

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ISAK ELIK
CONDUCTED BY D.H. BOCKING
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D. Bocking: We are interviewing Mr. Isak Elik. Now Mr. Elik, would you start by telling us where you were born.

Isak Elik: I was born in Sevastopol, Crimea Russia in 1889, 28 of March and I went to public school and high school in that city.

D.B. Were your parents well-to-do people?

I.E. No, they weren't well-to-do people. They just had a little grocery store in Sevastopol.

D.B. But you were fairly well educated for that time were you not?

I.E. Well I attended public school and high and then at the age of about 16 I moved to another city also in Crimea--Kerch. In Kerch I continued my high school and I joined a pharmacy and registered as an apprentice. Then I worked for three years. In between, after working for about three years I served in the Russian Imperial Army. I had such an educational standing I didn't have to serve four years, I just served about a year and a half. After that I went and worked again another three years in the pharmacy. In between I travelled--I went to Vienna and stayed there for about a year and before that I went to Turkey and I took up languages. I spoke French and German fluently. In 1913 I emigrated to Canada.

D.B. Why?

I.E. Because of my educational standing and my accomplishment of assistant pharmacist I would be eligible to go to University in Russia but it was only a two percent norm. That means that out of 150 only 2 Jews would be accepted. And that's why I figured I would have to wait about 100 years before I got there. So I emigrated with the thought that I had a good educational standing from Russia and I emigrated to Winnipeg in 1913.

D.B. Did you have somebody to come to?

I.E. Yes I came to some of our friends from the city and it was kind of a depression in 1913 and for three months I couldn't find work, but they were willing to help support me and then the first job I ever had was in Dauphin, Manitoba on a farm. I had never seen a farm in my life as I was brought up in big cities like Sevastopol, Odessa and so on. So for about a summer or so I worked there until the farmers couldn't stand me because I didn't understand the goings of the farm. So I came back to Winnipeg.

D.B. What kind of wages did you get out of farming?

I.E. At that time they paid something like a dollar a day.

D.B. You did all kinds of work?

I.E. On the farm and then I came back to Winnipeg and if it is interesting at all I spoke at the time French fluently. So I went down and looked for work and I had to get work. It just happened that there was a little city, sort of about Winnipeg, called St. Boniface. And I went down to St. Boniface and I made use of my French language because it is all French people. It was just natural for me to go down to a place where I would know the language. So I went to St. Boniface and I met a Catholic Cardinal. I greeted him. I didn't know if he was a Cardinal but I saw that he had one of those purple sashes. He said "Why is a young man like you doing nothing in the morning?" I said, "Well, I'm looking for a job." "Do you, really?" I said, "Well I speak French and I would like to get a job where they speak French." He said, "Come with me." He went with me to a little office where there was a Cardinal or maybe a Bishop--he had a purple sash and he took me down and I stayed at this office and then I went in there and talked French to prove it. He said are you willing to do hard work. I suppose I had a little influence upon him. I said "Sure". Well anyway it was a 25 cents an hour job on construction and I was very short like I am now but I was quite physically fit. I had never worked on this physical work and so I went on construction. The construction was the Cultural College in Winnipeg. They had tents for us and there were mosquitoes. We slept 10 in a tent. They gave us only gauze or cheese-cloth to cover our faces and so on. Anyway who am I to work this kind of work but I worked. The first thing they assigned me to was to carry cement--powder in bags. But I had never worked this kind of work. Two or three days after they gave me another kind of work. They didn't have any fancy machinery. They had to go with a wheelbarrow to the second or third floor to carry the cement to the machines. And that's what I did. Well then the work was over and it was winter and cold. I applied and got a job with the C.P.R. just as a labourer. We used to break up cars and things like that. We made 25 cents an hour. I worked at that job for about two years--two summers and two winters. I was working up to about 5 o'clock or maybe four o'clock and then in summer it was quite light and I had a gift of painting. These are all my paintings that I painted myself. I supplemented my earnings by painting after hours. Little paintings took two or three nights. There was a store on main street and they could take all the paintings I wanted. And so I worked there and I saved money. And then I wanted to go into pharmacy. I got a lawyer and he went over all my qualifications and made affidavits and so on that my qualifications were sufficient to qualify for university. I was accepted in the university. As a matter of fact I wanted to get a job in the U.S. which was advertised as a janitor. So I went down for the job and Professor Walker I remember and they said you don't speak enough English for us to do the work. But anyway I applied and I took his lectures. For two years The School of Pharmacy was affiliated with the University. I had to serve also in a drug store. I saved enough money to go to college but I had to put in two years apprenticeship and then two years University in between. So I dropped C.P.R. work and I went out to a couple of places and one of the biggest stores and I started working there and they started at \$3.50 a week. I paid at that time, board and room of \$14.00 and I paid up all the money that I owed for previous board. It is funny how I didn't treat the ladies so well but I had a girlfriend and she helped me out in the English language. I happened to mention that I speak French fluently

