

minor movement. They are not striking a minor note at all. They are not telling about their own problems and saying, "please, dear government, do something for us." They are better informed as to their problems than is the government. They have their own statisticians and their own economists and they know what they want. They are not interested in politics, they are not interested in this or any other government except that they get from the government what they require for their industry. All these things are new. It is a major movement, they are striking a major note. They are not saying, "We want something done," they are saying, "We want this done and, if you like, we will draft the bill." That is an encouraging thing. The leaders of agriculture in every province realize that you cannot isolate the wheat problem, the dairy problem or any other agricultural problem. The problem is a national one and it must be tackled by the combined thought of all agriculturists. Do not let us try to settle this problem by forcing down the price of wheat.

The CHAIRMAN: I would point out to the members of the committee that a discussion of wheat is really not in order on this bill.

Mr. GARDINER: We did reach an agreement that we could discuss things in general on the next bill, and I think it would be as well to enforce that agreement and not enter into a discussion of other matters at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: I would point out to hon. members that they should confine their remarks to the agricultural products referred to in this bill. I think almost every agricultural product is named except wheat. Perhaps we should get along better if we confined ourselves to the matters covered by this bill, and wheat can be discussed on the bill that follows.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is a fair inference to draw that the western members are against the agriculturists of eastern Canada. That is absolutely not the case. We have always contended that agriculture should be put on a business basis. As the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Miss Macphail) has pointed out, the agriculturists all over Canada are most conversant with their problems, possibly more so than the members of this government. We have always contended that agriculture should be on a business basis. We should stop this fooling around with this problem. The dairy industry of eastern Canada should receive at

[Miss Macphail.]

least the cost of production, and the wheat producers of the west should also be on a cost-plus basis. I think it is unfair to say to eastern Canada or to western Canada, "We will give you a minimum price of 60 cents per bushel," when there is no basis of fact for deciding upon that amount. Every consideration should be given to the cost of producing cheese, wheat and so on. In view of the careful consideration that has been given to the agricultural problem, both in the east and in the west, I do not think there is any question as to what the costs of production are.

I know some may say that costs vary in different localities, but an average could well be struck for both the dairy and the wheat industry. When we are referring to these two industries of the agricultural east and west I think it is only fair to mention the other industries of Canada. They should be on exactly the same basis. The dairy industry of eastern Canada should not have to pay exorbitant prices for its cream separators because of the protection the manufacturers receive under the tariff. The manufacturers of cream separators and farm machinery are guaranteed their costs of production.

Mr. DUPUIS: They enter free.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The farm machinery used in the west does not enter free. There is a certain point at which adjustment should be made. For instance, if the eastern dairy farmer is allowed to have his machinery come in free, is there any possible excuse for not permitting the western farmer to have his machinery come in free? If the manufacturing industry is to be protected, then by all means we must protect our agriculturists both in the east and in the west.

Mr. SPENCE: The hon. member would not protect the manufacturers.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): We have protected them to the extent of \$50,000,000 a year ever since western Canada was opened. It is estimated that there are something like 60,000,000 acres under cultivation in western Canada. If these farmers have to produce at less than cost, at least half of that acreage, or 30,000,000 acres, will be thrown out of production. What are the people now living on that land going to do? There is only one course they can take, they will go into mixed farming. Let me say to the hon. member for Prescott (Mr. Bertrand) that I am firmly convinced that if western Canada goes into mixed farming it can beat the east all to pieces. There is no question about that. Then what will be the condition of eastern Canada?