

better position by having the Wheat Board re-established. There may be individuals. Of course you will always find that, but up to the present, I have not yet met a single individual personally that has given any sign of opposition to it, either as a producer of grain, as a consumer, or as a business man in the West. True, there was one man at our convention in Canada out of 1,500 or 1,600 delegates and farmer representatives visiting the convention when this resolution was passed and there was just one individual out of that entire group that held up his hand in opposition to the re-establishment of the Wheat Board. I think that would show that the opposition to the compulsory part of it is very slight indeed, and the argument of the two farmer speakers here I think must be taken as conclusive that we are even now under a compulsory system. In so far as the consumers are concerned, they have not had a representative here as yet. I don't know whether they will or not. But I think we can take the Board of Trade in the West at least, as fairly representative of the consumers.

I have here a resolution passed by the Associated Boards of Trade of the province of Saskatchewan, I am informed that the Associated Board of Trade of Alberta is taking similar action although their conclusions have not reached here yet. I am also informed that the Winnipeg Board of Trade is taking similar action. I am not prepared to state what their conclusion will be, but I have here a resolution passed by the Associated Boards of Trade of the province of Saskatchewan which includes Regina, Saskatoon, Moosejaw, Prince Albert, Yorkton, North Battleford, Weyburn, Swift Current, Assiniboia, Rush Lake, Star City, Whitewood, Gravelbourg, Spruce Lake, Melfort, Kerrobert, Perdue, Birch Hills, Shell Brook and Debden.

"WHEREAS wheat growing is one of the basic industries of Canada on the success of which the prosperity of our whole country largely depends, and

"WHEREAS the present method of the sale of wheat in Canada has made all prices uncertain and the farmer hesitates to risk growing his maximum crop with the possibility of a loss on production, and

"WHEREAS we believe the re-establishment of a Wheat Board for the Dominion of Canada would make the price of wheat more stable and allow the farmer to obtain the maximum price for his product, thereby benefiting the whole country.

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan Associated Boards of Trade in annual meeting assembled in the City of Prince Albert on the sixteenth (16th) day of March, 1922, go on record as being in favour of the re-establishment of the Wheat Board in Canada at once, so as to be able to handle the 1922 crop, and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and to the Ministers of Agriculture and Interior."

Now, this expresses the views of the Boards of Trade of the province of Saskatchewan which I think can be taken as fairly representative of the consumers of that part of the country. I have not any doubt but that the other Boards of Trade are of a similar mind.

Then, as to the cost to the consumer, the opinion has been expressed by the two farmer gentlemen who have appeared before you that in their opinion they would not increase the cost to the consumer. That has been my own opinion for some time as probably some of you will remember when we were holding the sessions in the old Museum building, on the Debate on the Budget. I believe it was there I was speaking, when the question was asked me by Dr. Edwards as to my opinion as to the Government taking control and fixing the price. I expressed the opinion there that in my opinion it would be to the advantage of both consumer and producer that this action should be taken. Now, I have here a copy of what is known as the Stewart-Riddell report. The Government of Saskatchewan because of the serious situation in regard to the marketing of our wheat, asked those gentlemen, believing as they did, and I believe they were perfectly right, that these two gentlemen at least knew the situation equally as well if not better than probably most any others.

[Mr. J. A. Maharg.]