I.E. and I would like to take some French. So I went down to, I think, St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg and I took French on the top of it. I worked for two years at a Liggett drug store at a salary of \$3.50 a week. The way I got the job is just by chance. I didn't speak the language so well so the girl I know made up an address for a job because they wanted an apprenticeship. I came down and I started to talk to him that I would like to have a job and I see your ad in the paper and I'm sure I will be suitable for you because I can speak languages and I mentioned French, German, Russian, Polish and Yiddish--Jewish. He was of course affected by that and he said fine, you get the job. It is \$3.50 a week. So he sent me downstairs because the office was there and I got a job. I worked with them until I had served my apprenticeship. At that time their hours were from about nine o'clock until 12 o'clock at night. Then after that I attended the two years university--the University of Manitoba. The university went from about nine o'clock until about five o'clock and then I had to walk back to work to the same place where I put in my apprenticeship. I worked there from six o'clock every night until 12:00--during my attendance at university. Then I graduated. There were only seven graduates because it was during the war. I think it was in 1917 or something like that. Then after graduation there was a shortage of druggists and I was offered a job. I graduated in 1917 as a Canadian or Manitoba pharmacist. I got a good job, really a good job. Then I met this woman here, my wife Betty. I got my education, apprenticeship and then I got this diploma and was working there for about a year--1917-1918. But the hours were so long and then people started to talk about optometry. It had easy hours and I had a friend optometrist. She was a stenographer and I was making a fairly good wage--about 135 dollars a month and at that time it was fairly good money. I saved money and I consented and she consented to get married and we went down to Chicago. We went down to Chicago and were there when Armistice was declared. We were married and I got a job in a drug store. There were about 200 applications. We had a little money I think we put together something like \$750.00 I had a good job and she had a good job and we just went down there for our honeymoon. Out of these 200 applications I was accepted. There were only two people accepted. And so I was working there from 6 o'clock until 12 o'clock at night and attending optometry for one year also from 9 o'clock till 5:30. I attended school and I got my diploma and optometry. Now optometry is five or six years but then it was one year. It was a good college too. After she didn't like Chicago and she went back and I still had to stay there. We were together about three or four months and then she went back to her parents in Winnipeg and I stayed there until I got my diploma. After I got my diploma they offered me a job as an optometrist in the drug store. That was the time of the flu. The money that I was making in the drug store after six o'clock maintained me during the rest of that year. When I graduated I was offered a job as an optometrist but I didn't want to take it because I wanted to go back, I was lonesome for my wife and I wanted to go back to Winnipeg. So I did but before going back there I asked the Liggett Company whether they would accept me as I had the papers and whether they could find a place for me as a pharmacist. And sure enough I was working on McDonald and Main Street

