

Farm Machinery

not help the small farmer; we said, the small wheat farmer.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Roxburgh: I will accept that correction, Mr. Speaker, because I say that the small wheat farmer is equally as important as the small eastern farmer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Roxburgh: I think it is very well known that the average small farmer, whether he lives in British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta, the midwest, the east or the far east, has a very, very diversified business. He is concerned with growing crops, both grain and field crops such as potatoes, tomatoes, fruit and so on, as well as feeding livestock and poultry. Therefore he is given the opportunity by the bill to grow a much needed cash crop.

Take, for example, the farmer who might want to grow four or five acres of potatoes. To grow four or five acres of potatoes requires planting machinery; it requires spraying machinery; it requires harvesting machinery. It is utterly impossible for the small farmer to buy all the machinery that is needed to plant and harvest five acres of potatoes. Five acres of potatoes may not seem much to our big growers of wheat in the west. However, Mr. Speaker, five acres of potatoes, or tomatoes or whatever it may be, does mean a certain cash crop that is so much needed by the small farmer today to help keep him in business. By borrowing money for this type of machinery he can grow this type of crop.

With regard to a group of three or more farmers getting together to buy this type of machinery, the opposition has said this is a syndicate, that this smacks of communism. Don't tell me that three of your good western wheat farmers or three of our farmers in the east, or wherever they may be, are going to be put in the communist class if they get together to buy some machinery to better themselves in life. That is a really laughable suggestion.

I mentioned briefly that three or four farmers can use this type of machinery with which to grow potatoes. There are many, many types of machinery that will help the farmer, and the big farmer also, but I will mention only two or three individual pieces of machinery. One is the new pelleting hay machine. The average small farmer cannot handle one of these, but a group of three, four or five farmers can. I am a farmer my-

self; I admit that there are certain types of crops that it is very difficult to handle by means of co-operative machinery, but there are other types of crops that are quite easily handled in this way. I would mention the corn harvester, for example. Every farmer has a wagon and a tractor of his own, but with a corn harvester they can pick any time of the year and three, four, five or twenty farmers can get together and buy a harvester and so better themselves.

There is one thing, Mr. Speaker, that a great many people have not taken into consideration, but this has been proven in Europe. I refer to the high powered feed mill, for example. A group of farmers can get together and buy one of these mills with the aid of the finances provided through this bill. There may be enough farmers to enable them to put a man in charge of this piece of machinery and so save themselves \$3 or \$4 a ton. This saving alone may determine whether they are going to be successful and make money out of the operation.

I mentioned the syndicate arrangement earlier. It was mentioned by members across the way that farmers could not co-operate in this regard and therefore this arrangement would not work. Hon. members opposite who are farmers know much better than that. They know that farmers are the most co-operative group of people in the world today. I know this is so, not just because I am a farmer but because I have been concerned with the federation of agriculture and with farm groups, etc. I have worked with farmers all my life, and they are the only group of people in which this arrangement could really work.

I would like to illustrate how a group of farmers in any area can work together. There was a group of five farmers in my own community. Like every other group of farmers they wanted to buy the type of machinery that hon. members opposite have been discussing. They bought a piece of machinery, and John had it this week, or today; Bill had it another week; John broke something and Bill had to fix it. In other words it just did not work. However, being a group of farmers, did they get mad at each other and throw the whole arrangement up in the air and say it could not work? No; they used their intelligence.

I should like to tell the house what they did. Don't tell me this arrangement cannot work, because this group of farmers are living proof that it can and they are carrying on this arrangement today. One man of the group