

I should like to give some figures with respect to the production of coarse grains as compared with wheat. I do not intend to burden the house with a lot of figures; I shall give the figures for just four years to show that the coarse grains have maintained their averages in production much better than has wheat. Of course this may be owing to the drought condition. At any rate, I will put on record the production for four years. In 1927 we produced 400,000,000 bushels of wheat and 250,000,000 bushels of coarse grains; in 1931 we produced 284,000,000 bushels of wheat and 240,000,000 bushels of coarse grains; in 1933 we produced 263,000,000 bushels of wheat and 228,000,000 bushels of coarse grains, and in 1934 we produced 260,000,000 bushels of wheat and 220,000,000 bushels of coarse grains. The coarse grains maintained their average of production possibly better than wheat did. In 1933 we produced 50,000,000 bushels of barley in the prairie provinces and in 1934 we produced 45,000,000 bushels. Those of course were drought years. Exports for 1933 were only 10,000,000 bushels of barley, whereas in 1932 we had one of our largest exports, about 25,000,000 bushels. We have never exported more than half the barley we have produced in the west, but there is every reason to believe that in the next few years we shall be exporting more of this kind of grain.

There is reason to believe that there will be an increase in the production of coarse grains. Under drought conditions more coarse grains than wheat can be produced. Coarse grains may be seeded later in a dry spring, because after it has become too dry for wheat, barley and oats as well, can be seeded, and a fair crop obtained. There is also the problem of soil drift to be coped with. Coarse grains can be seeded later in the spring after the drifting season is past. Then, in connection with cleaning lands, coarse grains are used to a considerable extent by farmers. There is no doubt that the farmers, after their experience of the last five years, will diversify their system in the west, and henceforward there will be a greater acreage seeded to coarse grains and less to wheat. The net price for coarse grains is of course ridiculously low; I have quoted some of the prices, and compared with the price of wheat the figures for coarse grains are low.

It is quite apparent that at this session no consideration is going to be given the question of a reduction in freight rates. The debate on that question has already taken place in the house, and though this may be

somewhat out of order I might say how pleased I was to hear the Minister of Railways (Mr. Howe) say that after the house prorogues he will see to it that the appeal which is before the privy council in connection with freight rates will be heard. I might suggest to the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid) that, if it is not heard, next year he ought to bring in a bill to provide that where such important appeals are not heard within six months they should lapse altogether and parliament be given an opportunity to deal with these matters as they should be dealt with.

There is no doubt that had coarse grains been under the operation of the act last year, the farmers would have received at least ten or fifteen cents more per bushel. I have under my hand information from one who has been closely associated with the grain trade—I do not care to give the name—and it is evident that coarse grains have been accumulated by the elevator companies at prices ranging from thirteen to eighteen cents for oats not graded higher than 3 C. W., and barley from seventeen to twenty cents. This grain is now moving out, and from now until seeding time it will be taken to the dried out areas in the country at the considerable profit to those who have accumulated it of from seven cents to twenty cents a bushel. Had coarse grains been under the operation of the board last year, the farmers, rather than the grain dealers or elevator concerns who have accumulated the stocks would now be reaping the increased price.

There is every evidence that in the next six or eight months grain will be sold at a much better price than even to-day. I might call the attention of the house to the fact that the open market to-day is paying only within about six cents of what the board is taking the grain in at a fixed minimum price, that is six cents less for No. 1 northern, basis Fort William. There is every evidence that we shall be able to sell wheat at a much better price. I have before me a little circular that sets out some of the factors tending toward an increase in the price of wheat. These are some of the factors: Many unfavourable reports in regard to European winter crops; anxiety over the United States winter wheat crops by reason of dust storms, sub zero weather and inadequate snow protection; the first estimate of the acreage in India being smaller than the figure of last year; wheat stocks in some parts of the continent being practically exhausted. These are a few indications that we may expect a better price.