

the east think the farmers are getting exorbitant prices for their poultry. This article was sent to me by a lady who produces prize turkeys; and for eighteen-pound special turkeys they were getting thirty-seven cents a pound. That was the price in December of last year. I am sure that this does not reflect in any way the prices which the consumers had to pay for turkeys. I might just say here that turkeys over and above eighteen pounds in weight are degraded and sold at a lower price. They are sold at five cents a pound less than if they weigh under eighteen pounds, for the same quality of turkey. So, as hon. members can see, they have the farmers both coming and going. I remember that years ago, when we were producing turkeys, we had to have them over eighteen pounds in order to get the top price.

To get back to the committee which is proposed to be set up, simply because of the terms of reference the fact is that this committee will not be able to make recommendations to this House of Commons. The whole thing would be grotesque and stupid if we expect anything from it to arrest the rising cost of living. I have here an excerpt from the 1937 special committee on farm implement prices. It indicates that substantial profits on capital were made by the companies engaged in the agricultural industry. It goes on to give the amount of profits and would also indicate that prices were excessive at that time. Since that time prices have risen steadily. We had a 12½ per cent increase in farm implement prices in the fall, and now those prices have again gone up about 15 per cent.

The psychological factor of this whole debacle which is facing us is more serious than anything else. It has placed the Canadian economy in such a position that, unless something is done immediately with regard to it, we may very well find recurring the conditions in the years of the thirties. Because we point out to the government the fact that action should be taken, I do not think for one minute they can say to us, as did one hon. member the other day, that the C.C.F. are always pointing to other countries and what wonderful systems they have there. Everyone in this group, and I think every member in this House of Commons, realizes that we have the best country in the world. All we in this group are trying to do is to make it a better country, one in which there will not be any hardships and one in which a person who is willing to do an honest day's work will get an honest day's pay. We want to take the

[Mr. McCullough (Assiniboia).]

speculation out of the production of food so that our farmers will be given a fair return for their labours.

I could tell the house stories, which perhaps many of those on the opposite benches would not believe, about the farmers in my own province who, in the thirties, went to the north when the government represented by hon. friends to the right were in power. They went up north and are still there, living in houses without floors and without a decent standard of living or any of the amenities of life.

As a western farmer, I state again that we want the people of Canada to have food at a decent price level. We feel that the Canadian people are our best customers. I have here a chart which indicates that in one city, in Toronto, the fluid milk sales dropped from 12,500,000 quarts in May, 1946, when it was selling at eleven cents a quart, to 10,500,000 quarts in August, 1947, when it was selling at sixteen cents a quart.

Mr. GIBSON (Comox-Alberni): Why not all move out to British Columbia?

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): This is not what we want.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): May I ask a question?

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): Yes.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): What was the rise in price to the producer during that period where you spoke of the price to the consumer? I think you will find that they follow one another almost absolutely.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): That is true. But this government, in a particular vote in this house in September a year ago, went on record as saying that the subsidies be continued, and that is what I am in favour of. I am in favour of this government seeing to it that our children and our people should get the necessary foods so that they may have decent health.

Mr. HARTT: Who is to pay for it.

Mr. McCULLOUGH (Assiniboia): I have been speaking of the high cost of living. Perhaps the government does not see fit to guarantee that our people may have such a diet. I might say that I have here an article entitled "Prime Minister, health minister eat well—No Pett diet for them; Ottawa."

An hon. MEMBER: Read it.