

Hon. Mr. HORNER: The majority of the farmers in the West are opposed to acreage restriction, for the reason that when the acreage was restricted it might be a good season, and next year there might be a comparative crop failure. We see no harm in asking a man to keep his grain in his barn. Allow him to grow what he wishes, but restrict his delivery. As the grain accumulated on the farm some people think it would depress the world's price, but I do not think it would, because it is the grower's own business if he stores his grain for some time. For the first year the standing crop might be estimated, but as the years went by it would be difficult to tell what surplus remained in the granaries. I think the farmer should adopt the same practice as other men in business, and if anyone asked how much grain he had in his granary, tell him that that is his particular business.

Dr. BARTON: I think that is a common practice in France. It is very difficult there to tell what the so-called invisible supply of wheat is.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: It is the case of the farmer attending to his own business. Everybody has been estimating the wheat crop, and several times it has been estimated at several million bushels more than the actual yield.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: I think it would be a great mistake to make the restriction on acreage compulsory. It would not work out in practice.

Dr. BARTON: It would be extremely difficult to work out.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: As crops vary from year to year it would be impossible to form an accurate estimate of the yield, for in the western country we have so much to contend with in raising our wheat. For example, last year my yield on 40 acres of wheat was five bushels an acre; the year before it was 19 bushels. On the first of June there was promise of a better crop than the year before when, as I say, the yield was 19 bushels to the acre. If you restrict the number of bushels to be marketed, then a farmer could raise as much wheat as he wanted, and his surplus he could feed to his stock. A farmer can always get stock from the ranchers on an agreement basis if he has the feed. It has been demonstrated that there is no better feed for cattle than wheat. Of course, it might need some other grain mixed with it.

Dr. BARTON: Wheat is good feed for all classes of live stock.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: I think the restriction should be on the bushels of wheat marketed.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: Has Dr. Barton prepared a statement on the cattle quota?

Dr. BARTON: I have a statement on cattle, but perhaps I may be allowed to take the grasshopper statement next, as it bears on the wheat situation.

I have a memorandum here. The present grasshopper outbreak, as you know, involves all of the three provinces. It began to be felt in each of the western provinces in 1930, although our service had been watching for it to begin from 1929. It reached serious proportions first in Manitoba in 1931. The areas involved in the outbreak expected in 1934 are as follows: Manitoba, 9,507,000 acres; Saskatchewan, 38,112,000 acres; Alberta, 22,785,000 acres.

Hon. Mr. BUCHANAN: Does that cover the southern part of each province?

Dr. BARTON: I have a map which I will pass around so you can see where the infestation is. There is some infestation in the whole area, but the very severe infestation includes 21,848,000 acres; in what we class as severe, 26,541,000 acres; in what we class as light, 22,000,000 acres. The total area of cropped land requiring organized control is estimated to be 20,255,000 acres. As I say, the degree of infestation varies. Eggs have been found present in fields to the number of 140,000 per square foot, the more usual number being from 50 to 200 per square foot. Severe infestation is where eggs run from 15 to 30 per square foot, and very severe is over 30 eggs per square foot.