

Prairie Farm Assistance

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): What was the average yield of that poor land north of Weyburn?

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): The hon. member can read it.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): The average yield was 13.6 bushels on that land.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): The hon. member can make a speech when his turn comes. I ask him not to interrupt me.

On page 151 Professor Hope points out that even on the very best land, two-section farms, representing as I say only one per cent of the farms of western Canada, the cost is 51 cents a bushel. Although last night the minister said this was not the farm price, this statement says distinctly that it is the farm price. May I remind the house again that on page 236 of the same report, in the discussion which followed, Professor Hope said:

Professor Hope: The present price at Fort William is not enabling the farmer to pay any debt in Saskatchewan except in a few cases in the north.

Mr. Brockington: And if such a price were maintained over a period of years it would not enable him to maintain a reasonable standard of living?

Professor Hope: No debt could be paid.

Mr. Brockington: How about the standard of living?

Professor Hope: Probably only just fair.

Mr. Brockington: Can you say what the conditions are in Manitoba and Alberta?

Professor Hope: That is a little more difficult, because we have not actually got any definite debt figures on Manitoba and Alberta. It would be more or less of a guess, I admit that, but I would make a guess that 80 cents at present—60 cents on the farm—would enable the farmer in the provinces to meet very little of the interest charges.

In making his statement on April 5 the Minister of Agriculture, after reviewing the activities of the so-called Bracken committee, said he found it very difficult to understand their actions. I imagine the Bracken committee find it very difficult to understand the minister's action, and I am sure that thousands of people in western Canada find it even more difficult, because they cannot help but remember that the present Minister of Agriculture is the same gentleman who as the head of the Liberal party in Saskatchewan in 1934 flooded the country with pamphlets which said:

Dollar wheat will run your schools and provide a donation to the church.

Dollar wheat will enable you to send your son or daughter to the university.

Dollar wheat will buy boots and shoes for your children and furniture for your home.

[Mr. T. C. Douglas.]

Mr. GARDINER: And wheat has averaged \$1.06 Fort William since that time.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): If it averages \$1.06 this year it will not be because of the legislation the minister is now proposing.

Mr. GARDINER: You do not get the "average" in one year.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): One other thing about Bill 63; since withdrawing the bill and reprinting it the government have put on a 5,000 bushel limitation; that is a producer can deliver only up to 5,000 bushels. That is irrespective of whether the guaranteed minimum is above or below the market price. In quoting costs the minister likes to take the lowest costs, and those lowest costs are to be found on the best land, the two-section mechanized farm. Yet the people on the best land with two-section mechanized farms are the very people who are going to be penalized by this 5,000 bushel limitation; for example, those on the Soo line, or up through the Rosetown district and the Regina plains. These people are going to have to sell part of their wheat outside of the wheat board because of this limitation. According to the 1936 census figures the number of farm units in Saskatchewan was 142,391. These were broken up as follows:

1 to 50 acres..	2,245
51 to 100 acres..	1,691
101 to 199 acres..	45,944
200 to 299 acres..	3,497
300 to 479 acres..	44,296
480 acres and up..	44,718

The fact is that in order to meet the increasing costs of production by virtue of the rise in farm machinery prices farmers are more and more going into larger units which they can operate on a mechanized basis. Here are these thousands of farmers operating large farms who are going to be directly penalized by this 5,000 bushel limitation.

Mr. CRERAR: If my hon. friend will permit me, I may say to him that that statement certainly does not apply to Manitoba.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Well, I am not speaking of Manitoba; I am speaking of Saskatchewan. It certainly is true there that you have thousands of farmers on large farms who will be directly affected by this limitation. I hope that before Bill 63 finally passes the minister will seriously consider taking that limitation out.