

Supply—Agriculture

Ontario looked at what was being done seven or eight years ago in British Columbia, and listened to several suggestions to the effect that they get off their behinds and into the marketing end they would not have experienced this takeover by integrated industry. This did not take place in British Columbia, and these people have just begun in Alberta. I think there is a time problem in this regard.

There is another point I should like to make in respect of family farms and I am glad the hon. member referred to the integrated or corporate farm. I have seen corporate farms and family farms operate and I submit that in the long run there is no way a corporate farm can compete with the efforts and the profitability of family farms. The family farmer works on labour profit just as do many businessmen such as small storekeepers, laundrymen and service people. A corporate farmer must make a profit because all his labour represents an expense. Labourers on corporate farms will not work the hours worked by a family farmer. I do not wish to take up any more time.

Mr. Horner: Good.

Mr. Pringle: Now that we have heard the crow from the hon. member for "member-foot"—I mean the hon. member for Crowfoot—I will conclude my remarks with the hope that members of this house will give a little more consideration to family farmers. I hope they will realize that the farmer is a businessman and does not require handouts every day of the week.

Mr. Southam: Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to make a few remarks during this debate on item 1 of the estimates of the Department of Agriculture. I should like to say at this time, after listening to the very interesting remarks of the hon. member for Fraser Valley East who has just resumed his seat, that I am afraid, if I interpret his remarks correctly, he is falling into the same trap the former minister of agriculture fell into when he said that farmers never had it so good. I warn the hon. member against this attitude because it is political dynamite.

I am pleased to see the minister back from his trip to Europe and I hope he is prepared to face up to facts and announce positive policies to help our agricultural industry extricate itself from the many economic difficulties it now faces. The leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition presented a very complete and comprehensive review this afternoon of these

[Mr. Pringle.]

difficulties. He pointed out that the government has been continually pounded, prodded, pushed and even hounded to take action, yet little action has been forthcoming. My leader in his remarks referred to the very serious and near catastrophic situation in western Canada because of the huge pile-up of wet and damp grain. He did not exaggerate this very serious situation. In all the years I have lived in western Canada, and I was born there, I have never seen the farmers face such a serious situation as exists today.

This fact was borne out by Mr. W. C. MacNamara, the chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, a week ago last Tuesday when, in addressing a meeting of the grain transportation committee, he not only alerted that committee but farmers, the government and all Canadians to the very serious situation existing in western Canada. It was on the basis of this report that I moved a week ago yesterday to adjourn the regular business of this house to debate an urgent matter of public importance. As an alternative I suggested that the agricultural estimates be brought into the house in order that we might have an emergency debate. I am glad the government acceded to this suggestion.

What is the existing picture today in the west? Let us look at a few of the headlines which have appeared in daily and weekly newspapers, because they emphasize the situation as well as anything. The *Regina Leader-Post* on its editorial page carries the headline, "Farmers See Need For Action." The *Globe and Mail* of November 30 has the headline, "Grain-drying Problem Worsening—And Action May Come Too Late." Another headline is, "Prairie Grain-dryer Shortage One Of Factors In Crop Spoilage." The *Western Producer*, which circulates throughout the whole of western Canada, has this headline, "Farmers Must Dry Grain At Home. Terminals At Full Blast Can't Take All Damp Grain." I have here the article to which I referred a week ago last Wednesday when I moved the motion to adjourn the house. The headline in the *Globe and Mail* is, "Head Of Wheat Board Warns Drying Must Be Done On Farms." The article goes on to elaborate in great detail some of the problems. The *Manitoba Co-operator* in its issue of November 28 carries the headline, "Decline Forecast In Farm Incomes." Another headline in the *Globe and Mail* is, "Stiff Competition For Wheat Sales Likely To Continue." I also have here a report of the Saskatchewan Wheat