

western Canada was in the hands of the wheat pools and that the non-pool wheat constituted 45 per cent or more of the total production. On the grain exchange at Winnipeg we saw wheat selling at \$1.45, \$1.53, \$1.60, and higher prices per bushel, and at that time the farmers were being advised over the radio, by men whom they thought, were responsible, to hold their wheat. Then the market broke, and the price of wheat fell to less than \$1.20 a bushel. One of the primary causes was this: The pools have not sold wheat on the grain exchange this year. But there has never been a day in the last five months when you could not buy wheat from the pools at the market price on the Winnipeg grain exchange or for less than that price. Let that be told to the people of this and other countries. I say that the central government, having regard to the far-reaching consequences, was recreant to its duty when it did not make known to the world what the facts were. The Minister of Finance went out to Regina and said: You can trust the men in charge of the pools. Instead of simply saying that, the farmers should have received the support and assistance of the Canadian people because they were not selling wheat on the grain exchange, but only through their agents located throughout the world, and I repeat, there was no time during the last five months when wheat could not be bought from the pool at the same price or less than it was being sold in open competition on the Winnipeg grain exchange. I wonder how many members of this house realize that fact. I have found the gravest misunderstanding in this country with respect to the situation, and I would fail in my duty if I did not endeavour to clear up that misunderstanding without further delay.

When we talk about what the government has been doing, let me ask what the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) was doing during the last year, and what the government of this country was doing to broaden the markets of the Canadian wheat grower? They talk in glib terms of what they are doing to extend our markets and increase our export trade, and they have gone up and down this country telling the people of the new markets they were securing for our products. New markets? Sir, this country made a treaty with France by which it bound itself to permit French goods to enter Canada under certain specific tariff rates mentioned in the statute, and France gave us certain benefits. But what happened? I wonder if the Minister of Trade and Commerce realizes that in May of last year the French government increased the duty on Canadian wheat to 53

[Mr. Bennett.]

cents a bushel, practically a prohibitory rate; and that duty of 53 cents a bushel on Canadian wheat entering France met with the approval of the French artisan and workman. Why? Because in France in December last there were only five hundred unemployed on the registers, and since the war two million aliens have been absorbed by French industries. Did hon. gentlemen see the despatch in the press yesterday indicating that 18,000,000 bushels of wheat were now available in France to market in Great Britain in competition with Canadian wheat? What did the government do about that? What did the government do when France increased the duty on Canadian wheat to 53 cents a bushel? Did they in any respect touch the French tariff or raise the duty on French goods? No. The only answer the government have is: We pay the minimum duty on our goods entering France.

Take Italy. While we were sitting here in May last I directed the attention of the Minister of Finance to the fact that Italy had increased the duty on wheat to 73 cents a bushel, shutting out Canadian wheat, so that we lost whatever portion of that market we had as well as the French market. What did the Minister of Trade and Commerce do about it?

I turn to Germany. Germany increased her rates on wheat so that American wheat went into Germany for 6 cents a bushel less than Canadian wheat. Why that discrimination? Where was the voice of Canada then? What has been done with respect to it? What about your trade treaties? These are the questions that are agitating the men who produce the new wealth of this country. In order that my information could not be questioned I obtained the figures from the Department of Finance, and they show that Germany has a duty against Canadian wheat of 48.6 cents per bushel and against American wheat a duty of 42.1 cents only. There is the record. Representing as I do, not one constituency, but speaking on behalf of all the people who produce the wealth that represents so great a part of the purchasing power of the people of this country—the agriculturists—I ask the Prime Minister and his government to tell the people of this country what they have done to meet the situation. I am not unmindful of the fact that last year in June the Minister of Trade and Commerce stated from his place in the house:

In so far as the sale of wheat is concerned, it is usually sold on contract, and I do not think a trade commissioner could be of very much assistance in that regard or in the sale of newsprint.