

The bonuses, subsidies or subventions which may be necessary must be directed nationally to encourage in our agricultural export products higher quality, more standardized grade and greater regularity of supply.

Our agriculture has been haphazard in the past and it has now become local. It is sectional so far as western wheat is concerned; it is seasonal for the live stock producers in the east. It has grown to be almost political. We must encourage mixed farming by means of a national policy applicable to all parts of Canada, designed to stabilize prices in our great domestic market through the necessary national export assistance which we now know is so essential to meet the new form of competition in world markets. It is all very well in these last days of the session to let things go by the board and to neglect those issues that touch the very heart of Canadian prosperity. Do hon. members realize that even in old England they have spent \$40,000,000 to subsidize agriculture? Do they realize that in Italy and Germany, indeed in all the old countries of Europe, the governments have had bonus policies and have endeavoured by every means possible to make their countries self-sustaining? They have introduced a nationalized export policy with the result that to-day we in this dominion are faced with a situation such as we have never had to contend with in the past. Do hon. members know where Canada will sell its wheat in the future?

Mr. HAYHURST: This bill deals with products other than wheat.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): My hon. friends laugh. Let me say to the hon. member who has interrupted me that I have listened to his group talking wheat morning, noon and night.

Mr. BLACKMORE: That is what we came here for.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): Then you represent only one-fifth of Canadian agriculture. I have every regard for the wheat grower of western Canada—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): —and perhaps I have grown as much wheat as some of these hon. gentlemen who are laughing and who talk so much about it. But let me tell them that this country cannot survive by wheat alone. No country in the world which has had success in agriculture has depended upon wheat alone.

[Mr. W. E. Rowe.]

Mr. COLDWELL: It is Canada's greatest source of new wealth.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): It may be Canada's greatest source of new wealth for a few years, but I am reminded of those countries that have survived for 1,200 years in the production of agricultural commodities, countries that have maintained the fertility of their soil. I well recall a friend of mine who was here long before the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) became a member of parliament, and one night he said to me, "Earl, you don't know anything about western Canada—"

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): My hon. friends are laughing. I have been through western Canada and perhaps I know more about the west than some of them. This man said to me, "The day will never come when we will take less than a dollar for our wheat, nor will the day come when we shall be producing less than thirty-five bushels to the acre." Well, what has time proved? A few years ago he told me that his farm had been practically blown from under his feet.

Mr. MITCHELL: It must have been a pre-election year.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): Time will test the accuracy of the statements of these prophets from the prairies. I am truly amazed to find my hon. friends still clinging to the old and dusty doctrines of the free trade school. If ever a country stood in dire need of an economic council which would ascertain what was wrong with it internally, that country is the Dominion of Canada.

An hon. MEMBER: That is true.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin-Simcoe): Well, I am glad we are agreed on one thing at any rate. I suggest that the day has come when we should make an independent survey of this sort. That survey should be made not by the Liberals, not by the Social Credit party to my left, not by the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, but by the greatest party this country has ever had, the Conservative party. An economic council should survey conditions in Canada to find out whether it is wise to carry out a sectional policy for wheat for three or four provinces and a seasonal policy with regard to other products, whether it is wise to give a bonus for this or that product—

An hon. MEMBER: Or tariff protection?