

our Eastern friends have been advocating for years, namely, putting the farmers of the West into mixed farming as much as possible. If we can get them into these other grains we are doing something to encourage mixed farming.

There may be some criticism in this Chamber and the other, as well as in Eastern Canada, of the amount of money which is being appropriated to maintain agriculture in Western Canada. There will always be a difference of opinion as to whether that policy is right or wrong. I am not going to enter any controversy as between Eastern Canada and Western Canada. I do know that because of the needs in Great Britain to-day the British farmer is being bonused to raise many food-stuffs; and for many years assistance has been given in the United States to all types of agriculture—cotton and tobacco in the south, and other forms of farming in the mid-west.

Western Canada is not to blame for the situation which exists there to-day. The whole of Canada is responsible for the settlement of Western Canada. People went into lands in the West that are good only for raising wheat, and we either have to keep those people there and allow them to raise what they can, or else make them a charge upon the country and give them relief through the provincial governments, the Federal Government assisting. I believe that this Bill is along the line of what most people want. The bankers and industrialists who are acquainted with Western Canada know that anything which tends towards diversified agriculture in the West is an advance, and I believe that sooner than we expect we shall pass through the period when anything of this nature will have to be placed on the Statute Book from year to year, because the farmer will have learnt that it is to his advantage to do what this law is encouraging and has been encouraging.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: May I offer just a word or two on this Bill? Last year we had a wheat acreage reduction which was brought about by a vote of the House of Commons. This year the Government is bringing about the same thing by means of legislation. It is estimated that in 1940 we sowed twenty-nine million acres into wheat in Canada. Through the acreage reduction plan of the Government last year that acreage of wheat was reduced to twenty million acres. But in spite of the reduction of nine million acres we still have a large surplus of wheat in Canada. The wheat question is national in its scope, because the whole economy of Canada is dependent to a very large extent on the wheat production of Western Canada. In years gone by I have

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met many industrialists who told me that business was good in their line of activity provided Western Canada had a good wheat crop.

Now, in order to induce the farmers to continue the reduction in the number of acres sowed to wheat, the Government is continuing the acreage reduction bonuses. The Government's purpose in doing this is to induce the farmers to produce a cereal which will be consumed on the farm and sold on the hoof. That is the main principle behind this legislation. If we can achieve that result, we may be able to reduce the carry-over and at the same time induce our farming population to produce a commodity for which there is a market and a demand.

This legislation, or the principle of this legislation, was in effect for the year 1941. I saw it in operation. It was not perfect, but, on the whole, if in that year we had had the weather conditions we had in 1940 and there had been no wheat-reduction legislation, there would have been a tremendous surplus in this country, and it would have been a much heavier burden than it is to-day.

Flax was included, not at the request of the farmers, but because it was asked for by the people who produce linseed oil. They claimed that the fixing of the price of flax at \$2.25 a bushel, and bonusing it to the extent of \$2 an acre, would produce this linseed flax.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: It has been produced for the last twenty-five years.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: I may tell the honourable gentleman that if he will come to Western Canada with me and start growing flax he will be broke in five years.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: I believe that.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: I do not know anybody who has grown flax continuously on his farm and has not gone broke. And growing it pretty nearly broke my back, because there are weeds to deal with. If you put land in flax this year, you must summer-fallow next year, even if it is new land, because in the year following flax you cannot sow any kind of cereal and have a crop.

As I say, flax was included because oil was needed by the industrialists and for the war effort; and the \$2 bonus is to induce the farmer to try to grow flax.

Hon. R. B. HORNER: Honourable senators, I wish to make a remark or two, and to inject something new into this discussion. The honourable senator from Peel (Hon. Mr. Marshall) spoke of "a large amount of money" in connection with this Act. So far as the coming year is concerned, there will be a very