I.E. and getting a fairly good salary and then I was promoted and then I was manager of Sherbrooke and Portage branch--a small drug store and I was working there for a while and she in the meantime had had a baby. I heard from the wholesale National Drugs that they wanted a druggist to buy this drug store. Nobody wanted to buy it. The building was condemned by the city and so on but I didn't have any money. But father, they weren't rich, they had sort of a delicatessen store but he agreed to pay \$500.00 on loan and I think \$500.00 was the way I started in business. I started a business in Winnipeg on the corner of Williams and Isabel. I tell you that store was so bad and it was condemned. I went down to the city officials and I told them I would improve the property there and so on. I think I made about \$10.00 a day in that store. Within about a year I took in \$40,000 there. So I worked there for about two years and things were good at that time. People were starting to come from the war and this was kind of district with sick people or something but during this time I did good business. And then I opened another drug store on the corner of Selkirk and Main. I had two drug stores and of course I had to get a graduate pharmacist. After that things went bad again and I was in debt until June 27. I went right down and I owned nothing. As soon as I had enough money to pay all my creditors O.K. I give away for nothing to her brother. Somebody bought my store there and I didn't get a nickel out of it. But I came back right here from Saskatoon in 1927 and at that time wheat was about 3½ dollars a bushel and that's why I came up here. I was going to go to Prelate, Saskatchewan. I had a good deal there but I decided to come here and I started with a partner, a Percy Shore. He's dead now, dead from cancer. His brother had a store on Broadway and is still in town here. After about two years we couldn't agree so we separated and I got a couple of thousand dollars out of it. I moved just across over to St. Thomas Church and I started an Elik drug store. Since then I was moving from one place to another until I came back to where the drug store is now. I was a man who liked fresh air, sunshine and so on. All my life I was a good tennis player even if I can say it myself so I always hired a pharmacist besides that. I was a pharmacist myself and one man worked for me for 10 years and another one worked for about 10 years. I am speaking about Cyril and then Tom. This fellow who worked for me for 10 years, I sold the business to him and he is there now. I work practically once or twice a week for him. By the way, when I sold the store about seven years ago I didn't want to be a vegetable I wanted to be active. First of all I got a job right away with Colbinson. I worked in City Park Drug Store and then I worked at Mills Drug Store and then I was called to country places like Delisle and North Battleford and in the meantime I took a leave of absence. Now last summer at my age, I'm 82 in March, I never advertised or anything else so they called me. I will tell you where I worked last summer. I worked in Delisle, then I worked in North Battleford, I worked in Kindersley, I worked in Swift Current and Eston. They paid me very good wages, very good wages that I couldn't get in Saskatoon. I never mentioned it to you but I always liked painting. It was always busy with this business of having a drug store but I still found time to attend art school. Even in Winnipeg when I was there I attended a Winnipeg School of Art--of course evening classes and I painted under Moscut, he was one of the first ones there in charge of the Winnipeg School of Art. Then moving to Saskatoon the first thing I did was go and

- I.E. see Gus Kenderdine. I painted under him. I took private lessons from him first of all and for two winters in succession I took his night classes. I remember Lindner was taking them at the time but Lindner was an accomplished artist. He was at that time taking lessons from him at night, so did I. The only reason why I gave up my business and I had a wonderful business is because I wanted to paint, that's the only reason. But an artist couldn't make a living out of it. I painted for the sake of painting. But I started to sell. In 1968 people came down to me here and I sold for about \$1200 a picture. The only reason I owned a pharmacy was so I would be able to do boating and I had two boats. As a matter of fact, I was one of the organizers of the Boat Club in Saskatoon. Dr. Hart was in it at that time. I belong for 16 years to the Elks Lodge, Y.M.C.A. I just quit the other day because I am going away. I was doing boating here for the last 35 years since the Boat Club was organized. Then I curled, I played tennis only until about the age of maybe 55 and then I gave it up but I was curling any chance I had, I painted. What else can I tell you?
- D.B. What about your patent medicine?
- I.E. Oh yes. While I was in the drug store I figured out, well I've got to have something. While I was in business I was figuring. A druggist in olden days was entirely different than now. A lot of people would come down and say what have you got to cure and he would probably make them something. But I wanted to have this in a proper legal way and I patented six medicines. One of my medicines is still there and when I sold the business they gave me \$10,000 for my name on it and he carries the business under my name. You couldn't sell a drug store now without goodwill. But at that time I got \$10,000 just for the name alone and he sold also the patent. I advertised in different papers. Particularly I took advantage of my knowledge of five or six languages so I used to advertise in foreign papers which is cheaper and then in the Free Press, Prairie Farmer and the Western Producer. Doing this gave me enough to retire and now I'm living very comfortably. I could live in a better place than I am now but I don't care, I like the river I used to come down here with a boat and take the children out for a drive in the boat.
- D.B. What kind of drugs did you develop?
- I.E. Well, mostly herbs and particularly I had one, an eczema ointment, which worked very good. I sold a lot of it. I had one eczema ointment and some rheumatic pain ointment and I tell you something, even if I say it myself, the people liked me because after all I went in there and my business between two well-known drug stores like McBain, and still I was doing business. I was probably collecting the business--friendly business. Not like here now people are going into business and all they think about is a dollar. Of course I had to make a dollar too you know but I did the same thing indirectly and friendly. People would come down to me in my little office and talk to me for a while and ask questions and legal questions and I'm not a lawyer but that's the kind of business I used to have up to the last day I was working there. But the new man that went in there, he's a young fellow and he doesn't go for that. He carries my patents but last October it was seven years since I sold the business and he cashed in on the advertising I did previously and you would be amazed now he would not be affected

