

Mr. FAIR: I think the minister has given us what we call in the west a bum steer. He is taking into consideration gross prices and not net prices, and forgetting entirely the extra cost farmers have to pay for bringing about this production. He must also remember that last year we had one of our biggest grain crops in the west. A number of other things have not been taken into consideration. I have not my figures here to-night, but there will be another occasion when this matter may be discussed further.

If the minister will go back and look over the percentage of national income for the period 1915 to 1919 he will find that the farmers received one-third of that national income, and I believe that that is still the level upon which our parity price should be based, regardless of any recommendation that has been made by the federation of agriculture.

Mr. EVANS: If you have parity prices—

Mr. FAIR: The silent member from Saskatchewan may make his own speech, when he has the chance, later on. At the present time I am making my contribution. On another occasion, when I have a chance to get my figures together, I think I can support the statement I have just made to the effect that the period 1915 to 1919, when farmers received one-third of the national income for their one-third of the population, is much better and much closer to the mark than the period 1926 to 1929, when we received only one-sixth of the national income for our one-third of the population.

Mr. PERLEY: Just a moment ago the minister referred to the hon. member for Haldimand, and what we had said with regard to parity prices. He said that for the last ten years he has not been in favour of parity prices for certain farm products, because he maintained that it was not enough.

Mr. GARDINER: I said that I was in favour of more.

Mr. PERLEY: Yes; he was in favour of more. I should like to know if any hon. member in the house has ever heard him say so in the last ten years.

Mr. GARDINER: You can read it out of *Hansard*.

Mr. PERLEY: He cannot find it in *Hansard*, and I will venture to say he never said, on the floor of the house, that he would maintain a better price than parity for certain farm products. I will go farther and say that it was first mentioned by this group, on this side of the house. I know I can show a press report of two years ago wherein a good deal

of publicity was given to a discussion in the House of Commons on parity prices, and complimentary references were made to two members of the official opposition. It was pointed out in the report that they were the only ones who knew what they were talking about. If the minister was so much impressed with the idea of a better-than-parity price, particularly for wheat, why was it that in 1935, and particularly in the early part of 1936, when he became Minister of Agriculture, he endeavoured to sell about 250,000,000 bushels of wheat of western Canada at a price to break the market. He put on a fire-sale price. He was accused of it, and he did not deny it.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, I denied it.

Mr. PERLEY: And he tried his best to sell wheat day after day. They could not sell it fast enough, to break the market, and later made a handsome profit out of wheat which had been accumulated by the previous government. Why did the minister on that occasion inaugurate the policy of selling wheat, so much every day during trading hours in order to try to break the price and get it down below the price which had been set, and which was above parity price at that time?

Mr. GARDINER: If the hon. member will come into my office to-morrow morning I will give him a pamphlet in which I said I never was at any time in favour of a fire sale, and that there never had been a fire sale, in the sense in which my hon. friend speaks of it.

Mr. PERLEY: What kind of sale would the minister call it?

Mr. GARDINER: Well, I ran an election on it in the spring of 1926, in the next constituency to the hon. member's, and was elected by a majority of 3,600, despite the fact that he was there campaigning against me.

Mr. HENDERSON: I heard the minister say that he was in favour of selling at better than parity price and would not be satisfied with just parity prices. I heard him make that statement, all over Saskatchewan.

Mr. WRIGHT: I do not wish to get into a discussion about parity prices; but if the minister was so much in favour of parity prices, why did he not give a little kinder reception to the wheat pool delegates when they were here a couple of years ago asking for parity prices?

Mr. GARDINER: The advance was raised twenty cents.