

Q. Should crop insurance be more general?—A. I believe this; I think we possibly have the foundation laid to develop a crop insurance plan upon it. I think it needs a lot of work done on it yet, and it is not an easy thing to work on because just taking our province as an illustration we have one part of the province in which over one particular fifteen year period the average production was 4.6 while in another part of the province for the same fifteen year period the record was 22 bushels. That is taking wheat as the index. You had that very wide difference and you have many variations in between those two so that it will not be an easy thing to work it out. As a matter of fact, as to these people who are operating within that part of the province where the record shows that over a fifteen-year period their crops have averaged 4.6 bushels per acre, they are trying to do something about that. That does not imply that the land is entirely useless, but we have the P.F.R.A., and there are steps being taken through the medium of that Act to get some of these people into more desirable parts of the province if it is possible which is not an easy thing because the peculiar part of it is that when you get people settled on sub-marginal land and leave them there long enough they become sub-marginal themselves. That is one of our problems. We have a considerable number of people on that type of land. Again I come back to saying that the pioneers of that province laid the foundation starting about the beginning of this century but we have not done any more than lay the foundation.

Q. To what do you ascribe your loss of population in Saskatchewan?—

A. Oh, I think very largely—

Q. Immigration to the United States?—A. Pardon?

Q. You just answer it yourself.—A. In the past years we have been growing up. It began in the last war when the farms began to be bigger and tractors began to be introduced and the farmers' labour requirements began to be less and less. I can take my mind back, and I know Mr. Blackmore can, to the time when there used to be harvest excursions from the east but they have become almost a thing of the past. Mr. Appleby, for instance, operates 1,700 acres of land and there is only Mr. Appleby and a son who is unfit for military service to operate it. These two men operate that land alone. The tendency will be to do that with higher power machinery. When I say these two men handle it they handle it even at harvest time by the use of a combine. With Mr. Appleby operating the combine and his son operating the truck they can keep the wheat moved away from the combine and they have eliminated the need of a great deal of help.

Q. That is wheat farming alone.—A. We will come to the other end of it. Circumstances got to be such back in the years from 1930 to 1939 that conditions were just simply deplorable. I will go a little further than that and say they were disgusting. There were people living in places that had never seen paint for years and years and years. They were living a very deplorable life. When the opportunity occurred for them to escape from it they escaped. They went away from there and went into the factories as the factories began to demand men to work in the factories, as the shipyards developed, and as men were required for the services, and so on. They responded because they had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. They went because of poverty?—A. They went because of poverty. There is not any question about that.

*By Mr. Kinley:*

Q. One thing that strikes me is that everybody I hear about has so much land there.—A. I know that seems very difficult to understand.

Q. 1,700 acres.—A. The average size per farm for the province of Saskatchewan is 433 acres. That is taking the province as a whole. That is being