

Mr. GARDINER: But that is not the price.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): It is amusing that reference was made to New Zealand. When marketing legislation was enacted in that dominion the main reason given was to enable the primary producer to carry on with a decent standard of living. You see no such references in our statute. The sort of legislation which is put forward here is going to keep the farmers in the peasant class for the rest of their lives.

Another problem which has been referred to is the position of the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National railways, and we are wondering what will become of them. We are even proposing legislation to take business from the trucks and give it back to the railroads because the railroads are not doing the amount of business they should; yet by this wheat legislation we shall be taking about 30,000,000 acres out of the production of wheat, the transportation of which provides the railroads with much of their revenue. Not only that; the roads will be deprived of freight on machinery, because people out west cannot afford to buy it. At 47 cents a bushel for wheat one cannot pay \$300 for a binder which on the other side of the line can be got for \$150.

Mr. EVANS: You cannot buy it for that.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The farmer cannot pay \$1,300 for a tractor which he could buy in the United States for \$500, or \$1,200 for an automobile which can be purchased over there for \$900.

Mr. EVANS: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The other day it was announced that the three per cent excise tax had been taken off automobiles. One of the dealers in this city said to someone I know, "What are you talking about? We have not heard about this." He was asked if the price had come down. He said, "Certainly not". His price never will come down.

Mr. EVANS: Will the hon. member again quote his price on tractors?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. member who has the floor to confine his remarks to wheat, and not to discuss automobiles.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I am just comparing the cost of producing wheat with

the cost of the articles the farmer has to buy. It may be that he should not pay any attention to such considerations but should just go on and raise wheat for nothing at all and pay to eastern Canada all the money he gets.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): It is not my intention to make a long speech, and this for two reasons: first, I am very anxious not to delay the proceedings, and, second, the position of this group has been so well stated by my colleagues from Saskatchewan. I should like, however, as senior member for Winnipeg, to read a letter which I received from that city a few days ago. It was written, of course, before the revision took place in the bills now before the house:

May 2, 1939.

I beg to advise that the following resolution was adopted by council last evening, namely:

"Whereas bills and resolutions now before the House of Commons propose to amend the Wheat Board Act indicating that the price of No. 1 northern wheat shall be sixty cents per bushel basis Fort William, without reference to the wheat board;

And whereas such a set price will likely become the fixed price due to the depressing effects of the wheat carry-over, thus working a great hardship on western economy and western farmers as the stated price is below the cost of production;

And whereas additional legislation to bonus acreage will not compensate the farmers for low prices as it deals only with those whose crops are less than 15 bushels per acre;

Therefore be it resolved, that we, the Winnipeg city council appeal to the government of Canada to set the guaranteed price at not less than eighty cents per bushel;

Copies of this resolution to be sent to Winnipeg members of the dominion house."

Yours truly,

(Sgd) G. F. Bentley,

City Clerk.

I think it will be manifest that in the west it is not merely the farmers who are concerned in this matter, but the whole population, dependent as they are to such a large extent upon grain and its proper marketing.

I do not pose as an authority in any sense whatever on wheat, but I went west as a child in 1882 and have lived there for the major part of the time since then. There are several points, as I see the matter, I should like to enumerate, stating them as briefly as possible.

First, 70 cents at Fort William, allowing for freight and inferior grades, means only some 50 to 55 cents to the farmer.