

serviced by 135,000 farm operators with whatever help they can get on those places.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. And greatly increased production?—A. Yes, they have greatly increased production, and I think you have got to keep this in mind all the time. Do not think it is only because of increased prices. Take your mind back to 1940 and there was no increase in prices then. The nation called, "We want hogs to fill the contract with Britain; we want to feed the people of Britain; we want to feed our sons we have sent over to Britain; we want to do these things; we want this, that and the other thing." The program was entered into to reduce the production of wheat because wheat was a thing that was not so urgently demanded at that time. The people responded. There is not any question about it. Why? Was it just to be able to get a dollar? I want to tell you, gentlemen, that these people in the prairie provinces who came from Czecho-Slovakia, came from Norway, came from Sweden, came from Denmark, came from England, Scotland, Holland, and other nations you can think of, and Ukrainians particularly, have an intense desire to rise to the patriotic call. It is not that they all want to get rich or anything of that kind. They are not getting rich even at the present prices. True there are a good many of them who have wiped mortgages off during the past two years. I know we have had men come into our office and they have got to a place they never were able to get to in their lives. They say, "Look, I would like to get the mortgages cleared off this quarter-section if I can". He is more particular to get it cleared off the quarter-section his humble home is on. He wonders if there is anything we can do. We negotiate with the company that is concerned. We possibly get a little cut in it because he comes in. What does he come in with? Not any farther back than a month ago a man came into our office and he said, "I had some correspondence with Mr. so and so". This quarter-section of land happened to be held by a Catholic priest in the United States. He said, "I have a thousand dollars". I said, "Let us go across and see the agent". We went across and saw the agent. The agent held the title. The agent said he would arrange the transfer of the title immediately. That man opened a handkerchief and he had a thousand dollars and four cents in it in dollar bills, wheat cheques, cream cheques, the whole thing was there. He was the happiest man you ever knew in your life when he went off with the knowledge that the humble little home he had with the roof over his head was his. That is how he felt about it. Things have got a little better, but anyone who tries to tell you that farmers are living in a field of clover because prices have been enhanced a little during the past two years, and that they are in the lap of luxury, is wrong. He has got a long way to go.

Mr. KINLEY: I never heard that suggested.

Mr. BLACKMORE: There are two or three other questions I should like to ask.

The CHAIRMAN: Hasten on, Mr. Blackmore.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Yes.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. Mr. Bickerton, if you were the manager of a government-owned bank you would not lend money without limit, as you indicated yesterday? You would have some limiting factor?—A. Well, I would always hope that we would have men in government or men that would be appointed by government—

Q. Probably good bankers.—A. —who would have intelligence and would be good bankers.