

United Kingdom, and that is not the interpretation properly to be put on this clause. Then the right hon. gentleman states further in Hansard, page 272:

They will find in Europe—

And in this he refers to the people who have wheat for sale.

—some other centre which will become the world centre and they will ship their wheat there, with the result that there will be keener competition than ever at this world centre, and the world price of wheat will go down.

That simply means that if the world centre for wheat prices were changed from one country to another the price would be reduced. Surely no serious minded hon. gentleman would suggest that a change in the world centre for the wheat market would have any effect on the price.

Mr. VALLANCE: It would.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): There is nothing magical about the buying or selling of wheat on the world market. It means simply this, that the only wheat that we or outside exporting countries can sell is the wheat which is consumed by individuals or by live stock or is used for seeding purposes. When a country is buying wheat—and we are assuming that country to be financially sound—it will buy wheat at the level of the world market, wherever that world market or centre is. So that nothing could be more absurd from a business standpoint than the statement made by the right hon. gentleman.

Then let us see what further the right hon. leader of the opposition has to say:

Supposing there is a scarcity in Great Britain—

I ask hon. members to watch this statement:

—we have immediately to rush our wheat into the British market, but any advantage we might get out of the scarcity in Britain at present will be offset hereafter by the fact that the only price we can obtain for it is the world price if wheat be plentiful elsewhere.

If there is a scarcity of wheat in Great Britain she will buy her wheat at the world price on the world market. The scarcity would not occur over night. If there were no preference the price paid by Great Britain would not be affected. They would still buy their wheat at the world price on the world market. The only possible difference would be this: Here is a country outside the empire, and we are a country inside the empire with a preference of six cents a bushel on wheat. Just to see how it would work, supposing that preference were removed. We are then on an equal footing when there is a scarcity of wheat in Great Britain; would there not be

[Mr. R. Weir.]

greater temptation for strong competition than there would be if the country outside the empire had to meet the advantage enjoyed by Canada of six cents a bushel before it could compete? That country outside the empire would have to absorb the six cents before it could ship wheat to the United Kingdom.

Mr. VALLANCE: May I ask a question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless the hon. member consents the question cannot be asked.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Let me advise hon. members opposite that if they do not wish to lose the services of their leader, the right hon. leader of the opposition, they should not allow him to expound at greater length on wheat marketing. If they do, the Winnipeg Grain Exchange or some other institution will take him from them.

Mr. VALLANCE: I should like to ask—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The condition of wheat marketing at the present time has probably been brought more forcibly to our attention because of the meetings in western Canada held by heads of pools and provincial governments. I believe they make the request that an international conference should be called with a view to restricting the acreage in the production of wheat. The only thing which could bring them to that conclusion would be the feeling that there is more wheat in the world at the present time than could be sold to countries importing that commodity. I do not say there is more wheat than could be consumed, but they must feel that there is more wheat in the world for sale than there is any hope of selling, especially in view of the present purchasing power in the world, and the increase in production of the majority of importing countries. Therefore they feel there should be a restricted acreage.

The question then on this basis, before wheat growers of various countries and before the people in western Canada who, I think, are best capable of sizing up the situation, is one of choosing between a reduction in acreage to reduce the total yield of wheat, or the survival of the fittest. If it is a matter of a reduction in wheat acreage, I ask what is going to be done with the acres not being used for the production of wheat. That land will have to be used for some other purpose, and that is why during the economic conference we paid particular attention to and laid stress upon the quota in connection with the shipment of bacon to the United Kingdom. We felt that if the farmers were cutting down on the pro-