

province and municipality or these three organizations combined. The burden must therefore fall on the rest of the population.

The other class to which I want to refer are the farmers who comprise more than 45 per cent of our population. If there are 1,300,000 unemployed, comprising over one-tenth of our population, the farming community which cannot be placed among the unemployed and being the majority of our employed population, must naturally be called

upon to bear a heavier burden than all other classes of society.

It might perhaps be interesting to examine more closely the situation and find out what are the conditions at present prevailing among our farming class. I have obtained statistics which prove in what state agriculture has been left in, and, so as not to repeat the arguments previously set forth, I shall endeavour to bring out new proofs. I shall quote our total farm exports, for each fiscal year, to all foreign countries and the British Empire:

	1929-30	1930-31	1931-32
All countries..	\$368,792,277	\$269,858,864	\$198,476,699
British Empire..	199,604,065	149,468,827	110,159,169

These figures, therefore, show an extraordinary decrease in farm returns. After all, the latter must necessarily depend on these returns to meet the taxes of the state, the provinces, and municipalities, as well as other charges with which it is burdened.

Let us now examine the farm exports, of field crops, for the twelve months ending in October of each year:

1929..	\$524,828,419
1930..	336,362,550
1931..	218,175,958
1932..	211,176,931

It is therefore not astonishing as the member for Souris, himself mentioned a few moments ago, that the farmers of his constituency are in a different situation. The same applies to all farmers throughout the country and it is caused by the lack of farm returns or a great decrease in such returns, while fixed charges remain unchanged.

I shall now quote figures with reference to exports in live stocks and their by-products, for the twelve months ending in October of each year:

1929..	\$146,629,066
1930..	100,288,057
1931..	73,752,819
1932..	58,290,769

The decrease of more than 60 per cent in these exports certainly adds to the depression in agriculture.

The prices of farm products have decreased in the proportion just mentioned. I must also add that in Ontario, where I reside, taxes have risen more than in other sections of the country, and are extraordinarily high. To such an extent that a committee representing 31 municipalities of this province stated only recently, after having made an absolutely accurate calculation of their taxes, from 1904 to 1932, that the increase amounted to 2,800 per cent since 1904. This statement was recently forwarded to the government of

Ontario and the information was given out by Mr. F. D. Tolchard, secretary of the association. Therefore, these figures cannot be contradicted.

This has placed us, in Ontario, in such a plight, that excellent families of farmers, who settled here, a number of years ago, and established their children on the land find themselves to-day, unable to continue farming. In my constituency, taxes are our greatest burden. At one time money lenders endeavoured to collect the payment of money due to them, so as to naturally protect their own interests; however, to-day, they are less exacting than they were heretofore. The rates in interest have been lowered in many instances and, in numerous cases, new mortgage deeds have been agreed upon for an amount not exceeding 50 per cent of the original debt. However, this is not sufficient, if we wish to keep the farmer on the Canadian soil, especially in the county I represent. Those that are desirable on the farm are forced to leave owing to the burden of taxes which weighs so heavily on them. Municipalities to meet their liabilities are forced to find the money somewhere and they have reached the stage where they must necessarily collect the taxes, and in many cases, by means of seizure. They must auction off all seizable chattels allowing the farmers to stay on their land with two hundred dollars' worth of implements, live stock and poultry which cannot be seized according to law, and which are not sufficient to permit them to continue their operations. Under such circumstances, we are wondering how the farmer will till his land and how we shall safeguard agriculture which, after all, is the fundamental industry on which has rested for a long time past, the whole economic structure of our country.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Hear, hear.

Mr. BERTRAND (Translation): By allowing this situation to become worse, not only