

In order to illustrate that the western farmer does receive benefit from eastern Canada I might point out that in the year 1935, of all live stock, including cattle, hogs and sheep, there were shipped from western Canada 429,000 head to the markets of eastern Canada, and in the year 1937, 439,000 head of live stock of all kinds were shipped from the western provinces to eastern Canadian markets.

Turning now to a comparison of agricultural production, and comparing the western Canadian provinces with the province in which I live, I believe that the average agricultural production in Ontario is comparable with the production of agricultural commodities in the three western provinces. In Ontario the average production of agricultural products ranges in value from \$300,000,000 to \$360,000,000, and it will be found I think that the average production of agricultural commodities in the three western provinces lies somewhere within that range.

Hon. members to my immediate left in the discussion of almost all Canadian agricultural problems refer from time to time to the importance of our home market. I for one am certainly not inclined to take the view that the home market is not a very important factor in the economic life of this dominion. I would point out, however, that the United States, with a population of 130 millions, has available for agricultural production approximately 513 million acres of arable land, while Canada, with a population of 11 millions has available for production approximately 361 million acres of arable land. The point I want to emphasize there is that in the United States, with considerably less than one-third more available arable land than we have in Canada, and with their vast population of 130 million, they still have their surpluses of wheat, surpluses of cotton, surpluses of lard, surpluses of bacon and surpluses of ham; and we are looking a long time ahead when we take the view that we shall soon have in Canada sufficient population to consume within our boundaries our entire production of agricultural commodities. If we advanced our population to even eighty million and made use of all our available arable land we should very likely still find ourselves in the position of our friends to the south, with substantial surpluses of agricultural products to dispose of.

Speaking from an eastern Canada viewpoint, it has been impressed upon me, in listening to the many speeches in respect to the price of wheat, how simple and easy it is to say that we should have seventy or eighty or

[Mr. McNevin.]

ninety cents or one dollar per bushel for wheat. It is the easiest thing in the world to say. But when it comes down to working out a basis on which under present world conditions you can feasibly secure for the Canadian farmer eighty or ninety cents or one dollar a bushel for his wheat, you are facing a problem that is not easy to solve.

It was stated in the debate, I believe by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), that for the last thirty years the average price of wheat in the spring wheat area has been ninety-five cents a bushel. But I direct attention to the fact that in that thirty-year period there were four or five war years when wheat reached \$2.50 a bushel, and I do not suppose we desire to have a war every thirty years in order to maintain any set price for wheat. This is a consideration which I am sure the government had in mind when they were trying to work out a wheat policy that would be feasible and operative.

In discussing the amount that might be required to be paid out of the treasury of Canada for the wheat bonus, mention has been made of the money paid out of the national treasury to the live stock industry, and for coal and iron ore subventions. I am free to admit that the payment of subventions on coal and iron ore or on cheese may be placed within the same category as a bonus on wheat; but I do not subscribe to the idea that the cost of cleaning up a T. B. area and other expenses in connection with the live stock industry is comparable with the cost of the wheat bonus because of the expenditure of that money the live stock producers of western Canada in common with farmers all over Canada have secured their fair percentage.

It may be that an expenditure of that kind is comparable with expenditures for the development of new breeds or types of wheat, or expenditures to take care of plant diseases, or matters of that sort. Therefore that should not be compared with expenditures for the wheat bonus.

I wish to refer briefly to one portion of Bill No. 63, namely, the 5,000 bushel limit for assistance. The hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Leader) regards that as a fair and proper limitation with regard to the bonus. I am only expressing my own opinion, but I believe that figure is much too large. I ask myself this question: On the average, what sized farm would we expect to operate to produce, from year to year, under average conditions, 5,000 bushels of wheat? I may be mistaken, but this is my view. I have