

they are now about to be reconciled, and with a fair degree of unanimity have concluded that we have been suffering from general overproduction.

Addressing myself to the problem of the West, I find that the wheat acreage in the three Western Provinces in 1913 amounted to 9,895,000 acres; in 1919 to 17,500,000 acres. In the United States there were 48,000,000 acres under wheat in 1913, and 73,000,000 acres in 1919. Yet there was no increase in the total acreage of the world, by reason of the shortage in some of the warring countries. In spite of the increases in North America, the world equilibrium was still maintained in 1919.

In 1913 France produced 321,000,000 bushels of wheat. The production fell off, of course, during the War, but gradually worked up again to the same figure in 1921. After that year Europe forged rapidly ahead, France's production going up to 338,000,000 bushels in 1933. During the same period the production of Italy increased from 184,000,000 to 272,000,000 bushels; that of Germany from 131,000,000 to 192,000,000 bushels; Czechoslovakia's production increased from 38,000,000 to 66,000,000 bushels, and Sweden's from 8,000,000 to 29,000,000 bushels. In those countries alone there was an increase in 1933 of 215,000,000 bushels. And as they increased their production they were raising their tariffs.

While Europe was becoming self-sufficient, what was the situation in regard to our own wheat acreage between 1919 and 1933? In 1919 our acreage amounted to 17,500,000 acres; in 1926, to 21,800,000 acres; in 1928, to 23,159,000 acres; in 1932, to 26,395,000 acres. In 1933 there was a small decline to 25,177,000 acres.

Our carry-over in 1926 amounted to 36,000,000 bushels; in 1929 to 104,000,000 bushels; in 1932 to 131,000,000 bushels, and in 1933 to 212,000,000 bushels. The carry-over of the United States for 1929 amounted to 150,000,000 bushels; for 1930-31 to 200,000,000 bushels, and for 1932 to 360,000,000 bushels. With such an immense carry-over it is not surprising that prices went down.

Now, what was the situation in the East before we were faced with mass-production of wheat in the West? The regulation of prices in the eastern provinces, that is, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, was an individual problem; every farmer made his own readjustments, and his sole guide was the market. He carried on diversified farming. True, he had lean years, but during those years he lived off his farm.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

The mass-production of the West presents a new problem. So far I have heard of no individual readjustment in the West—later on we may hear from representatives of the West on this question—and the State has been called upon to help. Can it help indefinitely? I doubt it. States in general, where there has been mass-production, have felt that an effort should be made to regulate. The London Wheat Agreement may offer a solution, though, I confess, it seems difficult to apply. The right honourable gentleman (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) may tell us under what conditions this wheat limitation will take place—whether the farmers will be urged to contract their acreage voluntarily, or will be allowed a bonus, as is the case in the United States. In the United States 600,000 farmers have agreed to co-operate and are reducing the acreage by 8,000,000. This will represent a decrease in production of 100,000,000 bushels. It seems to me that the United States is moving in the direction of a permanent policy of control in order to prevent a recurrence of such a crisis as that through which we are passing. The question to my mind is: Can control replace the natural law of supply and demand? The near future will furnish the answer. If our Canadian farmers are asked to agree to reduce the acreage under crop by fifteen per cent, they naturally will ask the question, "What shall we produce instead that is marketable?"

This is, I recognize, a problem of great importance to the farmer. I suggest with due timidity—because I am sure, and I have heard it said before now, that the West is tired of taking advice from the East—that some part of that fifteen per cent of the present acreage which is to be withdrawn from wheat production should be used to provide for domestic needs. By putting questions to members of the Senate from the West I have been endeavouring to ascertain whether, when there is a failure in the wheat crop by reason of drought or from other causes, the Western farmer is self-sustaining and can live off his farm. We all know what takes place in the East. Every farmer grows corn, hay, vegetables, and keeps a cow or cows, hens, sheep and hogs. All I can do is compare the lots of our Eastern and Western farmers. Of course, as I have said, we have lean years in the East, but I have yet to learn that during such years the Eastern farmers have not been able to produce their three meals a day. I hear of crop failures in the West, and such news always strikes me as tragic. It is not so in the East.