

*Supply—Agriculture*

into market difficulties, but when we say that it is doom and gloom according to the members of the Conservative party. Now the Minister of Agriculture has underlined the very serious situation, and that is in contrast to his election campaign statement when he told the farmers "Your ship has come in; I have looked after you." He also said "From now on I am going to spend almost all my time looking after the farmers in eastern Canada."

I do not think we are in a mess because the minister is spending his time in eastern Canada. I do not see any evidence of the work he is doing in eastern Canada, but he has made such a controversial speech about wheat markets that we are spending a great deal of time discussing it. But what is the minister doing about the butter surpluses? What is he doing about dairy policy? He shocked the western farmers and recently he has been shocking the dairy producers right across the country. He threatens the western farmers with falling markets and he threatens the eastern farmers that unless something is done they will have the supports cut out from under butter.

We thought he would be doing something about the feed grain situation in eastern Canada, to provide adequate quantities of feed grain in storage available at all times to customers, but nothing has been done. The only thing that has been done so far in this house that has any importance at all for eastern Canada was the acceptance by the government of an amendment moved from this side of the house insisting that the Farm Credit Corporation make more money available to small farmers.

The minister has nothing for the east, and nothing for the west except a speech delivered in Regina. There has indeed been a tremendous change in the agricultural situation, and the statistics are available. I have in my hand the latest weekly report from the board of grain commissioners up to Wednesday, November 21, and it shows that up to that date export clearances since August 1 were 99.8 million bushels. This was a drop from 125.5 million bushels during the same period last year. The minister said during the election campaign "I will sell every bushel of wheat you can produce" but he has been selling 20 per cent less this year than last year.

The most recent statistics show that up to this date 28 per cent of present sales are to communist countries. All this demonstrates is that even with 28 per cent of the sales to communist countries it has not been possible to hold up the general exports of wheat, which have fallen by 20 per cent. If something should happen to these credit sales we would

be in a very sorry position indeed because of the very rapid deterioration in Canada's markets and sales to normal customers.

Shipments out of country elevators, the movement of grain from country elevators to the market, have also gone down from 178.8 million bushels last year to 160.3 million bushels in the present crop year, a drop of 18.5 million bushels. Shipments out of the lakehead have taken a very drastic drop. These figures are not just for the fall months of the year, for that portion of the crop year but for the whole of the navigation season. Last year during the navigation season 281.5 million bushels of all grains were shipped out of the lakehead and this year just 205.8 million bushels, a drop of 76 million bushels. That is a drop of almost 25 per cent. This is a pretty dark picture. This is certainly not the rosy picture that the Minister of Agriculture portrayed during the election campaign.

Then to take the information back right to the farm and to the farmers' marketing points, I have in my hand the wheat board statement on quotas as at November 19, 1962. I am not going to refer to all the figures; I merely point out that on the 1 bushel quota this year, which is the lowest quota, there are still 116 marketing points in western Canada. A year ago there were no marketing points on this quota; every quota was higher. This year the second lowest quota, a quota of 2 bushels, had 557 marketing points as compared to 367 last year. In other words there are still 673 marketing points in western Canada, approximately one third of the total, on very low delivery quotas of 1 or 2 bushels per acre. The minister was giving the farmers of western Canada shock treatment in his speech, and the inability of the farmers to sell their grain up to date indicates the very serious position of our markets.

The Leader of the Opposition dealt very effectively with the wheat situation, the reaction of farm organizations and the facts as they affect markets today. The Minister of Agriculture has been trying to overcome that speech. One of the first people to repudiate the Minister of Agriculture was his own Prime Minister. He said that these suggestions in no way represent government policy. Rejections have been coming in since from the president of the Manitoba wheat pool, the president of the Manitoba farmers' union and spokesmen representing the National farmers' union of Canada. It is true that when the Minister of Agriculture went before the Saskatchewan wheat pool organization they passed resolutions which agreed to a discussion to take place in their committees out in the country.

The Minister of Agriculture made two suggestions. One was that the farmers' organizations themselves should set up a central