

made by no less an authority than Dr. Mackintosh of Queen's university, who is reported on page 88 as follows:

With respect to the wheat board, I very much question if there is any definable attitude in the east towards the wheat board—that is in the east as a whole. There is concern, I would say, at a guaranteed price above the market price as a proposed, if it is to be proposed, permanent policy. Not because the west is getting too much, but because it seems to have no stable foundation under it.

I believe that the few remarks which I have made with regard to it, associated with the inequalities of its distribution, will bear out the contention of Doctor Mackintosh that there is no stable foundation under a policy of that kind.

Then I turn to the statements made by Professor Hope, who has been quoted many times in this house, with regard to the same matter. I quote two sentences only from page 240:

One more word I might say about the present system of bonus this year. This year it may cost the federal government \$60,000,000—we do not know—but whatever it is, personally I think it is about the most unfair kind of bonus you can possibly give western agriculture, because it gives a definite bonus to the man with a big crop and nothing to the man with a crop failure.

So there you have two outstanding authorities—one who had been closely associated with one of our western universities before coming east, and the other still closely associated with one of our western universities, giving their opinion with regard to the 18 cent bonus as it was made effective through the 80-cent price during the present year.

Then with regard to Professor Hope's discussions as contained in his paper read to the conference at Winnipeg, from page 146 to page 153, something has been said as to what he figured to be the cost of producing wheat. I would call attention to his statement on page 148 where he says:

The balance of the income is about equally divided between sales of coarse grains and live stock and live stock products.

That is, he says that 85 to 90 per cent of the cash income of the farmers in a certain section of the west, particularly Saskatchewan, comes from producing wheat, and the remainder is about equally divided between coarse grains and live stock. But here is the point which is important:

The long time, 1918-1937, average yield of wheat in these zones has been 11 bushels for the brown soil zone and 11.6 bushels for the dark brown soil zone. The extreme variability of climatic conditions in these two zones is indicated by the brown soil zone average yield of wheat of six bushels from 1929 to 1937, which was only 40 per cent of the average yield

of 15 bushels from 1918 to 1928. In the dark brown soil zone the average yield of wheat was 7.3 bushels from 1929 to 1937, or 48 per cent of the average yield from 1918 to 1928.

Mr. HAYHURST: Does that represent all western Canada?

Mr. GARDINER: The two areas of which he is there speaking represent the greater part of Saskatchewan.

Mr. HAYHURST: It is stated on page 198 that the dark brown soils gave fifteen bushels from 1930 to 1938.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, over a certain period. Then on page 151, Professor Hope was not dealing with the question of the cost of producing wheat. The heading of that section of this paper is this, "Cost of production of wheat in relation to present indebtedness." That is, he is trying to figure out for that conference at what price the farmer would require to be able to sell his wheat in order to pay debts which had been incurred in certain districts in the western part of Canada; and the figures which have been quoted most frequently in this house are the figures contained in the second paragraph on page 151, where he points out this:

On the basis of average yields of wheat of 20 bushels per acre (1918-30) for the Regina plains and Rosetown area—

Those are the best land areas in Saskatchewan.

—the costs of production are approximately 55 cents per bushel for the half section farm, 44 cents for the section farm and 34 cents for a two section power farm with tractor, combine and truck.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Would the minister read on?

Mr. GARDINER: I am going to read it all in a moment, but I want to comment on this. There has been considerable discussion of that point every time that 40 or 50 or 30 cents has been mentioned in connection with the cost of producing wheat at 20 bushels an acre. Someone has said that is on the best land in Saskatchewan—and it is. But I should like to remind my friends from the western part of Canada that even in 1904, when I went to the city of Regina and stood upon the station platform and looked out to the north, the greater part of those lands which now are regarded as the best wheat lands in the western part of Canada were not under cultivation. They were hummocky lands, and you would almost lose yourself in the cracks as you went out across those lands in a dry season. They were heavy gumbo, and the men who first went into western Canada loaded up their wagons and drove out to the lands in