

the Government for what it has done. I hope it will keep up its efforts and be successful this year in exporting the largest quantity of wheat that has been shipped from Canada in many years.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators, I promise the house I will not delay it long. As I listened to the address of my honourable friend my mind took me back to a night around the 24th of May, 1957, at a little town called Morris in Manitoba. Dear old Morris. At a meeting held there that evening a very distinguished parliamentarian who was supposed to know more about the grain trade and the Canada Grain Act than any other man in Canada—or, in fact, in the world—got up and told what wonderful things he had done for the farmers of Canada, especially those of Manitoba. When the ballots were counted on the 10th of June the Liberal party had elected one member, and that from a city seat. Not a single member of the Liberal party was selected from rural Manitoba. That speech did it. And he was not a Conservative either. He told much the same story as my honourable friend just now told us.

What are the facts of the case? Who started this wheat business? Who started this piling up of wheat? Did the Conservatives do it? No. It was started about five or six years ago when the crops were good and it was impossible to sell all the wheat that was produced. The fact is that today, after you sell 400 million bushels—you won't sell that much, but whatever you do sell—you will still have over 700 million bushels of wheat still on hand.

Now, my honourable friend says we are doing with India what the Americans are doing to the rest of the world in regard to the disposal of wheat. No, honourable senators, we are not. We promised the Indian people some \$35 million, and part of that money was to be paid over in the form of machinery from Canada. But, instead of taking all that money in machinery they are taking part of it in wheat. For goodness' sake, can't we give the farmers a little chance against industry? Can't we allot \$7 million out of the \$35 million to the producers of wheat? Must industry from Brantford and all the other industrial centres receive the whole of the \$35 million? Surely the farmers can have \$7 million of it. That is all we are doing. We are not giving it away, we are simply carrying out the promise we made.

Hundreds of people in Canada have suggested to the Wheat Board that we should give our wheat to the peoples of the world who are hungry.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: That is the argument they make. We are not even doing that. We are giving it to the people to whom we promised to give \$35 million cash value or cash equivalent. So that argument fails.

Now we come to the question of whether this bill will solve the surplus wheat problems. Of course it will not do that. How in the world does anybody expect that any body of men can dispose of a carryover of 700 million bushels of wheat when our average yearly sale to the world is now 300 million bushels? We can never catch up on that carryover as long as the crops remain good. The United States could not do it, so they are giving wheat away; and not only wheat, but oats and barley.

Honourable senators, the new Government has found the situation to be as follows. Today the farmers of the Prairie provinces are faced with this tremendous problem. I am reminded of an expression which I remember as well as though I heard it yesterday. When I was a boy in Manitoba, and a newcomer entered the district to farm there, my father, who for quite a few years was reeve of the municipality, would make it his business to meet him and when he came home my mother would ask, "Well Joseph, what kind of a man is this Mr. Smith?" If my father replied, "My dear, he is just as good as the wheat", it meant that he was all right, for that was the highest recommendation which could be given a man. But since then I have learned that to be "just as good as the wheat" is to be good for nothing, because we cannot sell our wheat and we cannot do anything else with it.

It is not my intention to criticize anyone or any body for adopting a wheat policy which is past and gone, but for goodness' sake let us not accuse the new Government of being responsible for the unsold grain which is piling up in the west. This Government did not pile it up. When I was Leader of the Opposition in this house I was bitterly opposed to the wheat legislation then recommended to us; in fact I used the strongest language I could think of about it. I predicted that it would be an absolute failure, that it would not enable us to sell on the world's markets against world competition. Some people in my part of the country tried to corner the wheat market, but they never succeeded. It is a commodity which grows almost everywhere on earth, and other foods can, in case of necessity, be substituted for it. The result is that people in other countries can never be reduced to a condition where they must buy wheat at almost any