

be one means of furnishing employment to a large number of persons; I have no doubt that a good many investigators will be engaged. But, if it is necessary to obtain estimates with respect to grasshoppers, are not estimates equally necessary with respect to other factors which contribute to reduce the total crop that will be produced? Why are not estimates equally necessary with respect to cutworms, estimates with respect to caterpillars? Why are there not estimates with regard to all insect pests? Why not estimates with regard to the possibility of drought, which is one factor that affects total production? Why not estimates with regard to hail and frost? All these latter are determining factors and equally as important as grasshoppers.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, could anything more absurd be conceived? But my hon. friends opposite go a step further. They are going to send out an army of propagandists, and what will these propagandists do? They will preach the doctrine of the rise in price through the reduction of acreage—good Tory protectionist doctrine; increase price by limiting supply. They are to go abroad throughout the west preaching a new creed, I suppose, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) will no doubt furnish something in that connection. It will be all along the line of Tory propaganda to show the importance of restricting supply as a means of obtaining high prices; it will be to show what tariffs have done with respect to increasing the price of manufactured goods, in the hope that in some way this tariff protectionist propaganda may gain a foothold also among the farmers of the west.

It seems to me that a policy of that kind, in the light of what a bountiful Providence may provide, and what people have been accustomed to understand as the duty of a government, namely, to further the prosperity of the country, is little short of blasphemy itself—a policy of scarcity instead of a policy of abundance.

What are the words that appear in the Book of Common Prayer used in the Church of England in this country?

O most merciful Father, Who of Thy gracious goodness has heard the devout prayers of Thy Church, and turned our dearth and scarcity into cheapness and plenty; we give Thee humble thanks for this Thy special bounty; beseeching Thee to continue Thy loving kindness unto us, that our land may yield us her fruits of increase, to Thy glory and our comfort.

That is the prayer that hitherto has been going up from homes all over the country,

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

but it is to be changed, and the very opposite is what we are now apparently to ask of Providence. The very opposite is what the government in office would seek to bring about. I suppose that the Minister of Trade and Commerce, in getting out the new creed, will have the prayer worded somewhat as follows:

O most merciful Father, Who of Thy gracious goodness has heard the devout prayers of Thy government, and turned our cheapness and plenty into dearth and scarcity; we give Thee humble thanks for this Thy special affliction; beseeching Thee to continue Thy loving scarcity unto us, that our land may yield us ever less of her fruits of increase, to Thy glory and our discomfort.

That is the policy of the government.

Mr. BENNETT: That is as near blasphemy as this house has ever heard.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Prime Minister need not get excited. This, he says, is as near blasphemy as this house has ever heard. I wish the Prime Minister would try to be a little more composed—there, that is nicer. I venture to say that when the propagandists get busy with this policy they will find they are unable to make much headway in persuading western farmers it will serve their interests. But has a government any right to engage in propaganda of the kind? The Prime Minister speaks of using the tariff as an instrument of national policy. He has done so to raise the prices of manufactured goods in order to help the manufacturing interests. May I suggest that a most effective way to help agriculture in this country would be to use the tariff as an instrument of national policy, but to use it to serve the interests of agriculturists as well as those of manufacturers—use it as an instrument to reduce production costs and the cost of living by lowering the tariff in regard to some of those things which will enable the western farmer to reduce his costs of production and to obtain the necessaries of life at less cost, thus assisting him in finding a way into the markets of the world with the products which he is best capable of producing. Anything more in the nature of a defeatist policy than the policy here indicated it would be impossible to imagine—the policy expressed in the wheat agreement. Can anyone imagine a business house that found it had a large quantity of merchandise available suggesting, through its head, that what should be done would be to begin destroying what hitherto had been its main source of wealth? Should not an effort be made, no matter what it might involve by way of endeavour, to search for markets in all parts of the world and so