- I.E. so much by the competition going on right now in Saskatoon. You know the White Cross drug stores brought because there is a separate clientele from the country.
- We go every year to California for four to six months. I leave my car here, I don't have to take my car there and even there I still think of my health. My health is my first consideration--so is my wife's. I do everything possible for my health. I'm not a hypochondriac but I acquired a certain amount of knowledge. I have to thank Dr. Brady. I don't know if you know who he is. I certainly follow his instruction. So you see I am in fairly good health at my age and live a nice comfortable life. I'm not a rich man.
- D.B. What I would like to do now is to ask you something about the Jewish community life.
- I.E. Well I will tell you, frankly I was struggling for existence. I never had time, especially when I started here, I never had time to attend to it but I always belonged to that and as far as money is concerned, proportionally I donated to every possible cause.
- D.B. Was there much of a community when you came here in 1927?
- I.E. Not so much, it wasn't as much organized at all. They organized it when the new Temple was built here.
- D.B. Was the old Synagogue going when you came here?
- I.E. Oh yes but it was dilapidated but this one here unified the people together and they decided how much you are to donate. They have an assessment and the assessment they gave me was a little too much but at the same time I knew this was a good thing to have. Then of course there are all kinds of gripes on the business of Israel--bonds and I donated. By the way three years ago we were in Europe and we were also in Israel and I have a niece that I support for the last 20 years. I send her money. They couldn't possibly afford to look after her and \$25 a month is big money there. \$25 is about £75. Then of course I never never hesitate to any drive they have here whether its community whether its Israel I always was in it. I never had actually time to be an official, I belonged to Bna B'rith and for the last I don't know how many years, probably twenty-five years and I belonged of course to the Community Centre but so on but I mean that not everyone of us can afford the time. And then probably I didn't have the ability for it. You have got to be a speaker and you have got to have a way of doing things. I couldn't, I know I couldn't. That's why I participated in every possible meeting they had but not actually doing something. I never had an office. It was because I didn't think I was the proper person. There are better people than I am.
- D.B. Were you much concerned in the Thirties about the development of Hitler and this type of thing?
- I.E. Concerned, I should say I was. I tell you I happened to mention to you that I served my military service, near Ukraine and Odessa and so on. And I had a family. I had five sisters and three brothers. One brother was killed in the 1914 war. I used to help them out and I used to send them parcels of food and so on. That was before

- I.E. Hitler came in. When Hitler came in all the communications stopped and I tried every possible way to find out if they were still alive. I couldn't find out. As a matter of fact I have right here the last letter from my two sisters, one from Moscow and one from Sevastopol and the other ones must have been killed and so on. As a matter of fact, my oldest sister was in Berlin before Hitler came in and her and her daughter (my niece) were lucky enough to get away from Hitler and moved to Israel and that's where I met her three years ago after not seeing her for fifty years. And that's why I told you I support her in a way and there isn't a real drive and I know that Israel needs it because I know that they really need that help. If it wasn't for us and the American Jews they would be wiped out to the last person. And I tell you that they have built up a wonderful country there. I was there and I've seen it--a wonderful country.
- D.B. I was thinking of the, when I asked that question, of the concern in the early Thirties that developed within the Jewish communities regarding the growth of Nazism and were you able to do anything, were you watching the situation carefully?
- I.E. We certainly watched, of course we watched but we couldn't do very much because it was kind of all of a sudden. He developed within about two or three years. They weren't prepared for what happened, they couldn't possibly think. In a bigger community in the United States they tried to extricate some Jews and they did and they had to pay a big price even to the Nazis even to take them out of there. Sure everybody was concerned and at that time the drive started. You see at that time it was remarkable to see the way the Jewish people united together just to rescue some of these people that were left over there. Eventually after Hitler had gone there were so many refugees and so on so they had to be helped but who was going to help them. Saskatoon was considered a very conscientious community as far as Jewish life is concerned. As a matter of fact proportionally we used to donate more than some of the bigger cities in Canada or the United States.
- D.B. So you didn't really participate as an office-holder but you have been a good active member.
- I.E. We had some good active members, believe me, and I think the biggest member as far as I remember who really conducted the whole thing is Jack Goldenberg. Jack Goldenberg was the head of all of it and he was a very good leader. We supported the University of Jerusalem. I know because I am a member there. The head of it now, Briker, he did a lot of work. There are a lot of people who really can't do the work you know. I didn't have time. Probably I could have made time but by nature I wasn't built that way. You have got to have kind of a knack to lead people and I didn't have that.
- D.B. Was the Jewish community here when you came a fairly closely-knit community? Did you stay together a great deal?
- I.E. Well I tell you something, I came here in 1927, that's about 43 years ago. It was a small community but I think the population of Saskatoon was about 14,000. We lived an ordinary life, we could go to the synagogue or some kind of entertainment and little plays there. We didn't think it was going to come to Nazism and so on. We hadn't any money, nobody made money at that time. The only exception probably

