

I place these prices on record to emphasize the fact that while the prices of farm products have been going up, during the first two years of the war, on an average during the second year of the war they were much lower than the average prices for the period 1926-29.

I have placed on record another set of figures, because they demonstrate something else. We will have in mind the fact that ceiling prices have been placed on certain farm commodities. Those ceiling prices are set out in the tables I have placed on *Hansard*, and I direct the attention of hon. members particularly to them.

May I make these further comments with respect to the ceiling prices. It will be noted that while the ceiling price for oats has been placed at 51.5 cents, the average for the 1926-29 period was 59.7. The ceiling on barley is 64.8, and the average for the period I have indicated was 73.6. No ceiling prices have been placed on wheat or cattle or hogs. However a ceiling of 35.3 cents has been placed on butter, as compared with 38.2 for the period 1926-29. The ceiling price on cheese is 25 cents, as compared with the average of 18.9 cents for the period indicated. The ceiling on eggs stands at 46 cents, compared with 48.2 cents.

I believe it will be found on examination of these figures that in so far as they have been established on products other than grain the ceiling prices are almost the same as the average prices found in the 1926-29 period. When one takes into consideration the increased volume, it will be realized that these products probably bring a higher net income to the farmer than they did at the average price between 1926-29.

There are certain farm products on which no ceiling prices have been established. In this list are wheat, cattle and hogs. No ceiling has been established upon those products as sold by the farmers; but there has been a ceiling established on beef, on pork, and on bread. Although it is not true of bread, it is true of beef and pork that the ceilings established on these products will make possible a price which will be somewhat higher than the average prices for hogs and cattle in the period 1926-29.

I wish now to make a statement to bring to the attention of hon. members the present position of agriculture. I have been speaking of the condition in which agriculture was at the end of the second year of the war. We are now six months into the third year of the war. May I say that there has been a higher floor placed under farm products since the beginning of the third year of the war. The floor prices for the third year of the war are higher than they were in 1941.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce has just stated that for wheat the advance or floor is to be 90 cents. That is a much higher advance than we had as a floor under wheat during the first two years of the war. He has also announced that the floor under oats will be 45 cents a bushel. May I point out that down to the present time there has been no floor under oats. This simply assures that any farmer who grows oats, whether in eastern or western Canada, will obtain a price based upon the floor of 45 cents a bushel at Fort William. The floor under barley is now 60 cents. In the past there has been no floor under barley. It will be noted, therefore, that for the third crop year of the war there has been established a floor of 60 cents under barley.

The only floor we have had under beef since the beginning of the war has been the agreement with the United States under which we offer our product to the market in the United States at approximately the United States price, less the reduced duty upon cattle going into that country. During recent weeks and at the present time that has given us a floor under cattle, at Toronto, of \$9.90. This price is above the average of the period at which we have been aiming.

The price of hogs is \$11.63 at Toronto. This is approximately the level at which we had been aiming under our policy of the first two years. Butter is 35½ cents per pound, which is just about three cents below that average level of 1926-29. Cheese is 25 cents per pound, just a little more than six cents above that average level. Eggs are 32 cents, somewhat below that average level of 1926-29. This brings live stock products, on the average, to approximately the 1926-29 level. In the case of flax, which was dealt with to-day, the average price for that period was, I think, \$2.05 a bushel, so that the price which will prevail in 1942 of \$2.25 is 20 cents a bushel above the average price for the four-year period 1926-29.

Let me repeat that wheat and coarse grains are the two products which we have not yet advanced to prices which bear favourable comparison with the average prices for 1926-29. The fact that coarse grains have not advanced to the 1926-29 level is not so serious a problem from the point of view of the farmer as is the fact that wheat has not advanced to the level of 1926-29. The reason is that by far the greater part of all coarse grains grown in Canada are fed on the farms where they are grown. Those which are not fed on the farms where they are grown are being transported at the present time from one farm to another, whether it be an adjoining farm or a farm at the other end of Canada.