	per cent
1940	9·7
1941	8·3
1942	13·0
1943	10·7
1944	12·5
1945	9·9
1946	11·6
1947	11·3

Perhaps I might make some comments on this table, but before doing so may I point out that farmers comprise anywhere from 27½ per cent to 33 per cent of our population. I would direct the attention of hon. members to the figure for 1929, that year when wicked men brought about a man-made depression. Hon. members will notice the difference in the income of farmers in the years following. I remember it well, because at the time I was struggling to pay off some debts I had contracted at a time when the prices of things I had to buy were much higher than they were in 1929 or, indeed, until after two or three years of the last war had been fought.

Turning to the figure for 1933, I would add that at that time the farmers of Canada, as their share of the national income, received an average of $198 per farm. I wonder how that figure compares with the income of others who did not put in half the hours of work or do half the work the farmers did.

Turning to the figure for 1941, it will be noted that after the war had been in progress for about three years the farmers were still receiving almost the same as they had received during the worst of the depression years.

Reference to the figure for 1945 will show that at that time farmers were still down in the depths, so far as the prices received for their commodities were concerned.

As a final comment on this table, may I point out that I have not been able to secure the figures showing the incomes of farmers in 1948 and 1949. Perhaps we shall have to be content to strike an average, as a result of comparison with the other years I have given.

We feel that the Agricultural Prices Support Act is particularly necessary at the present time because I think every hon. member realizes that the costs of the things the farmer has to buy in order to carry on his production are still climbing, while during many months past the prices of some farm products have been going down. We would not be satisfied to have this legislation made permanent unless certain things are done. One thing we feel should be done is to establish parity prices in comparison with the things the farmer has to buy. During recent months I have received, and I expect many other hon. members have also, a deluge of resolutions from the farmers' union of Alberta asking that floor prices be set at the 1949 level. Instead of that I would suggest that parity prices be adopted and in that way we would have a fair level.

I have been a farmer long enough to know just what the farmers are entitled to. We have pointed out on many occasions that in the past the farmers have paid a heavy insurance premium in order to secure parity prices in the future. I was glad to hear the minister read the statement he made in July 1944 when this act was first passed when he said that if the farmers were compelled to take less for their goods during the war period because of quotas and other restrictions the prices support act would be made use of.

As has been pointed out by my colleagues and myself on different occasions, other industries in Canada are being protected. For instance, we have the railroads getting increased freight rates, and they in turn are paying increased wages to their help. The same applies to every other industry across the country. We have a tariff that should have been abolished years ago. We are compelled to pay much higher prices for things we buy because of that tariff. Our manufacturers should be compelled to sell their products on the open market basis as the farmer is compelled to sell his products on markets in other countries.

I do not feel that I should say much more as other speakers are to follow, but I would like to place on the record the Social Credit policy in connection with agriculture. It is a short program and we think it is worthy of the consideration of the government and every hon. member of this house.

1. A home market constantly supplied with purchasing power. Our Canadian population constitutes our greatest potential market. The Canadian people must be supplied with the necessary purchasing power. We have had a lot to say about this during the past 14 or 15 years but apparently it has not got into the minds of some members of the house simply because they will not try to understand.

2. A compensated price discount technique for ensuring fair prices to producers without causing inflation. That has also been fully explained on different occasions.

3. A two-price system to work in conjunction with an international commodity clearing house to guarantee parity returns to farmers. This has been advocated by our members for many years and it would link up pretty well with the ICCH which was recently turned down because—I was going to use a phrase which might be unparliamentary.

An hon. Member: Use it anyway.