

are worse off than the grain producers. Many of them came from the United States, and hundreds in my district have gone back to the States.

Mr. BROWN: Reference has been made to the districts that have not suffered from the climatic conditions. I realize how hard it is for the people who live in the East to understand the situation out West. Let me give you an illustration. I visited a man in northern Manitoba a year ago—and this district does not suffer from climatic conditions—and he told me that he had raised 17,000 bushels of oats and barley. He told me that in spite of that he would have been better off if he had been idle. We from the West do not find that hard to understand. The high cost of threshing and the freights made it impossible for him to sell these products at a profit. Then take the wages that have to be paid. All this emphasizes the need for some measure to meet a temporary situation. We have to pay very high wages. Everybody knows the difficulty of reducing wages. We are up against it in the Civil Service, and we are up against it on the farm. This is a temporary position that we are in. The farmer simply cannot pay the high wages that are asked, and the men who have had the high wages will not take less. That is the situation that confronts us. With regard to mixed farming, we are also up against the question of wages. We find it almost impossible to get help for our dairies. I may give you an illustration from my own experience. Last year I sold nineteen head of cattle—some of them were four-year-old steers that I had carried over hoping to get a better market, and some of them were smaller cattle, but in the main they were good cattle—and it took these nineteen head of cattle and \$125 besides to pay the hired man's wages for a year. It is impossible for us to continue under such conditions. We have tried to emphasize the fact that this is a temporary situation and it is largely because of the situation which prevails in regard to wages. We simply cannot get the help that is necessary to carry on dairying. I submit that these facts are worthy the consideration of this committee.

Mr. BRETHEN: There seems to be a feeling that we in the East do not understand the situation in the West, and that therefore we are not in sympathy with the measure proposed to the same extent as the people in the West. But it seems to me that the principle of intelligent marketing of wheat will ultimately concern the marketing of practically all foodstuffs. The question of intelligent marketing—that is putting foodstuffs on the market in a steady flow, or putting them on the market so as not to cause a slump—we are all familiar with the slump that has taken place in the sale of pork—affects the consumer quite as much as it does the producer. Therefore, while this principle concerns us to-day with regard to the marketing of wheat, it is a principle which will concern every one of us, and the consumer as well, in the marketing of all foodstuffs. I believe that we are face to face with the problem of co-operative selling of dairy products. A gentleman was brought from California to explain this system of marketing different food products, and while this measure may seem to concern only the western farmers it does concern us or will concern us all in a very short time. Therefore, we should be entirely in sympathy with getting all the information we can in regard to intelligent marketing.

Mr. SEXSMITH: While the condition of the farmers has been described we do not want it to go out that this board is to be particularly in the interests of one class but that it is related to the other great fundamental interests of Canada. The question is, is Canada going to encourage the production of the one thing that is very essential—the production of hard wheat. Is Canada going to encourage the production of wheat in her great wheat belt, or is she going to legislate to discourage it? If we discover that this is the best thing to safeguard and encourage that particular industry, then the Government should legislate in that direction.

Mr. WARNER: Mr. Chairman, I have listened with a great deal of interest to what has been stated by the several speakers who have appeared before this committee,

[Mr. J. A. Maharg.]