

increased considerably in the last year or two. If the minister had accepted the proposals I made on the floor of this house in 1938 we would have had increased returns ever since. Last fall he raised the price of wheat to \$1.25. I am not objecting to that; I think it was the right thing to do, but it should have been done a long time ago and the price might have been raised even more.

Coming back to the Progressive Conservative agricultural policy, the next recommendation is:

To promote the efficiency of Canadian agriculture by a comprehensive programme of conservation—

And so on. And again:

To give primary producers adequate representation on all boards set up to market farm products.

That is what we have here, a board to market our products, and we have said that the farmers should have proper representation on it. Again:

To encourage farmers' organizations for co-operative effort in marketing farm products and in the purchase of supplies and obtaining of credit.

So it will be seen that this convention, held a year before the Liberal convention, advocated practically everything the minister suggested or read into the record.

Mr. HENDERSON: We had a Liberal convention in Saskatchewan the year before that suggested these things.

Mr. PERLEY: I am glad the hon. member mentioned that.

Mr. GRAYDON: And we had an election in Saskatchewan a few days ago.

An hon. MEMBER: Were you there?

Mr. PERLEY: I am glad that was mentioned, because while they had a Liberal convention out there which favoured this programme, this government paid no attention to it.

Mr. HENDERSON: And what did your government do about your proposals in 1932?

Mr. GRAYDON: Are these people rising to points of order?

Mr. GOLDING: What about yourself?

Mr. GRAYDON: And you, too.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. PERLEY: Oh, I do not mind the interruptions, so long as they are just talking among themselves.

Coming back to the point I was making, we should have had this measure two or three

[Mr. Perley.]

months ago. It should be in operation now, for the months of July, August and September are important months in connection with the marketing of the grain and live stock products in western Canada. The farmer should have this information; he should know all about it before he starts to market in August.

The minister made it clear, as also does the bill, that wheat does not come under this measure, but that coarse grains may. At the present time operations in connection with coarse grains are under the control of the wheat board. This measure sets up another board and, as I have said, if it is properly organized and operated it may be of great benefit. But in my view it should be set up; and we should have the assurance of certain prices for farm products over a given period, and that period should begin right from this date.

Under the measure the minister has wide powers. I shall not take time now to discuss the details of the bill, but if hon. members will look at it they will find that the decisions of the board have to have the approval of the governor in council—and that is really the minister—from time to time. In this connection I would direct the attention of the house particularly to paragraphs (a), (c), (e) and (f) of section 9, which set out the powers the board is to have. Not only is it to buy, sell and control production, but under paragraph (e) it has power to package, process, store, ship, transport, export or insure any agricultural product.

In my view it should have more control over processing in packing plants. If that is not done, this measure may develop into what may be described as a measure to establish floor prices for packers. If there is not more control over packers than there is at the present time, that may be the development. There may be a certain amount of juggling, but what we want to know and what we want to have is a definite price for a definite period of time. I can well understand that between spring and fall months there might be changes in prices of farm products. But at least a fair price could be set on practically every product of western Canada.

As I have said, this measure could prove to be just the setting up of another board; on the other hand it could be made worth while, and with that end in view I trust there may be proper representation from the producers on the advisory committee.

I have referred to the policy set out in Winnipeg in December, 1942, and I suggest that the minister would do well to look over that policy. On many occasions from the floor of this chamber I have suggested a policy of