

Take for example the wheat problem; if next year we have a large crop and there is also a good crop in the rest of the world, our farmers will find themselves in a situation as bad as or worse than they are in to-day, because the price of wheat will go down far below the cost of production if something is not done to stop it. With our present possibilities of production, poverty in our midst is inexcusable. It is a social crime. And we have to admit that poverty is the mother of crime. I do not think for a moment that things are done perfectly in Great Britain, but I would remind the house that Great Britain discovered some years ago that if she could get rid of the extreme poverty that existed in some parts it would have the effect of getting rid of a great deal of crime. So she set to work to get rid of much of that extreme poverty, with the result that for several years she has been closing some of her goals. Yet we in this young country, with a virile people, with great possibilities and enormous potential wealth, have actually been adding to our goals instead of closing them. Last year, I think it was, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) admitted that the prison population had doubled in twelve months. Surely that situation is inexcusable considering the fact that we have in this country not only great real wealth but great potential wealth as well.

I want to refer to some legislation that has passed the house during this session and in previous sessions since 1930. I refer particularly to reforms with reference to so-called labour. We have put through a minimum wage bill, a maximum hours bill, an unemployment insurance bill, and some others. I supported them because I think they are good, and I welcome the effort to correct abuses. But I ask: what of the farmer? Some legislation has been passed with regard to the farmer, but I remind the house that the legislation that I have just mentioned will have the effect of increasing prices. It will I hope have the effect of increasing wages to the employees, but this only adds to taxation. It will affect those who are on the land and who have difficulty in passing on taxation. Then we have legislation in regard to agriculture; we have the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, an act passed in self-preservation because it was feared that if something like that was not done we would lose large numbers of people off the land, and that would be a national loss. It is the purpose of that act to cut down the debts of the farmers, and I think it is working all right, only too slowly; at the present pace

it will take ten years to get all the debts written down to where they should be. I might remind the house here that farmers' debts have been doubled in weight owing to deflation. Their position has been made much worse on account of what has been termed the sound money policy; for dear money meant cheap goods. Then we have the Canadian Farm Loan Amendment Act, which will enable the farmer to get into debt, but at a reduced rate of interest. Then we have the National Products Marketing Act, in which there are great possibilities if the farmers will only take advantage of it and organize. Then for one year there was a bonus given on wheat of five cents a bushel, amounting to about \$12,000,000. Added to that there has been some relief given in the drought areas, particularly in Saskatchewan, out of a total of relief money spent by this parliament of \$175,000,000. I give the government credit for stabilizing the price of wheat; it was a good action and I think it has had beneficial results. But I would remind the house that it benefited not the farmer only but the whole business life of Canada; so it cannot be said that that was legislation passed specially for the benefit of the farmer. I think most people will agree that the greater part of the taxes come from the first six inches of the soil, and it is very difficult to pass them on.

We are to have the report of the price spreads and mass buying commission; as it is not yet before the house I cannot debate it, but I hope there will be some legislation based on the findings of that commission which will be of benefit to the farmer.

We have had in Ottawa during the last two days large numbers of mayors representing the cities of Canada. I attended their meeting last night and listened to them again to-day. They want the federal government to take over all direct relief. If the federal government does that, it is simply a matter of transferring the administration, but it is not going to reduce taxation, that is if the money is found in the orthodox way; for the taxable people are the same. However, they may expect, and I hope the expectation will be fulfilled, that the government will make use of the national credit through the central bank and provide the money in that way and not by taxation.

May I refer for a moment to some of the problems that face this country. We in this corner of the house have stressed the serious problems of debt and taxation. I want to remind the house again that the biggest single item we have to pay is the interest on our