

The East has a big heart and I am sure it will respond liberally to the great need among thrifty and industrious classes in the West. I believe Parliament will be generously minded also. In the past we have never made a call that has not met with a hearty response. On behalf of those who will be administering relief in the West, I ask honourable members to try to realize the true situation and not to imagine that Western farmers want to sponge on the people of the East, simply because aid will be asked for on a larger scale than prior to the last couple of months we had conceived would be necessary. I doubt whether people of any other class have quite so much pride in money matters as farmers have; not because they are rich, but because they possess a certain spirit of independence. They are more reluctant than perhaps any other people to go into debt or to ask for Government assistance. I hope that honourable members who have an influential voice in the money markets and in big business of the East will give the most sympathetic consideration to appeals that will be made during the current session for assistance to the West.

Hon. R. FORKE: Honourable senators, I do not wish to repeat the arguments that have been so ably presented by the honourable leader of the Government, but there are a few observations I desire to make. Agricultural problems that seem to be almost unsolvable are arising to-day, not only in Canada but throughout the world. Not only in the West, but everywhere, agriculture is sick and farmers are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

The honourable senator from Saskatchewan (Hon. Mr. Gillis) struck the nail on the head when he stated that the grant of five cents a bushel, as proposed in this Bill, would help the man who had wheat, but not those who had none. Yet I am not inclined to find fault with the Bill.

Reference was made by the Hon. the Minister of Labour (Hon. Mr. Robertson) to the decline in the price of wheat. I do not like to speak of my own experience, but by doing so I can be more sure of my facts. I do not mind telling honourable members that I am just \$5,000 poorer because I have been farming in the last three years. A great many other farmers have had a similar experience. I do not owe one cent on my farm, I pay no interest, and I have a good property. Without desiring to be egotistical, I would say that I have often been referred to as one of the most successful farmers in the West. Yet I have lost money. Now, what can be done in a situation of that kind? Some peo-

ple say we should go into mixed farming. As I stated a little while ago in this House, I have 100 head of cattle, 200 sheep and 22 horses, and it is a serious problem for me to know what to do with them this winter. My farm is in the extreme western part of Manitoba, just bordering on Saskatchewan. I think I should be just as happy if I had no wheat crop at all this year, because then I should not have to go to the trouble of harvesting and threshing it. In the long run I shall not be in pocket because I have a little wheat. I am fortunate in having enough old wheat and oats left over from last year for my next year's seed, but I do not know any other farmer in my district who is in exactly the same position. I mention these facts to show the conditions that the farmers are experiencing at the present time.

I feel perfectly sure that farmers in Ontario do not realize the seriousness of the Western situation. While listening to a debate in another place I heard a member strongly objecting to this Bill on the ground that the legislation would be sectional. He contended that farmers in Ontario were faced with considerable difficulties at the present time. Like many honourable members, I have driven over a good part of Ontario this summer, and I never saw better crops anywhere. Some of the people may have difficulty in making ends meet, but there is no comparison between the conditions in this province and those in Western Canada.

The Hon. the Minister of Labour said that the present price of wheat was 60 cents. It would not be so bad if the farmer got that much, but the fact is that the average price received by the farmer is 37 cents a bushel. There has been a drought from the time we were getting about \$1.40 clear down to the present time, when we get only 37 cents. Is there any other industry in the world that could stand such a blow as that and would not be in a desperate condition? Such is the condition that we are in at the present time in Western Canada.

I am not going to take up any more time. I think the Hon. the Minister of Labour is fully seized of the situation. I think the Government, as a whole, is also seized of the situation; and I want to pay my tribute to the Government of the Dominion at the present time for the way in which it has met this situation and is trying to relieve it as much as possible. I am sure it will have my hearty support in all the endeavours it is making.

I notice a clause in the Bill that I would like the Minister to explain. In section 2,