

care of live stock and hogs on a farm is now frozen. In this time of emergency, many people above middle age who manage to exist by state or other assistance, would willingly work on farms and could do quite a lot of work if they were not expected to do a full man's job and if they were allowed to retain their state allowance or pension and, in addition, be paid a reasonable wage for services rendered. In this kind of work, the aged and crippled men and women and thousands of boys and girls can be utilized.

I think hon. members will be just about as distressed as I was when I tell them of two instances which came to my attention in the last year. One of them had to do with a man who served in the last war, and who is receiving a war veteran's allowance. This man was skilful in the production of poultry. I believe the finest poultry establishment I ever saw, and the best results from poultry I have known, were through the efforts of this man. At the same time he was able to work, and gladly. He told me he dared not produce more than just so many eggs, because the inspector came around every year and nosed into all his affairs to find out whether he sold an extra egg, or whether he possibly had obtained two cents more than the amount of the money he was allowed to earn before being rendered liable to cancellation of his war veteran's allowance. This man lives in Lethbridge. He was taken by a certain farmer to his farm to pick carrots. He said to me, "I can do a good day's work in the field," and he told me the number of days he worked bringing in carrots. At the end of a certain number of days and a certain number of hours he quit working on the carrots, because by that time he had earned all the money he could be allowed to earn, without losing his war veterans' allowance.

I ask any hon. member this question: When in the department of which the minister has charge such conditions as that exist, how can he possibly assume and assert that this country is exerting its maximum war effort in production. There are tens of thousands of men in that class.

Here is another example—and I will not tell where this man lives, although he happens to live in my constituency. He is seventy-three years of age, but hale and hearty, because he has lived well. He has been a hard worker all his life, and is still able to do a lot of hard work. In response to the urgent call for help this man went into the fields to stook grain. He was urged by the man employing him to go on stooking, and to do other work, with the result that he earned a few dollars more than he was permitted under the regulations governing old age pensions. As I stand here

[Mr. Blackmore.]

now I am mortified, humiliated and ashamed to think I had to have that man tell me that they had cut off his old age pension.

It is time the minister set a whole body of people to work cleaning house and scrapping a whole collection of silly, useless regulations which are trammeling and impeding this country's war effort right and left from the top to the bottom. I believe if he will do that he will find a great deal of the man-power difficulty will be cleared up.

I read again:

We have men, material and national resources, but we lack the medium to facilitate production and distribution. That medium is money and credit. The banks and other lending institutions do not function. Therefore parliament must exercise its power, release and govern a systematic flow of money and credit, which is the life-blood of civilization, and thus make it possible for farmers to do their bit in providing food.

The banks are lending money now much more freely than they have been for a long time. But still there are scores; yes, I suppose there are hundreds of thousands of men who are unable to get the credit they need to establish themselves in a way which would enable them to produce. This quotation justifies the statement I make. I read further:

Well, if the government will provide parity prices for farm products, farmers will be "good risks", for borrowing purposes.

The writer has been discussing the fact that a banker has said that because a certain farmer has lost everything he is no longer a good risk, and is therefore unable to borrow.

I find a good many most attractive passages in this publication. This one, for instance, appears at page 2:

In Saskatchewan the farmers are being persuaded to sign quit claims and to become tenants, which is perhaps more peaceful and not so costly a method of bringing about the transfer from ownership to tenancy.

Why is that condition permitted to exist? Because the Minister of Finance does not see how he can remedy the matter, and he fails to see how he can remedy it because he is bound by restrictions of an absolutely out-moded financial system. It is not that there are not enough resources and men in this country to remedy that situation. The only difficulty is that the money is not available.

Referring to page 4, so as to give another aspect of the farmers' troubles, I find that prairie wheat production in 1917 was 233,742,850 bushels, while in 1941 it was 279,000,000 bushels. Hon. members will note that this is almost 46,000,000 bushels more in 1941. Let us see what the income was. The average net price per bushel in 1917 was \$1.94, while the average net price in 1941 was 50 cents. The