

of the fact that this year we brought it down so early, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) rose in his place to raise some objection based upon a statement which came from the west with regard to the announcement which was made on the first working day of this session. But I am happy to be able to say to the house to-day that the organization which met in Calgary met the government again to-day, and indicated in their statement that they have received an explanation from the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon), who made the original announcement, which is entirely satisfactory to them.

So much for the announcements. The government has not stopped at planning and at making early announcements of the programme for the succeeding year; we have also given financial assistance by way of subsidies. I am not going to discuss the question of subsidies at any length, but assistance has been given by the payment of a part of the freight upon fertilizer, in order that farms may produce more than otherwise would be the case. Assistance has been given through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act and the wheat acreage reduction scheme, in order to increase the production of grass and to bring water to land that otherwise could not produce live stock. Assistance has been given by paying part of the freight on feed grain from Fort William to eastern Canada. This freight and fertilizer assistance has cost the government from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 and has been of great help in increasing production in various parts of this country. I should add that this assistance was not given only to the movement of grain eastward and the movement of fertilizer within the eastern section of Canada; it also has been given in the province of British Columbia. In recent months, since the United States entered the war, it has been the custom of officials of the departments of agriculture of the United States and Canada to meet from time to time and coordinate the efforts of the two countries in the production of the foodstuffs necessary to the most vigorous prosecution of the war by the allied nations.

Perhaps now for a few moments I might dwell upon the results of the efforts which have been made to obtain greater production. Someone has spoken of shortages. What is the basis of the production of all animal products in this or any other country? Is it not the feed available for the production of live stock? When one looks at it from another point of view one realizes that while wheat is the basic cereal food of the people of Canada and of those who live in Great Britain and the United States, there are many

European countries in which wheat is not the basic cereal food. Barley, rye—even oats, in Scotland—are very important cereal food products in other countries. What is the position in Canada? Not only are our elevators bulging with the wheat that is stored in them; the bins of the farms are running over. Much of the coarse grain of this country is piled in heaps on the prairies, and some of the bountiful crop which was produced in Canada last year is not yet harvested. Still some people talk about shortages in Canada. We have wheat; we have oats; we have barley; we have rye; we have flax, all in surpluses so great that now the farmer is concerned as to how he can turn his grain into cash in order that he may go on and produce a crop next year.

I make that statement in order to emphasize another point. Last night the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross) delivered a speech which displayed a vision of the future upon which I think he is to be congratulated. But I should like to emphasize the fact that it takes eight pounds of grain to produce one pound of beef, and five pounds of grain to produce one pound of pork. Under emergency conditions a man can live just as long on a pound of grain as on a pound of meat. If the task before this country is that which was outlined to us last night, as I am sure it is, the task of storing in this country foods which will enable us to assist those who will be joining our ranks as we advance toward victory, there is no food product that can be stored in Canada which will do more in that direction than cereal products such as barley, oats, rye and wheat. In other words under emergency conditions a man can be maintained at least five times as long by feeding him grain than by feeding him meat products produced from the grain.

I mention this in order to indicate that we in this country are fortunate in being producers of a product which can be stored so easily. The great task before us at the moment, Mr. Speaker, is to produce food in order that we may assist in winning the war. And while I am hopeful that the war may end much earlier than I really think it will, basing my conclusions upon a survey of the world as I see it to-day, I think all will agree that we must put forth an effort in every line of activity in order to see to it that the efforts which have been made by Russia, and by United States and British troops in the northern part of Africa during the last few months, may materialize in a push in the future which will bring this war to an end earlier than we expect.