

public opinion, just as they did in connection with doing something about our war effort. I am glad to see that this has happened. In order that I may not be accused, as have other hon. members in the past, of asking for something for the wheat growers of western Canada and not including the farmers in other parts of Canada, I want to say that I include the farmers of eastern and central Canada in what I have to say to-night. The farmers in all parts of Canada have been mistreated for the past number of years. They are the easy prey of those who are well organized. Those who are well organized have certainly taken full advantage of their position.

In days gone by we have had some hon. members, particularly the hon. member for Wellington North (Mr. Blair), and the hon. member for Wood Mountain (Mr. Donnelly), try to tell us something about farming. I would say to those gentlemen that a little learning is a dangerous thing, drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring. It reminds me of something I read not many days ago, that old maids know more about raising children than do the mothers of the children. In other words, professional politicians know best how to run other people's businesses. I commend these sayings to these hon. gentlemen. I hope they do not worry too much about farmers' business until they learn just a little more about it. I am now referring to gentlemen farmers, those fellows who raise nothing but their hats. If they want to do something about the matter, let them get out on a farm and obtain actual experience, which they certainly have not to-day. I could refer to other hon. gentlemen, but I do not think it is worth while doing so and I have not the time. All this is just a sample of what has happened in this house, and I think it is about time people awoke to the truth and got down to business.

Ever since coming here in 1936, the group to which I belong has steadily advocated cost of production for the products of the farm. Again I say that this should apply not only to the west but to all of Canada. We know that the farmers of eastern and central Canada should have a living just as the farmers of the west. If Canada is to prosper, our farmers must first be prosperous. Without that, the prosperity of Canada cannot be permanent. As long as the farmer's purchasing power is depleted, he cannot buy. You can go into stores in the west and you will see signs over the cash registers saying, "please do not ask for credit." The people who are producing the wealth of Canada should not have to ask for credit. They should receive enough from their labour to guarantee them a decent stand-

[Mr. Fair.]

ard of living, something which they do not have to-day.

As I say, we have advocated cost of production and a reasonable profit. That is not asking too much. I quoted figures on more than one occasion which indicated that when farmers get an average crop and a fair price, industry generally in Canada is booming. The railroads have more to do than they have when crops and prices are poor. On more than one occasion I gave figures to show that when the farmer was receiving an average price of around \$1.30 to \$1.40 a bushel for wheat, he bought no less than \$2,000,000 worth of farm implements in eastern Canada. In 1932 and 1933, when prices were ruinously low, those purchases were restricted to just over \$8,000,000, or ten per cent of what they had been in good times. Because of the conditions under which we have been labouring for a number of years, farmers' implements are almost worn out; and when I heard an hon. member speaking the other day of the government gathering up the junk of western Canada, I thought there would be a very great addition to that junk pile if only the farmers had a decent price for their wheat so that they could buy modern, up-to-date machinery.

For the past crop we have received in my locality up to the present 51 cents a bushel for No. 1 wheat. Those of us who were fortunate enough to harvest No. 1 wheat are getting that, but thousands of farmers out there were not so fortunate, and hon. members can gain some idea, from the price spreads quoted this evening by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley), what those other fellows received.

I am not asking that any particular price be paid, but I do contend that the government should figure out the cost of growing wheat—I think they are able to do that just as well as they can estimate the cost of an aeroplane or a battleship—and if they added as little as five per cent profit, although that profit limitation was removed in connection with industry last August by order in council, we farmers will have no complaint whatever. Indeed, I believe we would be well satisfied. We would not be found lacking in patriotism and going on a sit-down strike if we got that much, although the manufacturers of Canada did so.

Mr. HOMUTH: Now, let us be fair about that.

Mr. FAIR: I have been "fair" for over forty years. We shall not come within the class of which the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) spoke on the 8th of Septem-