

Mr. CAHAN: In the first place, does not the hon. member's argument assume that agriculture is a basic industry in some special sense? Secondly, is not the result of the policy which he suggests to compel everyone in this country to enter into the production of agricultural products and nothing else?

Mr. EVANS: The hon. gentleman says we would all be wheat growers.

Mr. CAHAN: There would be no room for anyone else.

Mr. EVANS: It is true that if the basic industry to-day was relieved of this extra burden of protection, our vacant spaces from one end of the Dominion to the other would be filled up with prosperous farmers. What would that mean? It would mean that our industries, every one of them, would be running to provide for that basic industry.

Mr. CAHAN: Or foreign industries.

Mr. EVANS: Because it must be assumed that as agriculture is the basic industry, all others are subsidiary to it. All others should be subservient to that basic industry to have a true economic system, and if the products of those other industries cannot be sold in the world's markets on their merits and their cost of production, then I say this country is better without them. It is a false economic law in any country or in any business carried on by even a private company, where every part does not stand on its own feet.

Mr. CAHAN: Is it a false economic law to produce in this country at a higher cost any article of consumption which may be produced in a foreign country at a lower cost?

Mr. EVANS: If any industry is found on examination to be essential and necessary to the welfare of the country, then the country should carry on that industry at any expense.

Mr. CAHAN: Hear, hear.

Mr. EVANS: But this is what I was going to say: The onus is on the hon. gentleman to show that that industry is really necessary to the welfare of the country.

Mr. CAHAN: That is the issue.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): If the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George followed out his policy consistently, he would put a high protective duty on anthracite coal.

Mr. FOSTER: Put it on anyway.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): You have been urging that for years, but I defy you to do it.

Mr. CAHAN: Oh, well, these autocrats of the west!

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): It might suit the west very well, but not my hon. friend.

Mr. EVANS: I would be one of the first to advocate a national policy in everything if it would pay.

Mr. CAHAN: Pay whom?

Mr. EVANS: The people.

Mr. CAHAN: What people, the farmers?

Mr. EVANS: All the workers. The hon. gentleman cannot get out of his head the idea that all Canada is contained in St. James street, Montreal, or in Toronto.

Mr. CAHAN: I cannot get this into my head, that it is entirely contained in Saskatchewan.

Mr. EVANS: I was going on to say a little more about the milling industry. That is not the only steal indulged in by the milling industry of the Dominion. In western Canada they have elevators constructed at the points where the wheat of the highest milling value is produced. They have mills at the largest centres also on the prairies, where they buy all the wheat they can get. In this way they skim the cream of the crop here and ship for export what they do not like for themselves, thereby lowering the price, because our price is based on the lowest type of each grade that goes out for export. They also, some of them, have terminal elevators where they mix what they send for export to the lowest possible point for which they can get a certificate, and our price is based on that; and they buy the cream of the crop back home at the price of the grade which they have thus debased. But what is true of wheat is true also of every other protected industry. It is true even of the other natural products that the farmer himself raises. The relative price of oats to oatmeal and rolled oats is a little worse than wheat to flour, or hides to harness and boots and shoes. All these things are out of proportion. The very product of the farm is used to farm the farmer with, and this cannot forever go on. We give all our manufacturers a price-fixing power without any contract being entered into as to the relative cost of the raw material or the amount of labour they should be responsible for. Surely the time has come when this