

Mr. GARDINER: The hon. member should have come to the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Moreover, I was refused permission to put the question on the order paper.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Why could you not get it from Alberta?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Because this is the place we are supposed to get it from.

Mr. GARDINER: I got that from Alberta.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Alberta never gets anything from this government.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): They have some responsibility, surely.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): It seems to me, from reading *Hansard*, that the Minister of Agriculture is determined to reverse the situation and see that Saskatchewan, his province, gets it all, and Alberta doesn't get anything.

Mr. TUCKER: All he wishes to see is that Saskatchewan gets a fair deal.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): What about the people in northern Saskatchewan? Go up there and speak in the next election.

Mr. TUCKER: They have grasshoppers up there, and they want this legislation.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): It was a deliberate attempt to sell out western Canada, to gain votes in the east, and I think all of Canada is realizing that fact.

Mr. EULER: You will not gain many votes in the east.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): And they will not gain much in Alberta.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Oh, it might surprise you.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): We were amazed a short time ago to see legislation brought down the effect of which will take taxes off the back of industry. In order to keep up revenue I suppose we shall have to tax the western wheat grower another ten per cent to make up for the reduction given to the large industries of Canada.

Mr. GARDINER: Are they taxed ten per cent in Alberta now?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The taxation on the big industries is being reduced ten per cent. Of course that is a different proposition as you do not get such large campaign funds from the farmers out west.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Let us examine the basis of the cost of raising a bushel of wheat. Here is what the minister said, as reported at page 2623 of *Hansard*, when giving another reason why this price should be adopted:

It has been proven over and over again that 20 bushels to the acre of wheat can be produced at a cost of from 30 to 40 cents a bushel.

There is no proof there at all. The minister is simply saying that it has been proven over and over again. He continues:

We have had a great deal of discussion about the cost of producing wheat.

Later on I asked this question:

What is the basis of that estimate of from 30 to 40 cents a bushel as the cost of production?

I think we should get down to facts and quit fooling around. Just because an election may be in the offing we should not raise the price from 60 to 70 cents for some "no good" reason. It seems to me that we should endeavour to find out the costs. We shall then be able to get some place. In answer to my question, the minister said:

Estimates have been made by authorities in Saskatchewan university, and there are also the figures submitted by the Saskatchewan government to the Rowell commission.

We will deal with those later on. There was another place which I have not marked where the minister is reported as saying that it is only guesswork anyway. It is rather interesting to note that the farmers are not going to take it as guesswork this year. On the same page the minister is reported as saying this:

Since the 30 cent costs are on large mechanized farms, and the 40 cent costs on smaller farms, the tendency to change from the small to the large farm is greatly encouraged by increasing profits in that manner.

May I say in all seriousness that I believe this legislation will tend to increase the number of larger farms. Wheat cannot be raised at from 30 to 40 cents per bushel on small unmechanized farms, and the people will be forced to operate larger farms in order to obtain their costs of production. Let us see what this conference on marketing had to say about it. This has been mentioned before, but I think it is well to draw attention to it again. The extract from *Hansard* which I read refers directly to what Professor Hope said in this connection, as reported on page 151 of the proceedings of the conference. I am going to read this again so that the people of Canada may know exactly where that estimate came from. He said:

On the basis of average yields of wheat of 20 bushels per acre (1918-1930) for the Regina