

Mr. PRITCHARD: Are these conclusions from the evidence we have received correct, or am I wrong? If so, we can be put right. I will ask the witness that.

Q. Are these conclusions which I have drawn from the evidence right or wrong?—A. I am afraid I could not answer a question like that. It practically raises all the points we have dealt with. As far as possible, I have given all the information of which I am capable, and it is really demanding a reiteration of all I have stated in the form of a statement.

Q. In summing the matter up as I have done, have I the right conception of the various answers you have given to the questions asked by this Committee?—A. I really could not say.

Hon. Mr. MOTHERWELL: Several of the questions are based on the assumption that the witness is going to be sick.

Mr. McMASTER: He has been sick, and he may be sick again.

WITNESS: I know 40 men who think they could do it very much better than Stewart or anybody else did.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What do you think?—A. We have our own opinion.

*By Mr. Johnson (Moosejaw):*

Q. We all have confidence in Mr. Stewart and yourself but I have confidence in a number of people to do the same job properly?—A. If this thing could only be operated by two men, I would say right now: Do not have anything to do with it.

Q. I think that is right. I could make a speech about how Mr. Riddell holds the position he does, and also his predecessor, but you are not interested in that. There are, however, two or three points with regard to the marketing of wheat that have not yet been brought out. By way of explanation I want to say that my questions are prompted by a marked copy of a Saskatchewan publication that came to me yesterday. I have repeatedly said there was no opposition in the Western provinces to the re-establishment of the Wheat Board, but a gentleman whom I know very well opposes it in an editorial.

The CHAIRMAN: Will you file the editorial?

Mr. JOHNSON: I have not got it with me, Mr. Chairman, but the statements are as follows: That the establishment of a Wheat Board would detrimentally affect the efficiency of the transportation companies in getting that wheat out. In other words, that it would tend to create a blockade. I have the opinion of the transportation companies, and I would like Mr. Riddell's opinion?—A. To answer your question briefly I would say that in a general way the reverse would be the case.

Q. That is the answer I have dictated to my friend already, and it has been confirmed by all the transportation men I have consulted. Another point of interest which has been discussed on several occasions here is the financing of the individual farmers. I think we have repeatedly heard it stated that the creditors of the farmers who would deliver this wheat under the Wheat Board would, under a voluntary system, be forced by their creditors to deliver all their wheat for the liquidation of their debts, and that if they had a dozen creditors, eleven of them might be lenient but in self-defence they would be forced by the action of the one who was not lenient to push that man to the wall, and that therefore the greater confidence which would be inspired by the existence of the Wheat Board would not be felt?—A. My personal opinion is that there would be no advantage to any creditor in taking an extreme action against the farmer. Under the Wheat Board he would know that a certain price was all he could get, anyway. There is always uncertainty under the open market method as to whether the price is going down or up. Under the Wheat Board it is uniform all the way through.

[Mr. F. W. Riddell.]