

A good deal has been said about the losses sustained by our producers because of the United Kingdom wheat agreement. Certainly there have been some losses, but we must remember it has been stated that no country received a higher price for its 1945 crop than did Canada. Participation profits on the 1945-46 crops are still to be paid, so it would seem that as yet we are hardly in a position to speak definitely about losses under that agreement. Besides, there may be some question as to whether Chicago quotations on wheat correctly represent world prices.

On two occasions during the debate question has been raised as to whether the countries whose representatives have signed the agreement will carry it out. There is always some doubt about any bargain. We should at least assume that these countries are acting in good faith, and that unless something unforeseen happens they will honour their agreement. I would not like to think that the standards of the world have so deteriorated that a country will keep its agreement only when it is advantageous to do so.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: May I ask the honourable gentleman a question? This agreement provides that Czechoslovakia is to take a certain quota of our wheat. Do you think she will buy her wheat from us or from Russia?

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: I am sure some other honourable senators are better qualified than I am to answer that question, but I assume that when our representatives sat across the table from the representatives of Czechoslovakia and negotiated this agreement, they were satisfied that it would be carried out.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: But that country is now under another government.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Question!

Hon. WISHART McL. ROBERTSON: Before the question is put I wish to say a word or two. I would remind the honourable leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig) that I prefaced my earlier remarks by saying that because of certain difficulties I was not at all sure that the agreement offered the best possible solution. In challenging the agreement and the able pamphlets which have been prepared on it without suggesting some alternative, my honourable friend is assuming a great responsibility. In this connection the honourable senator from Kingston (Hon. Mr. Davies) put a most pertinent question to the honourable gentleman from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar). The view of the leader opposite seems to be that we should continue indefinitely the policy with respect to wheat, and other matters, which was followed in 1929 and

1930. It is my humble belief that if society and governments are not able to work out some better arrangement than existed then, we are in for serious consequences. I agree with anyone who says that the best possible solution would be to put wheat trading on a world-wide multilateral basis, thus permitting those countries which have wheat to trade it freely with other countries in exchange for their goods.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: That is the only solution.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: But the view that we should do nothing because this agreement does not present a perfect solution, does not meet with the approval of the vast majority of Canadians today.

It may be the policy of the party opposite to bow down to private enterprise, and to look upon the conditions in 1929 as being ideal. If that is the policy of my friend's party it is a dangerous one, and I suggest that that may be one of the reasons why the fortunes of the party are so low today.

The leader opposite said the other day that there had recently been a black Tuesday for both the old parties in Canada. I believe it was considerably blacker for my friend's party than for the party to which I belong. The Honourable George H. Murray of Nova Scotia used to say that a government began to die the day it was formed. It would be unnatural if the government which had the responsibility of administering the affairs of this country throughout the war and afterwards did not meet with at least temporary setbacks as far as the electorate is concerned. I had some experience in political matters before I became a member of the government. For a time, I was president of the National Liberal Federation, and as such visited all parts of Canada. For about eight or nine months before the 1945 election took place I heard so much complaint about price control, beer control, conscription and other questions that I thought the Liberal party was going to be obliterated at the polls.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: May I ask the honourable senator what his remarks have to do with the resolution? He is making a speech that should be delivered on the hustings and not in the Senate of Canada.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I am answering the honourable leader opposite.

Hon. Mrs. FALLIS: The leader should be answering the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar), who is a member of his own party.