

APPENDIX No. 3

By Mr. Elliott:

Q. Does that district include the Portage district?—A. No, it is below the Portage district.

Q. It is further south than the Portage district?—A. It is further south than the Portage district.

By Mr. Milne:

Q. How do you account for the fact that—I have a feeling it is practically new, it has only been in cultivation for about six or seven years. A year ago and two years ago the crop was hardly worth harvesting?—A. Yes.

Q. Last year we had a fairly good crop on it. Was it because the system of cultivation was not the best. Was it because of the things that the farmer had control of?—A. I do not know anything about that. We know that is true of Southern Manitoba. It is the farmer's fault down there. I stated the conditions why; the land for years had been farmed there; it is one of the oldest districts in the west; it has been farmed and mined and nothing put in. The fibre is destroyed and the land is so dirty it will take a lot of work to bring it back to a sound condition. I think any man who has investigated conditions and wants to consider it in a frank way, will agree with me.

Q. Have you any of your officers taking up farming as an industry? Have any of them tried it out?—A. I do not think so.

By Mr. Elliott:

Q. We had a witness before the Committee, who stated it cost \$1.41 to produce a bushel of wheat in the Portage district, and I understand in one of the districts south of that it costs 90 cents a bushel. This was the result on a number of farms. Also he made this statement, that the greater the yield the greater the loss. That is my understanding.—A. I cannot follow that reasoning. That is beyond me. My brain is too dense to follow any such reasoning as that.

By Mr. Sales:

Q. We have a gentleman in this room who lives in Southern Manitoba and he tells me his land has been farmed since 1882. Last year their average was 30 bushels an acre.—A. He is very fortunate. A good farmer.

Q. No, but the average around the district shows that your remarks as to Southern Manitoba did not apply to all the land.—A. Probably I have not been quite careful enough in my statement. I have made the statement so broad that the inference might be that it applied to the whole of Manitoba from boundary to boundary, but I was referring to the districts more in South-western Manitoba, but I would say originally, when they first settled in there, it was looked upon as the choicest and was the choicest district; but the farms have deteriorated.

By the Chairman:

Q. May I ask you a question?—A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Bowman, you say that you think that the unfortunate condition in which western agriculture finds itself to-day is due, 75 per cent, to what might be called a personal factor?—A. Yes.

Q. That leaves 25 per cent attributable to other causes. What would you say the other causes were?—A. For the last two years the situation has become acute on account of deflation, and the unfortunate spread that there is between what the farmer gets and what he has to pay, the price he is charged for commodities other than his own production, and the high transportation rates.

[Mr. Charles M. Bowman,]