

Farm Machinery Prices

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS*

Year	Index Number (1935-39=100)
1949	255.4
1950	260.8
1951	296.8
1952	274.4
1953	250.4
1954	236.8
1955	232.7
1956	234.6
1957	234.2
1958	245.5
1959	247.4
1960	250.0
1961	261.2
1962	272.0
1963	268.4
1964†	258.0

* Excludes Newfoundland.

† For 1964 the index is based on initial prices only for wheat, oats and barley in the Prairie Provinces, for the period August to December inclusive. The 1964 index will be revised upwards when final prices are known for these grains.

SOURCE: *Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products*, Cat. No. 62-003, Agriculture Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, March 1965.

Mr. Russell C. Honey (Durham): Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce my remarks, in dealing with the motion of the hon. Member for Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale (Mr. Rapp), by saying that I think all of us in this House are concerned with and appreciate the problems in the agricultural industry which the hon. Member has described. But I think he is perhaps taking a rather narrow approach to the whole matter and that the setting up of a Royal Commission as the hon. Member requests, while this in itself might be helpful, would entail wasting a great deal of time, pending the inquiry and the report of the Commission, before the Government would be in a position to take action in this respect. Also, there are indeed other facets of the problem facing the agricultural industry today that are of equal concern, and the whole scope of the agricultural problem is one which the Government has under constant review. The legislation introduced—I shall refer later in my remarks to this legislation and the policies of this Government—has been helpful in approaching a solution to this problem.

I wish to refer, as my hon. friend has done, to some statistics which will indicate that the matter he has discussed is not, relatively speaking, as pressing as other problems

[Mr. Rapp.]

in this particular field. The hon. Member for Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale referred—and I am pleased that he did—to the work carried out by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization in 1960 and 1961 when it was empowered by this House to inquire into the matter of the cost of farm machinery in relation to the price of farm produce. The hon. Member who preceded me was a Member of that Committee and speaks with more authority than I can, because I was not in the House of Commons at that time. However, a review of the proceedings shows that the Committee sat 36 times during this period. I think the first hearing was on July 12, 1960, and the Committee sat until June 5, 1961. It did not meet again because, as has already been mentioned, an election was called the following year. In view of the volume of work that was done by that Committee in connection with this problem, I think I might be a bit critical.

● (5:20 p.m.)

The Committee was not reconvened after the election of June 18, 1962 because the Parliament which was then returned after that election did not have the opportunity to set up the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization. So that the great volume of work which was done by that Committee