

Mr. GARDINER: Assistance to farmers in connection with feed and fodder, and the relief given in farm homes, has been given through the Department of Agriculture under another arrangement in the most difficult years. This measure has to do with the lending of money and making grants in aid to the provinces to carry on the work of relief.

Mr. HLYNKA: I still maintain that this is agricultural assistance. Our problem is one of distribution; our farmers and workers must have more purchasing power placed in their hands. This government has absolutely failed to show us how it can place that purchasing power in the hands of our people, and it has absolutely failed to show me how it is going to wipe out unemployment. It seems to me that the government is just dragging on from day to day, and you know that at five per cent compound interest any sum of money doubles itself in fifteen years. If this government carries on its present policy for fifteen years it will simply mean that our farmers will have to repay the money lenders twice the amount originally received.

I am not going to speak at any great length—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. HLYNKA: I know the hon. members on the government side are anxious that no one else should express his opinion, but no one party has a monopoly on the desire to help our people. We all want to do our bit in that direction. I happen to represent over fifty thousand people, and I do not think any member of this house will suggest that we should not have the privilege of saying what we have to say.

We in western Canada are not so much interested in theories or in the wording of bills. We have been fed with all that sort of thing for the past seventy years or so, and our people find themselves in distress to-day. We are interested in the results that are achieved by putting the bills into operation. In most of the totalitarian states they have resorted to the production of synthetic bread. We do not need to do that. Canada produces ample supplies to feed not only Canada but the whole British empire. All our farmers ask is a fair price for their wheat and a little assistance when they really need it. If they get that, believe me, our farmers will never fail the nation in time of stress.

A tricky system has been used many times to more or less pull the wool over the eyes of the farmers; the current year is compared with the year previous, or the year before that, to show how the revenue or the profit or commerce has increased. The government never compares the better year with the

worse, but always the worse with the better. Then they say, "Things are improving. You go ahead and rely on us to see that you get what you deserve." That has been the system used right along. There is only one reason why our farmers will not accept a negative answer from this or any other government until they get what they want and what they are entitled to, and that is the law of self-preservation. This nation is fighting Germany because of the same law; we must obey it or submit, or die. That is the only choice we can expect. This government should be proud and glad that our people in the west are not dead yet but are making themselves heard and are placing certain demands before the government, through their elected representatives. I think that that is a good sign. If we ever came to the time when our people would no longer demand or ask for anything, it would be a sign that we had reached the end and that there was no future before us.

I beseech the government to consider our farmers, our workers, the real pillars of our nation. Give them what they deserve; then, believe me, these farmers will not refuse to produce. Give them five per cent over the cost of production and they will be only too glad to carry on. And let us have no more deals in which we squander and waste three-quarters of a million dollars in buying a dead investment while the farmers really need money and would at least give some return on the investment.

Mr. POULIOT: I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Hlynka) on his interesting speech, his first address in this house. The hon. member has a fine voice; and if he would sing a duet with the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Harris) it would be well worth hearing. The hon. gentleman has shown enthusiasm, and, while we do not agree with much of what he has said, he deserves praise and I am glad to give it to him.

There is another hon. gentleman to whom I should like to say a few kindly words. I refer to the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker). His remarks this afternoon were refreshing. In the past the government has received nothing but abuse from the other side of the house in regard to the way the people of the west have been treated. The hon. member for Lake Centre uttered a few words of appreciation and gratitude, however, which indicate that he has a kind heart and can appreciate what is done for his constituents, although perhaps he does not get all that he would like to get for them. I have here the report of the dominion commissioner for unemployment relief for the year ending