

## Grain Payments

Red spring wheat grades	Final payment (cents per bushel)
No. 1 Manitoba northern	46.9
No. 2 Manitoba northern	47.8
No. 3 Manitoba northern	49.3
No. 4 Manitoba northern	50.0
No. 5 wheat	60.3
No. 6 wheat	63.3
Feed wheat	64.2

This announcement by the wheat board speaks for itself, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the government may I add our congratulations to all those concerned in the growing, handling, transportation and selling of the 1963 crop. It was a magnificent achievement from which all parts of Canada benefited enormously. Never before has so much wheat of such high quality been produced. Never before has so much wheat been handled and moved and sold so quickly and at such high prices. In particular may I extend congratulations to the Canadian wheat board, who are entrusted by parliament with responsibility for the sale of the prairie wheat crop on behalf of western producers. The handling of the 1963 crop is not only another evidence of the soundness of the board system of marketing; it is a tribute to the competence of the board and its staff.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Speaker, I believe all Canadians can join with the minister in congratulating the Canadian wheat board for the tremendous job done last year. I think the business interests in this country realize now that when the grain of Canada sells not only in great volume but at good prices the whole country benefits.

I think we received an indication of the average amount in an answer to a question posed by the hon. member for Melville last week, in which he asked for average prices during the year. The average price for No. 1 northern at Fort William was approximately \$2.05 which would indicate, if considered in the light of the amount of grain that is handled through Vancouver and Churchill, that the average received for grain sold out of all our ports last year must have been \$2.08 approximately. This would mean that over and above the \$1.50 already paid to the farmers in initial payments there was 58 cents left over. In relation to the 58 cents, let me state that the final payment for No. 1 wheat averaged 46.9 cents. So the next question in our minds, Mr. Speaker, is when was the pool closed off; because apparently in the last few

[Mr. Sharp.]

days of pool operations the returns were decreased.

I am not going to quarrel with the minister in respect of the final payment because I know the technique used by the board in settling the amount of this payment. Generally speaking it can be assumed to be quite satisfactory, but I should like to ask hon. members to consider the feelings of the minister next year when he rises to announce the final payments on the 1964-65 pool.

Mr. Speaker, the pool was closed off early this year so the full impact of the tremendous drop in price would not be felt in respect of this final payment. I suggest to the minister that he should fully enjoy this moment, because the minister who is in charge of the Canadian wheat board next year will have to face up to the fact that because of the lack of action in protecting the Canadian wheat board, and in view of the political decisions made before a price war started, the announcement then will not be so pleasurable.

This announcement by the minister does not involve just a question of pleasure. In my mind I see farmer after farmer in western Canada, having undertaken obligations with regard to land, machinery and other things he wants on the basis of \$2 wheat, now having to face up to the fact that next year's final payment will be a price of approximately 20 cents less per bushel. This works out to \$200 drop for every 1,000 bushels the farmer sells.

I congratulate the minister and join with him in the pleasure of this announcement today, but he is living the life of Riley. He is enjoying the policies of the previous government—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Hamilton:** —that were instrumental in finding these new markets, that started these long term agreements and slowly worked up the price by 50 cents a bushel. Whoever the minister may be next year, when he makes a similar announcement he will have to live the life of the Liberal party, or the opposite of the life of Riley.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, the announcement which has just been made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce regarding the final price for the 1963-64 crop year will be welcomed by the wheat producers of Canada, I am sure. This happy situation results from a combination of two fortuitous circumstances, a good crop of high quality combined with a shortage of wheat in the world, particularly because of