- I.E. was a few Jewish people who had money. A lot of people probably made their money in the country and came back to the city already established but I mean the general community really didn't have much money to speak of. Now where they collect thousands of dollars at a time they didn't collect that much at a time and the fees that we had to pay for say the synagogue weren't very high, anybody could afford it. But we enjoyed ourselves, I mean any group will enjoy in one way or another and want to retain their heritage and they certainly did. But at that time it was very good but just lately in the community there are more young people than old people and they have different ideas about life. The community is together yes but just the same I think they were better knit before than now. Now the community center takes money to maintain and I think some people don't make as good in these times you know but we are still together. By the way there were quite a few people who were really leaders of this community. Goldenberg was ahead of them all. Around here there were several people who were capable of leading the community. We used to have painters. We used to have the Jewish leader in church but we don't do this anymore. People are entirely different now.
- D.B. I gather that there was some sort of a division between what they call Orthodox and Conservatives here.
- I.E. Ah, listen to me. There are good Orthodox like me for instance that Reverend Avol. He is really a sincere Jew, you know what I mean. A sincere, religious Jew, there is no doubt about it. If it wasn't for him that synagogue would have gone down long ago.
- D.B. Did you ever find discrimination here because of being a Jew?
- I.E. I always remark that this was a nice little town mainly because there was no discrimination. But when you have this community and a community centre and well-paid rabbis like Avol who goes among all different clubs and explains the situation of Jews and so on and he even preaches in the church and so on. That helps a lot and I can say that if there is any discrimination here at all I think it is hidden and very little. Now for instance you take B'Nai B'Rith if anything could come up some kind of a thing against the Jews of that act it would come up at our meetings. I don't remember. I have belonged 25 years here and I tell you it is a nice city, in that respect anyway. It seems to me that it is the nicest city in all of Canada because we never had any discrimination. Very little that isn't worthwhile. There are some hoodlums and things like that, well we don't consider that. We have in our B'Nai B'Rith a deformation I think and it would come up there but they don't even bother because it isn't important. If some little kid goes out, Jew or Gentile, and cuts some pictures in a city collegiate here well what can you do. You see we consider these things here. And I tell you I think it is a very good attitude of Gentiles and Jews here.
- D.B. How did you find it in Russia?
- I.E. It just happened so that we lived, myself and my family that is my brothers and sisters, we weren't very much affected there where we lived because my father served about 20 years in the army. He was

I.E. allowed to live among Gentiles. It was no such thing as a ghetto. We had only about 30 families and my father organized the synagogue and everything else. They didn't wear the long dresses you know the way the old Jews were wearing in Poland. They were forced to do those things. They didn't want to. It became a second habit that's all there was to it but they were forced 2 or 3 hundred years to do that. As a matter of fact we moved once when I was young. We moved to what is called a pogrom. The Jews organized themselves into a defence league and believe me as soon as they found out they could defend themselves it didn't take place. But it did take place in other places where the Jews, I wouldn't say they weren't organized, they were scarce and there they were spending all their time on religion and religion and religion. Do you see what I mean. And the young people were also studying the torah and everything else. And now you begin to have the younger people that are more liberal and could think of something besides young Jews they didn't have pogroms. The reason thus was anti-semitism in Russia but it wasn't actually from the people it was from the government. If anything happened in Russia the Jews, because they were a minority, were blamed for it. Now you take for instance the Japanese War, I remember the Japanese War, it was in 1905. I was born in 1889 and I was 16 years old. I was thinking at the time and I know that some of my family went down to that. They lost the war because there was corruption pending the aristocracy and particularly in the government. They sent out an army with paper soles. Somebody made money. That just what it is but we had to take it. I really like Russia--it's a beautiful country and the average Russian is not so bad but I tell you I have the means I could see Russia but I don't want it because personally I don't like the way they conduct it now. It is too Stalinist-like. I understand these things because I know something about it. I tell you, I read on the average about four hours a day, particularly now, and I know the situation more than the average person. I read books and everything else and you make up your own mind. The revolution had to take place in Russia, it had to take place because the people really were oppressed. Some of them had nothing to eat, nothing to eat at all. The Bolsheviks organized the Revolution and it took only about 2,000 revolutionists to organize the whole thing. Of course a lot of them suffered.

