

porary appointments that may be required notwithstanding anything contained in the Civil Service Act, \$35,000,000.

Mr. LEADER: I am sure that my constituents will expect me to have something to say on this vital question of reduction in wheat acreages. Having spent all my life on the farm, for over half a century working and tilling the soil, I should know something about farming; and so far as the wheat problem is concerned, I have solved that problem for myself. Years ago we decided to curtail our wheat acreage and to go into more diversified farming, and I am glad to be able to say that after twenty-two years in the cattle business, the wheat problem does not worry me at all. I believe that the same thing could be said of thousands, yes thousands, of farmers in the Canadian northwest, that those who have taken up diversified farming have been able to stand up in the trying times that we have endured in the last ten years.

The memories of hon. members may go back to November 21 of last year to the speech I made in this house outlining what I thought the government should do with regard to the wheat problem. At that time I took the stand that we had come to the position where the farmers themselves must realize that we cannot continue to raise wheat in this country to the same extent that we have done in late years. This huge surplus must be reduced if we are to have any hope of ever getting the price up to where it should be.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Honour, the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, the house went up to the Senate.

And having returned,

Mr. SPEAKER informed the house that the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General had been pleased to give in His Majesty's name the royal assent to the following bills:

An act to authorize an agreement between His Majesty the King and the corporation of the city of Ottawa.

An act to amend the Meat and Canned Foods Act. (fish and shellfish)

An act to amend the Precious Metals Marking Act.

An act respecting the appointment of auditors for national railways.

An act to amend the Trans-Canada Air Lines Act, 1937.

An act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1942.

An act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1941.

An act for granting to His Majesty aid for national defence and security.

An act for granting to His Majesty aid for national defence and security.

SUPPLY

The house resumed in committee of supply, Mr. Fournier (Hull) in the chair.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fournier, Hull): When the proceedings were interrupted for the royal assent, we were considering item 422.

Mr. LEADER: Consequently I recommended a reduction in wheat acreage which would carry with it a higher initial price for the number of bushels which we were allowed to deliver. I also recommended that farm storage be continued on an equal basis of payment to that made to line elevators. I also urged that a policy be announced by the government as soon as possible, in order that farmers might have this information and govern their seeding operations accordingly.

I went home shortly after I made that speech, as all hon. members did, and I undertook to hold meetings throughout my constituency. We had some six meetings. My constituents had digested my speech, and I assure the committee that they were fairly well satisfied with it. One thing I advocated in that speech was to lend some encouragement to the smaller farmers of the country. I advocated a higher initial price on a stated number of bushels which the government would take from each farmer, allowing the smaller farmers to contribute so much; and then if the government could take any wheat above that quota, they would take it from the larger farmers. I had no reason to think otherwise than I did in November last; so, when this policy that has been announced by the government fell upon my ears, it is reasonable to expect that I would have this reaction, namely, that I am not in favour of this policy, and I will try to give my reasons.

I believe that when the government announced that they were going to pay only 70 cents a bushel as an initial price on this year's crop, that that had the effect of lowering the price of wheat. On March 13, the day after the announcement was made, May wheat was selling in Winnipeg at 77½ cents, and Chicago wheat on that date was 85½ cents. On April 2, Winnipeg May wheat was selling at 76½ cents and Chicago wheat at 92½ cents. In other words,