

city of Ottawa will gain a seat, as a result largely of bringing from other parts of Canada citizens who are ordinarily resident in those parts. I protest as emphatically and as strongly as I can against my province and the province of Manitoba losing any representation at this time, because these are extraordinary times and conditions are extraordinary, and those provinces should not be forced to lose these seats because the administration has been so shortsighted as to have persuaded our people to leave those parts. Ample opportunity is given this House of Commons to see that that course of events is not followed.

The British North America Act makes the following provision in section 51:

On the completion of the census in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and of each subsequent decennial census, the representation of the four provinces shall be re-adjusted by such authority, in such manner, and from such time, as the parliament of Canada from time to time provides, subject and according to the following rules.

I emphasize those words "and from such time". There are two courses open to us. We do not need to put into effect any plan of redistribution at the present time because to do so would be unfair to our part of the country, but we can follow this procedure. We can do as I understand they did in the last war. We can go to the privy council in England if necessary, and this House of Commons can see to it that my province and the province of Manitoba, indeed any of the western provinces, will not lose a seat as a result of the exodus that has taken place from those parts of the country on account of war work and the policy of the administration; and afterwards, when the next census is taken, we shall find ourselves in a position to obtain a fair picture of the situation with respect to our population. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, in my closing remarks, let me urge this House of Commons and every member here to consider very seriously before taking any step that is going to rob the provinces of Saskatchewan Manitoba of their proper representation in the councils of the nation.

Mr. W. A. TUCKER (Rosthern): First of all, in spite of the suggestion of my very dear and hon. friend the present acting leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon), may I extend my sincere congratulations to the mover (Mr. Harris) and the seconder (Mr. Hallé) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. If the sentiments which were expressed in those speeches could only become the thought of all the people of Canada, what a wonderful country this would be to live in; what a wonderful country in which to face the future

for oneself and one's children! Certainly there would be no difficulty about the question either of national unity or of fairness to the people who are underprivileged, as the saying is, or to any great branch of our population such as agriculture, which, as everyone knows, is not getting to-day more than half its fair share of the national income.

Along that line I suggest that what is unfair should not be perpetuated longer than is absolutely necessary. It may have been necessary to freeze agricultural prices at the start of the war in order to be able to set a policy of no inflation in connection with the whole economic set-up; but if something is not done to redress the unfortunate position in which agriculture was placed at the start of the war, it means that agriculture has been frozen into a permanently inferior position for the whole period of the war. The time is rapidly approaching when the agricultural industry is going to make a major contribution to the whole conduct of the war. The question of food will become more and more important. We cannot possibly require people to continue indefinitely labouring on farms at lower wages and with lower returns than they could get in other equally essential war work. As a result of doing so we have to-day a lack of labour in agriculture from one end of Canada to the other. If something is not done to put agriculture on a fair basis with the other industries of the country, I am afraid we shall have to face a real crisis with regard to agricultural production in this dominion. It can be done without in any way upsetting the price level. It can be done by simply paying subsidies in order to give those people who are producing essential food products a fair price and a fair return for their labour. In that connection, we have to-day a situation wherein agricultural income has increased as a result of the increase in the amount of production, but in order to produce that increased quantity we have had people working on the farms hours which in industry would not be tolerated for a moment. We have children working, which would not be permitted in any industry, and we have women working long hours in the fields. That cannot be permitted to continue; it can go on for only a certain length of time. We want to increase our production of agricultural products, but I am afraid our production will begin to fall off unless a fairer deal is given to the people who produce them.

With regard to the position of agriculture in Saskatchewan, I bring this to the attention of the government. During the last war and from time to time when we were having diffi-