

other banking institutions. And yet the farmers know more about banking institutions and their bookkeeping methods than the banker knows about the farmer and his problems, and I say that without fear of successful contradiction. The control of farm prices under the wartime prices and trade board is hampering the production of farm products. How could it be otherwise? The job of the wartime prices and trade board is to keep down prices, and with them production becomes a secondary consideration. I have witnesses with me to-day who can support that statement, and I am going to quote from a statement of a member of the wartime prices and trade board, Mr. F. S. Grisdale, acting food administrator, who, speaking at Calgary on January 30, is reported as follows:

"The only means available to the food administration for increasing supply was through the price incentive," he said, adding that the prices board might know something about the supply situation but might not know the viewpoint of the producers with regard to ceiling price on various commodities.

The farmers know the attitude towards them which has been adopted by many members of the wartime prices and trade board and they have resented and do resent the approach which has been made to their problems and the manner in which these have been dealt with. I say, Mr. Speaker, that too much power has been put into the hands of many of these men. I am not going into details to-day, but I should like to cite instances of a dictatorial attitude and of threatening by members of the wartime prices and trade board which I believe should not be tolerated.

The potato growers of British Columbia and the milk producers of the Fraser valley have been threatened that if they did not supply the market with potatoes and milk the prices board might take those products from them. I have before me a letter from a prominent farmer in which it is said that one man from the wartime prices and trade board,—Mr. Nadeau I do not know whether he knows anything about farming or about British Columbia — came out to British Columbia and told the farmers this. He said that the milk in the cow might belong to the cow but once you take the milk from the cow "we have the right to take it from you, and we might do so."

There are two ways of getting men to do their best. One is the German method and the other is our own, and we should be careful to see to it that we do not depart from the democratic standards which we value in this country. Anything in the form of threats

should not be tolerated. Last year I spoke of the power that was given to officials on the wartime prices and trade board. I now find myself in very good company, as I see that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Duff, must have something of the same sort in mind, because in his judgment issued recently he said:

There is always the risk of abuse when wide powers are committed in general terms to any body of men.

Perhaps attention will be paid to his remarks; I know that none was paid to mine when I warned the government last year. I do not wish just to criticize and leave the matter there. I wish to make certain suggestions to the government in regard to the food problem and how I think it should be tackled. First of all, set up a food ministry, to handle food production. Second, remove farm prices entirely from under the wartime prices and trade board. Third, I would have the dominion inaugurate and give leadership to a women's land army. I want to pause here to say a word on behalf of the women of this country.

It was my privilege as a member of the war expenditures committee to visit many aeroplane factories in Canada and I was astounded, first of all, at the large number of women who work in those factories, and secondly at the splendid work they are doing. I want to say to those men who still have old-fashioned ideas about the superiority of men that they had better take note of what these women are doing. They are doing a mighty fine job, and great credit is coming to them for it. Great Britain is employing some seven and a half million women in its war effort; when we talk about the effort of this country let us not forget that in Great Britain, with a population of 46,000,000, there are 23,000,000 persons employed in their war effort, over 7,000,000 of these being women. The question in Great Britain to-day is not what kind of work women can do, but what kind of work a woman cannot do. Women there are employed in almost every class of work. I suggest a women's land army in this country. Let me give a local instance to show how women have risen to the occasion.

When the Japanese were removed from the province of British Columbia some fear was expressed that the British Columbia canneries would lack their usual help. Efforts were made to bring in white girls. Fears were expressed at the outset as to whether they would do the work. There were some difficulties in the beginning, but after the cannery operators had provided proper conditions for the white