

very openly that they had the world by the tail with a downhill pull, if I may use a street expression. They thought the world could not get along without our wheat, and they were going to force the world to pay our price. Mr. Justice Turgeon in his report mentions this a number of times. I do not wish to be understood as criticizing those who took that attitude, but undoubtedly it prevailed among the western pools and also among individuals, private grain merchants and dealers; and their belief that they could force our wheat upon the peoples of the world was one of the causes which interfered with the sale of Canadian wheat in foreign markets.

It is well to keep these facts in mind. I am doing it for the purpose of outlining the problem as I see it so that we may be prepared, all of us, to work out something in the way of a permanent plan. It seems to me that what we need is not a hit or miss policy, not a policy which is just for the present year, but one which, so far as we can ensure it, will last over at any rate a period of years. We should attempt to work it out in association with the other wheat-producing countries, the Argentine, Australia and the United States in particular, and in association if possible with the consumers, remembering that our objective should be to get prices which are both remunerative to the producer and fair to the consumer. It is only upon that basis, it seems to me, that we can work out a long range plan for western Canada.

There have been held in London, I believe since 1933, at spasmodic intervals, conferences such as the one to which the government recently sent a number of apparently able representatives, to judge from their positions and their names. It is however less than a month ago that the government sent over these gentlemen, Mr. McIvor, Doctor Wilson, and Doctor Shaw. Mr. Pearson and a couple of others are over there.

Mr. GARDINER: Mr. Turgeon sat in at a meeting of the same committee in 1936.

Mr. MANION: That is, Mr. Justice Turgeon?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes,—while he was on the commission.

Mr. MANION: Yes, but he was not there for a great length of time. Since then, if I am not mistaken, Mr. Massey has been sitting in more or less as a spectator; but with all due respect to Mr. Massey, for whom I have a great deal of respect, he does not know anything about the wheat business, so far as I am aware, and I do not think he would be of any particular use at a meeting of this kind except as an observer.

Mr. EULER: That was why we sent the other men.

Mr. MANION: I quite agree, but if I may say so I think some of the other men might have been sent sooner, to some of the earlier conferences. Probably the previous government might have done the same, because my information is that this conference was really begun in 1933, largely at the instigation of Mr. Bennett. So perhaps we should have sent a more learned group of men.

Mr. EULER: It might be only fair to say that Mr. Massey was not the sole representative of the government at the earlier meetings. We also had Mr. Biddulph, representing the Canadian wheat board, a gentleman with considerable knowledge of the wheat business, and Mr. Allen of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. MANION: I see their names as being among those present. I do not know these gentlemen, so perhaps I have underestimated their ability. I know Mr. Pearson quite well, but again he is not a grain man. I am glad, however, that the government has sent over practical men in the person of Mr. McIvor and Mr. Wilson. That was what I wanted to point out, that having done this, it seems to me it is our duty, aided by whatever results may accrue from that conference, to work out a permanent wheat policy.

After all, without going outside this house, this government has very many advisers. At least two-thirds of the members from the prairie provinces, perhaps more, sit on the government side. On the other hand we have been at something of a disadvantage because we have had just one member from the prairies, in the person of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley). We are short in numbers but we are high in quality. I have listened to the speeches of hon. members belonging to all parties in this house, and I have heard no one better posted or fighting more emphatically for the rights of the western grain growers than the hon. member for Qu'Appelle. He has carried on that fight in the house consistently and persistently. In spite, however, of his great ability as a practical grain grower and dealer in wheat, I do wish we had more western members on this side. With all due respect to any individual, a number of heads are usually better than one. In addition, it is true, we have among our members three other outstanding agriculturists; the hon. member for Haldimand, (Mr. Senn), the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe), and the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Thompson). These hon. gentlemen have been