

Just before that it says:

Interest on borrowed money or on debts is not included; neither is any allowance made for amusements or medical or insurance services.

Amusements and medical and insurance services are as necessary to the farm family as they are to any other family in Canada, and I believe it is the duty of this government to see to it that our farm families have these things.

When the minister made his announcement a short time ago it brought forth opposition from all over the west. As the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Leader) pointed out a few moments ago, that opposition did not come from farmers alone. All organizations in western Canada joined in the request for a fixed price of 80 cents. I have a number of protests which I intended to read, but since the hon. member for Portage la Prairie, the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Quelch) and others have indicated the nature of these protests, I need not take time to do so. This morning, however, I received a petition which I should like to read:

Resolved that whereas the price of wheat at 60 cents per bushel No. 1 northern at Fort William is far below the cost of production, we the undersigned farmers and business men of the Irma district, petition the dominion government to set the price (minimum) of wheat at 87½ cents No. 1 northern at Fort William, also that grain exchange (Winnipeg) be abolished, and that the wheat board be maintained, and some consideration be given to the marketing of coarse grains.

That petition is signed by 152 farmers and business men of the Irma and Fabyan districts. Some of the organizations supporting the request for an 80 cent price are: Manitoba Pool Elevators, United Farmers of Alberta, Alberta wheat pool, United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan section, and others which I need not take time to enumerate.

We find also that there is some dissatisfaction with Liberal members from the west, as indicated in the following article appearing in the *Western Producer* of April 6.

People of Cartwright, Man., Fight Sixty-cent Wheat Proposal.

Suggestion that Liberal members of parliament representing western constituencies resign their seats if the government passes its amendment to the wheat board act setting sixty cents per bushel No. 1 northern, f.o.b. Fort William, as the guaranteed minimum price for wheat was made at a mass meeting held in Cartwright, Manitoba, last Saturday.

The meeting, which filled the town hall to overflowing passed a unanimous resolution calling upon the sitting Liberal members for Souris and Lisgar constituencies to resign in the event of the bill becoming law and asking all Liberal constituency associations in western Canada to follow their lead. The meeting also appealed to all citizens in every district on

[Mr. Fair.]

the prairies to hold mass meetings "to make clear to those in authority at Ottawa the determination of the west to secure a measure of simple justice. . . ."

The resolution declared that "citizens in this area are determined not to acquiesce passively either in financial ruination or in any further lowering of living standards" and declared "it would now appear that the only effective further effort that can be made to persuade the government to alter its wheat policy is for Liberal members of parliament to carry their opposition to the present bill to the extent of undertaking to resign their seats in parliament in the event of the bill becoming law."

So far in the debate we have not heard from any of the western Liberal members. In that statement, of course I except the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Leader) although I believe he is a Progressive. I hope hon. members who claim to be real Liberals will rise in their places and tell us what they think of the wheat legislation, because before the next six months roll round they will have to tell their constituents a great deal about it.

Mr. HANSELL: The hon. member for Portage la Prairie is not going to vote for the bill anyway.

Mr. FAIR: At the last session of the legislature of Saskatchewan, in order to protect the interests of those who have loaned money, legislation was passed which will compel farmers to pay certain debts before they can sell any of their wheat. Perhaps that fact will be of interest to Liberal members from the west when they tell us what they think of this legislation.

Immediately after the new British Minister of Agriculture took office he got down to business, and did something for the farming industry of Great Britain. We will have to have a progressive Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa before agriculture in Canada gets on a sound or profitable footing. We are told eastern industries are not particularly interested in western markets. In that connection I have some information to place on record with respect to farm implements and machinery. In 1927, when wheat was selling at \$1.46 a bushel, western Canada purchased \$70,521,000 worth of farm machinery. In 1928, when the price was down to \$1.24 a bushel—and I might say that at that time we were still reaping the benefit of the \$1.46 price—western purchases of farm implements and machinery were valued at \$89,306,000. In the next year, namely 1929, purchases were valued at \$70,316,000.

Some of our eastern friends who believe they are acting in the interests of the working man might be interested to know that in 1932 purchases of farm machinery by people in