

that when our grain of last year's crop is all sold, it will net the farmer 49 cents a bushel at his local elevator. Now I have told this before to this committee, that the farmer's dollar as represented in wheat, barley et cetera is worth only about 43 cents when he comes to buy farming machinery. People will argue about what percentage of the farmer's dollar goes into machinery. It depends how one looks at it. It amounts to this: If one is buying an average farm of 160 acres in western Canada, he would pay just about as much for the machinery to work it as for the farm. But they spread it over a term of years, say it will last twenty years, and arrive at an annual figure on that basis. Considering that our dollar has shrunk from a value of 100 cents in 1914, normal times, to less than fifty cents, there is no need to look any further in order to find out why agriculture is in its present condition. One can talk about parity of prices or anything one likes, but unless that is rectified, agriculture will never be on a good foundation in western Canada.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Apparently we have arrived at the dawn of a new age. We have too much wheat, with no place to put it. The other day we heard that we have too much coal, too many clothes, too much lumber, too much fish, too much bacon. I suggest that what is wrong with the world may be that there is too much capital, too many grain exchanges, too much interest, too much control. There are other things in Canada of which we have too much. There is too much malnutrition, too many undernourished people. I believe that if statistics were complete they would show at least a million people undernourished in Canada to-day, or perhaps it would be closer to three million. After a short trip through the maritimes I believe there are many fishermen's and other families who are suffering for lack of the necessities of life. If this government can get some of the great surplus of bread in this country into the stomachs of some of those hungry people, this government might partly justify its existence. If that cannot be done, I suggest that we get out of here and pass the job over to half a dozen rural school ma'ams from Saskatchewan.

Mr. WRIGHT: Coming from a western district in which we grow a great deal of coarse grains, I wish to bring certain matters to the attention of the minister. I listened with much interest to the hon. member for Portage la Prairie when he referred to the proportion of barley grown in his constituency. In the northern part of Saskatchewan we all grow a large quantity of coarse grains.

The government has been advising us to do it, to get out of wheat production and grow coarse grains to a greater extent. I would point out the position this fall of the farmer who has taken the advice of the government and changed over to coarse grain production. This year the average farmer on a section of land in the district from which I come will probably have from 160 to 200 acres in wheat, 100 to 130 acres in barley and 50 to 80 acres in oats. When he threshes he will have in the neighbourhood of 4,000 bushels of wheat, 4,000 bushels of barley and 4,000 bushels of oats. To pay his threshing bill on that amount of grain will take \$640.

I think one hon. member speaking this afternoon stated that if he is allowed to deliver the average amount of grain under a quota, it will be in the neighbourhood of 500 bushels, but I am raising that to 1,500 bushels if he grows 4,000 bushels of wheat this year. If under the first quota he is allowed to deliver 1,500 bushels, he will receive, at the average freight rate point, which is in the constituency I represent, \$750. In other words, he will have \$110 left to pay all his other expenses, buy his twine, pay his taxes, pay for his seed, keep his family and pay his store bill. I do not know how he is going to do it. I would certainly like some explanation from the government as to how the average man in those sections of the west is going to be able to meet his bills. The Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar) stated that it was moonshine to think of making an advance to the farmer on grain which he might store on his farm. It was done in the United States, and it should and must be done in western Canada this fall; otherwise there will be widespread bankruptcy. The farmer will not be able to pay his store bill; he will not be able to pay his blacksmith; he will not be able to meet any of his obligations. It is not only the farmer who will suffer but everyone in the west who depends on the farmer; that is, ninety per cent of the people of the west are going to be close to bankruptcy unless some provision is made for an extension of credit.

What is the position of the average farmer to-day, after the minister has made this statement that we are to get 70 cents a bushel for our wheat and that we can deliver only a certain quota? The farmer must get money to carry on his farming and harvesting operations; he must get a line of credit. I ask any minister whether, if he were a banker, he would advance any money to a farmer to carry on his operations, knowing quite well that it is going to be impossible for him to meet that obligation when it comes due two