D.B. I was going to ask you, do you remember the Winnipeg strike?

I.E. I was working at that time on the corner of Donald and Maine Street at the Liggett's. I had a drug store there and they used to bring in the wounded people and I used to attend them. I attended them and there was a cot here and I attended about 10 or 15 people myself.

D.B. That was in some of the street fighting was it?

I.E. Well I suppose so because at that time I was on duty in the drug store. It isn't very far from the City Hall and that's where it started.

D.B. How about unemployment. There are a lot of unemployed around and your business is pretty slow.

I.E. I don't blame the working people for going out on strike because I tell you something if you watched the television here yesterday at 10:00 you would see people who had jobs of 15 and 20 thousand dollars

I.E. and now there taxi drivers. Now think of these just ordinary workmen and I tell you something, when they have no work at all they get disgusted and they had to do that. It has got to be changed as a matter of fact they are changing. I could tell you a story but I don't want you to think I'm a Bolshevik or something or a Communist but I see now the labor movement here in town. Was it Woodsworth who organized it, I know him personally. He lived right across the street from me and I had a drug store on the corner of Selkirk and Naine and he was across the street and he used to come and get a soda or something at my place and so on so I know him. I will tell you something, you see the Communists couldn't possibly, the Communists you know--that is in when? The C.C.F. started in 1932 and I was here already. What I want to say is this, the Communists, it was quite a Communist movement at the time but the Canadian people weren't so depressed that they absolutely were going hungry like in Russia. They couldn't accept this Communism so that's why the C.C.F., which was a little bit milder Socialists, had a success. And I tell you another thing, true C.C.F.'s or the Liberal government or even the Conservative government now, well I mean the Liberal government that's now in power and is very little difference between what the C.C.F. advocates and what the Liberal government is doing. They do their best. Stanfield is always criticizing but that's his business--he gets paid for it. And still they are doing something. I tell you the people who really started it are the C.C.F. I'm not talking about the local C.C.F., that would disclose who I work for, but I'm not a Communist anyway. But I know that the common people want to live just as good. You should have seen yesterday, girls just out of science has got to go out and wash dishes in a restaurant, or drive a taxi or do something else and there was two girls there, one had her B.A. and the other has her H.A. and one is a waitress. There is no shame in that but one fellow was talking that they would do anything to maintain, although he couldn't possibly maintain their standards because he has a big house and he has got to maintain that or he will have to give up everything, he gives up his friends because he couldn't live up to them because he lost a job. Who would think of it when he was in business for 10 or 12 years. There was an interview of certain workmen who worked for 10 years and they promised him all kinds of things for the future but he had to live in the meantime. They have to go on relief that's all. The unemployment insurance is finished so you have got to go on relief.

D.B. You would have had a lot of association with the store on 20th Street.

I.E. Oh yes, you bet your life. I had people and I'm telling you they were disgusted. The farmers considered themselves capitalists before that Depression. We had a wonderful farmer business and I did good there because the farmers were well off. If I wouldn't foresee my old age or retirement I couldn't live as comfortably as I am right now. Some of these farmers, they were greedy. They went and got more than they could chew. They got big machinery for so much land and then they got more land and then more machinery and the people in Europe or other places got wise and they grow their own wheat now, they grow their own produce. So that's why it went down. You can't blame the government, I can't see why they blame the government for that. But you know there is always politics, somebody must have a job and you

I.E. have got to talk about it. There is no doubt that it is bad for the farmers just now--for the small farmer after all wheat is still a commodity that will be used for generations to come. But I think they have got to organize some way and believe me the government is doing plenty for the farmers now. But when I was in business there the farmers were well satisfied. I gave up the business 7 years ago. Seven years ago it was good. I know farmers who were driving a Cadillac or a Chrysler or something else and probably changed it every year and probably changed for new machinery and things like that. These are the people that suffer now. What is the use of having an inventory of 25 or 50 thousand, you can't sell it now, it's worth nothing. So you see they weren't business-like. Now they have learned a lesson and now they will know how not to be too greedy. There will be no more millionaires in Canada anyway. The recommendations that the government makes now they take a great deal from the millionaires and the chances of becoming a millionaire are far off--even in the United States. Believe me, I go to the United States for the last 12 years because my family is there and I'm telling you it is something terrible. I wouldn't like to live there. So Canada is a paradise.



