

The Address—Mr. Zaplitny

doubt are. At the present time we have a problem, and I am not going to go into it extensively tonight for obvious reasons. The time is getting late. However, I will deal with it eventually.

Quite a bit has been said about the grain marketing situation, and no doubt it is a serious matter. I was keenly interested in what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) had to say on the subject, and I am sure we will hear a great deal more about it. If the Leader of the Opposition does not mind I should like to make a suggestion, namely that the situation with respect to grain could be tied in very easily with the resentment he expressed at the government's refusal to grant a licence to a certain aircraft company that wished to go into the freight handling business. I think there is a great opportunity here for him to ask for a licence for them to operate an air-lift on grain. He would find solid support from western Canada for such a proposition. We could use a few flying box cars at this time.

I shall leave the matter of grain to some of my colleagues who are more expert on the subject, but there is another phase with which I am more familiar and which I think is even more serious at the present time. I refer to the livestock situation. Prices of livestock, particularly beef, have been falling very seriously and rapidly in the last eighteen months. I could quote plenty of statistics to show the trend, but I think most hon. members are quite familiar with the figures. As the statistics show, the over-all situation is that in 1952 there was a drop in farm prices, and most of that was caused by a falling off in the price of livestock to the extent of about 20 per cent. During that time there was an increase of about 10 per cent in the farmer's costs of production. That means

a net loss in his economic position of about 30 per cent.

When a certain industry suffers practically a one-third loss in its economic position in the country one can see what a serious impact that can have not only on that industry but on all the other industries which depend upon that basic industry for their livelihood. Coming back to my own province of Manitoba again, we find that in 1952 the prices of farm products dropped 66 points while the cost of production went up 7·7 points, which meant a net loss of 73·7 points compared with the previous year—a very serious situation. That is the general trend.

I also have some statistics published by Gilbert Jackson and Associates of Toronto, which I understand are reliable in a statistical sense. They indicate with respect to farming that in 1948 the total indebtedness of farmers in round figures was \$384 million while by 1952 it had reached a figure of \$486 million, an increase of over \$100 million in four years. No one can claim that agriculture finds itself in a prosperous position when the indebtedness of the farmers of our country has increased by over \$100 million in a period of four years.

It appears, Mr. Speaker, that I will not be able to complete my remarks tonight, and I should like to move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion of Mr. Zaplitny the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. St. Laurent: Tomorrow we shall continue this debate.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.