

compete with any country in world markets because the quality of our wheat is still there. It is still an asset. But we must develop a protein grading system that will let us offer some of our wheat for sale on a guaranteed protein basis. Western Canada would be a lot happier if this government showed more signs of moving toward what is a desired goal. Even the minister in charge of the Wheat Board admitted on his return from London that the selling of wheat on a guaranteed protein basis was a necessity. So let the government hurry along with this desired reform.

A second area about which I should like to say a word is the handling of our rapeseed crop. Rapeseed, a Cinderella crop in past years, is in the opinion of many an agricultural crop that may have some future. The crop this year amounted to 40 million bushels. There is talk of being able to sell abroad up to 100 million bushels. Whether this is possible remains to be seen. We have not gone about the exploitation of this crop in a manner which would indicate that it had much future. Delivery at our ocean ports has been very slow. In Vancouver, for instance, there is a reservation of only 1,500,000 bushels for rapeseed. There has been no so-called free rapeseed in Vancouver for months; it has all been sold for months previously. If a buyer of rapeseed wishes to take delivery at Vancouver he has to wait nine or ten weeks because with the quota system, the block system of transportation and the shortage of cleaning facilities at Vancouver, it takes that long for the rapeseed to be obtained from the farmer's bin and moved to the ocean port.

● (12:20 a.m.)

This year there has been a world shortage of edible oil crops. We do not seem to have taken all the advantage of this situation or to have been able to exploit the market to the fullest. This may be because the Wheat Board is in charge of quotas and shipping yet is not involved in selling. Last fall there were persistent reports of sales of flaxseed being lost because flax was not available at ocean ports. Perhaps this was overemphasized, but the uneasy feeling remains that the Wheat Board did not do nearly as good a job as it might have done in this situation.

In the matter of feed grains it is necessary to pursue an aggressive policy. Last year in the world markets we only sold 26 million bushels of barley. This year's exports are con-

fidently expected to be much more. What is the difference? It seems to be that in the markets of the world we are now pricing our barley at a realistically competitive price. It is a lower price, but at least we are selling barley. Had such a policy been followed last year it is quite likely we could have done much better.

Those are only a few of the areas which could well be talked about. There are many areas in which much remains to be done. We have only really begun to think of what should be done in our sales areas. The government has become expressively legalistic and managing in its approach to the problems of western agriculture. The minister talks about export production, sales and how each would be balanced exactly. The government believes the farmers can be made into ciphers and that they will respond like trained ants. How wrong can the government be? If this is to be the main thrust of government policy, it leaves much to be desired; it is a pale shadow of what should be done. Western agriculture will have to wait longer before the minister will bring it to the promised land.

I suggest that the regulations suggested last Friday seem quite complex and difficult. I hope the minister will make every effort to publicize them, because each farmer will have to decide what the regulations mean to him. Let me close by reading what Premier Thatcher is quoted as having said, by the *Western Producer* of Thursday, February 26 at page 2:

"Because of the farm crisis, he said, there is a 'bitterness abroad in the Prairies which is somewhat frightening. I must tell this conference that unless far-reaching steps are taken soon, the agricultural industry of western Canada could be ruined for a decade.

With this in mind, I hope the minister will watch the grain problem on the Prairies.

**Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to be here tonight to take part in this very important debate on a topic that concerns me very much. Let me refer briefly to one of the editorials in a western paper today, the *Winnipeg Tribune*, which states:

The best that can be said for the Ottawa scheme to curtail wheat growing is that it is better than nothing. The scheme may ease a desperate situation temporarily but it offers no permanent solution to the problems confronting Prairie grain farmers nor is it in any way a substitute for a federal long-term agricultural policy.

I think that sums it up fairly well. No doubt there are a few farmers who may capi-