled only 49 per cent of the grain in 1947, it did that with a handling capacity a good deal less.—A. You are talking about capacity as compared with handling.

Q. Yes.—A. Well now, you might be interested in an observation on that. You will find throughout that the pool gets smaller; that is, when it handles its relative proportion in proportion to its capacity. I am not making myself very clear and I should have said their percentage of handling is greater than their percentage of capacity and it has been so every year. This might interest you: the three wheat pools—and as I told you their financial statements are public documents—if you will examine those statements as I have, you will find that the three wheat pools spend each year—and have done so for the last 25 years or so—a total of between \$500,000 and \$700,000 annually for field service and propaganda of various sorts. That has resulted in their getting additional business. We consider this is a fairly expensive way of getting business; but they get that extra percentage to be sure. They have to keep their numbers stirred up all the time about the cooperative movement and delivering to pool elevators and so on. As I say, that costs them a good deal of money and I think you will find the average is closer to the upper figure which I gave you. I would think a lot of groups would like to have \$700,000. I can imagine there are groups here who would be interested in it. If you had \$700,000 a year to spend on propaganda you could do many