

floor prices on farm products of all kinds, particularly grains. If hon. members will review what I said, even as far back as 1938, they will see that that was my stand at that time.

In conclusion I would say—because I think we would do well to get on with the bill and discuss the sections—that agricultural products are the basis of an expanding national economy. In my view the principle of this bill is right; we must preserve farm prices and see that those prices are maintained at certain standards.

Prices of grain and live stock form a more logical base for the standard of living of all people in Canada than do any other products in any other industry. Therefore, as the minister has said, this measure which sets up a board, the operations of which will be similar to those of the wheat board or the grain commission, is an important one. I wish that contained within the bill there were powers to control processing in packing plants, so that the measure will not result in the establishment of floor prices for packers. It would be my hope that it would result in setting up proper prices for live stock and grain throughout the year.

As I said at the outset, we would have been pleased to have at an earlier stage the figures the minister placed on *Hansard*. However when the bill comes before the committee we shall have seen them, and at that time we shall have further questions to ask.

Mr. P. E. WRIGHT (Melfort): Mr. Speaker, this is another bill which like that providing family allowances, will receive the support of most hon. members. We may feel that certain sections of the bill, or certain methods to be used as set out therein, are not as we might wish to have them. Nevertheless I think all groups in the house will support the principle behind the measure. It is my understanding that that principle is the stabilization of prices on agricultural products. As the minister has shown in the figures he has given the house, there have been tremendous fluctuations in those prices, not only as between different periods, but as between different seasons. I believe that has been brought about, as the minister has said, by differences in production from year to year caused by weather conditions. As everyone knows, we do not control the weather; when a farmer sows he is never sure he will reap. He may reap a good harvest or may reap a very poor one.

Food requirements throughout the world remain fairly constant. They increase in ratio to the improvement in nutritional standards in various countries.

In my view this bill for the stabilization of the prices of farm products is absolutely sound. One feature I do not like in it is that apparently the minister has limited its time of operation to the period of transition between war and peace.

Mr. GARDINER: I did the very opposite. I pointed out that it could not be limited.

Mr. WRIGHT: Well, the title of the bill would leave the impression I have indicated—"an act for the support of the prices of agricultural products during the transition from war to peace." That is a poor title, and I suggest it would have been much better had it been entitled; an act for the maintenance of fair prices for agricultural products. Probably it was the minister's intention that that should be the purpose of the bill, but such purpose certainly is not reflected in its title. Neither is it shown in the last section, which states:

Section 9 of this act shall come into force on a date to be fixed, and remain in force for such period as may be determined, by proclamation of the governor in council published in the *Canada Gazette*.

Apparently the government may at any time, simply by passing an order in council, wipe out this measure which we propose to put on the statute book at this session of parliament. I do not like that feature of the bill. In my view when the bill becomes law it should remain in force until such time as parliament decides it should be taken from the statute book. For these reasons I think the minister has not given himself a fair deal, so far as the title of the bill and the section to which I referred are concerned.

The minister has stated that this policy was adopted by the Liberal party, and the hon. member for Qu'Appelle has stated that it was accepted by the Progressive Conservative party. They both gave the times at which it had been adopted by their parties. I should like to read into the record evidence to show that this policy was adopted by the party for which I stand, the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. It appears in the Regina manifesto issued when the party was first organized in 1932.

Mr. WARD: Is that the manifesto repudiated the other night by the hon. member?

Mr. WRIGHT: No. I never repudiated the Regina manifesto, nor has it been repudiated by any member of this group at any time or at any place in Canada.

Mr. GARDINER: It just proves that you are all becoming Liberals.