

Miss MACPHAIL: We will have to grow onions like Hepburn.

Mr. DUPUIS: They cannot grow anything but wheat in the greater part of the west.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): We should get down to facts instead of just fooling around with this matter. We should not say that we will allow 60 cents for wheat or 28 cents for cheese when we do not know the exact costs of production. Let us get down to a business basis and establish costs of production the same as is done in other industries.

Mr. GARDINER: Does my hon. friend think that in addition to regulating prices we can go so far as to say what cost a man must put on when producing a particular commodity?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I do not think we could say what cost he must put on, but we should find out what the costs are.

Mr. DUPUIS: That is quite different.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): We should have a yardstick with which to measure costs.

Mr. GARDINER: Is it not true that in producing a certain product one farmer might put on considerably more cost than another?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Surely, and then it depends a lot on the yield. One farm may be a poor farm, while a farm just across the road may be good. There would be a variation in costs, but there should be no question as to the average cost. When it is well established that the cost of production is over 60 cents, I do not think there should be any argument that the price should not be above that amount.

Mr. GARDINER: You would have to regulate it all. I think you would have to regulate the activities of the person who was producing in order to keep his costs of production at the level you have set.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I do not think you would have to regulate at all. It is just a matter of estimating the cost; and surely western Canada has done so much in regard to estimating costs of production that there should be no question about it.

We hear a great deal about over-production. Much has been said about stimulating the cheese industry. But if we do not give the west a fair deal there is no question that there will be a greater production of cheese in the west through creameries coming into the production of that commodity. We are continually complaining in this house about

surpluses of wheat and other agricultural products, yet every one of the immigrants who are being brought in—and I do not say that they should not come in, if the government sees fit—is being put on farms, and for what purpose? To increase what is already a surplus. That is not businesslike, it is not logical, it is not common sense.

Mr. DUPUIS: That is, assuming the farming to be on a commercial basis.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I assume that is the purpose of the government. These immigrants are being put on farms, not any place else; and you are causing them, whether they like it or not, to increase our already great surplus.

Mr. SENN: Would the hon. member put them in the cities?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I do not care where you put them, but why put them on the farms so that they can increase production and add to the already insurmountable surplus?

Mr. DUPUIS: If the hon. member will allow me, I will say that in eastern Canada the peasantry of Quebec—

Miss MACPHAIL: Not of Ontario.

Mr. DUPUIS: Well, maybe Ontario too.

Miss MACPHAIL: No, not Ontario.

Mr. DUPUIS: We do not want our peasants to make millions of dollars; we want them to find a way of life and bring up their children respectably.

Mr. COLDWELL: We do not want a peasantry.

Mr. DUPUIS: You want traders.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): We want people to have a decent living, but the policies proposed will put every farmer into the peasant class. That is the very thing we are objecting to.

Mr. DUPUIS: These immigrants would be glad to earn their own living on farms.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): But how are they going to earn their own living on farms when they cannot sell the products they raise?

An hon. MEMBER: They can eat them.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): They must sell their products at below cost.

An hon. MEMBER: They cannot eat all the wheat.