

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF FOOD—*Con.*

Canada in exercising supreme control over the quantity and destiny of our food exports, thereby regulating the prices at which bread, meat and other food products shall be sold for home consumption, while at the same time directing that our surplus food exports should only reach British or friendly countries.—Mr. Cockshutt, 526.

*Aikins, James* (Brandon)—537.

There are two great producing classes in our country—the agriculturists and the manufacturers. Who should receive particular attention? Certainly those whose production is the natural and not the artificial production of a country, 537.

There should be no limitation of the market for agricultural products, 538.

*Borden, Right Hon. Sir Robert* (Prime Minister)—551.

So far as the general question is concerned, the policy which the Government has endeavored to follow since the outbreak of war is not to interfere with the business activities of the country, except in so far as this is absolutely and imperatively demanded of it by reason of the war or by reason of conditions arising out of the war, 552.

At all events, it is a position which I would not care to take, nor is it one to which I could give my sanction. Therefore I do not think it would be desirable for the country to attempt any such course as my hon. friend has suggested. We desire in this country that there shall be more production from the land, 553.

Under the circumstances, while I appreciate the motive of my hon. friend from Brantford in bringing the matter to the attention of the Government, I regret that we cannot find it desirable to accept the motion at the moment, 554.

*Buchanan, W. A.* (Medicine Hat)—540.

We can get food products to the Allies and the friendly countries because of the existence of a great power within the British Empire, and this resolution, I maintain, is not necessary in that regard, 542.

*Carroll, W. F.* (Cape Breton)—550.

It is proposed, as I understand it, that the Government should take some steps to control the foodstuffs of the country, especially flour, wheat and the items mentioned in the resolution, 550-1.

*Cockshutt, W. F.* (Brantford)—526.

It has appeared to me that for some months past it was the duty of those in charge of the Government of the country to keep a very good eye upon the food supply of the Dominion of Canada, and also to assist in every way possible the Mother Country in the tremendous struggle in which she is now engaged, 527.

Population and grain statistics referred to and discussed.—528-35.

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*Graham, Hon. G. P.* (Renfrew South)—554.

As to whether that could be controlled, I am not prepared to say; in any case, I am inclined to think that it could not be controlled in the manner suggested by the hon. member for Brantford. It is a big question, and could not be grappled with in a few moments, 555.

*Hughes, J. J.* (Queens, P.E.I.)—543.

The resolution of the hon. member in its present form would be innocuous and useless were it adopted, 544.

*Kyte, G. W.* (Richmond, N.S.)—547.

I do think that under the circumstances the Government ought not to hesitate to take such steps as would prevent the undue increase in the price of foodstuffs by the middlemen, 547.

*Martin, W. M.* (Regina)—539.

This is a most peculiar time in the history of Canada for a man to advocate in this House the control of the price of the main product of our farmers, 539. What we require in western Canada is to get men on the land, 540.

*Maclean, W. F.* (York South)—544.

I would suggest the adoption of a policy by the Government to valorize or stabilize the price of the forthcoming wheat crop, 544.

*Merner, J. J.* (Huron South)—536.

Asks for more information on resolution presented, 536.

*McKenzie, D. D.* (Cape Breton, North and Victoria)—545.

It is a fair and reasonable proposition that any country that is at war—and we are at war—should have absolute knowledge of the sinews of war within its bounds, and that it should have absolute control of where they shall go and how they shall go, 545.

*Sharpe, W. H.* (Lisgar)—547.

I think we should pass some law whereby speculators would be obliged to pay a margin of 25 cents on each bushel of wheat they buy. This would do away with a great deal of speculation in wheat, 548.

*Sutherland, Donald* (Oxford South)—548.

This resolution is narrow and provincial in its character. It is an attempt to interfere with legitimate business, and would as Premier Asquith stated with regard to similar legislation in the old land, cause no end of trouble, 548.

*Turriff, J. G.* (Assiniboia)—542.

I hope the hon. member for Brantford will not succeed in having his resolution carried into effect, because it would mean that the farmer, in addition to the extra burden that he is going to be called upon to bear, would be precluded from taking advantage of good prices for his wheat, cattle and other food products, 542-3.