

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, the agreement is in force at the present time. We are this year operating on the two hundred million quota for Canada, subject of course to increase in certain contingencies. That is the position of affairs at the moment. That is, the crop year that ends on July 31, 1934, is to witness the marketing by Canada of not more than 200,000,000 bushels of wheat. As far as we can at present ascertain there will be less than that quantity required by the importing countries.

I would like to direct attention to one or two further considerations. If the provinces desire that the national government shall assist them to attain a given end, that end not being within their competence, I look upon it as the duty of the national government, the matter being of such importance, to lend assistance. The national government did so, by acting as I have indicated. It is apparent to any thoughtful man who takes the trouble to read the information available, and from the survey that has been made by a Canadian, Mr. Cairns, the secretary of the advisory committee that was set up to remain constantly in action, the position is just as it was in August only that some of the countries in Europe have produced a somewhat larger quantity of wheat than was expected.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Has Russia come in yet?

Mr. BENNETT: Russia executed the agreement, yes. It was left to the exporting countries to determine the extent of the Russian quota on the assumption that 560,000,000 bushels would be the entire quantity imported by the importing countries. Russia contended that she had a larger quantity to sell than the other countries said was available for export. I believe Russia has exported some 25,000,000 bushels so far during the present crop year, and in every respect the provisions of the agreement with respect to the exporting countries have been observed. The report read to this house yesterday by the right hon. gentleman from the Citizen, is, I think, manifestly unfair. It was obviously a statement made up by a reporter. He gave no warrant in any sense for what he had written, and I say it was not a correct statement of the situation. When the provincial premiers were here we did discuss this matter, except that Mr. MacPherson represented Saskatchewan and not Mr. Anderson, who was busy with the Minister of Finance at the moment. The conclusions at which we arrived after the fullest investigation were that nothing had transpired that in any sense im-

proved the situation over what it was when the agreements were made. The provinces remain firm in their conviction that the only way in which they can meet these difficulties is by seeing that the surplus is absorbed, which means that they will lessen their production.

Mr. BROWN: Would the Prime Minister give particulars of the methods employed by the government in putting the agreement into force, as he says they are doing?

Mr. BENNETT: There is no necessity for employing any methods at the moment, because until there is some indication that the two hundred million will be exceeded business goes on in its ordinary way. There has been no restriction of any kind because the demand has not been such as would require it.

Mr. DONNELLY: Does the shipping year end in July?

Mr. BENNETT: No, but they adjust their business as of that date, because as the hon. gentleman knows it is summer in one country when it is winter in another. All these adjustments have been taken into consideration in arriving at the agreement.

Mr. VALLANCE: Would the Prime Minister tell us how much the carry-over of Canada is this year?

Mr. BENNETT: The carry-over of Canada began to accumulate in 1929. Those of you who recall what took place at the opening of parliament that year will remember that in the speech from the throne the Prime Minister of the day indicated that the major part of the wheat crop of the year was still in the hands of the Canadian people. The accumulated surplus exceeded 200,000,000 bushels, as the hon. gentleman knows better than I, beginning to accumulate in 1929. Last year we spoke of it as 220,000,000 bushels, the figure being, I think, some 219,000,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask the Prime Minister one question before he leaves this subject? I ask it because I find difficulty in discovering an answer. How does it come that Canada is bound by an agreement which vitally affects the agricultural policy of the whole country, and which agreement this House of Commons has not had opportunity either to approve or to consider?

Mr. BENNETT: In exactly the same way as delegates from this country negotiated the West Indies agreement, that involves us in a loss of a million dollars a year. The