

thousand of our farmers, and still the aggregate sum would be roughly only two per cent or three per cent of what has been taken from our national income to help speed up industrial production. The cost itself relatively is really very small. Small loans would be used for building up stock, for payments in connection with the operational expenses, so that farmers would not have to sell the stock they now have in order to take care of their living expenses.

I do not think the farmers in the west are wanting any special sectional interest with regard to machinery, but they are expecting that machinery requirements will be taken care of better than they were last year. There is no doubt an understanding on the part of many hon. members that lack of repairs was responsible for the break-down in our farming operations last year, and that this is why so many stooks to-day lie underneath the snow. Possibly an increase in the quota of repairs will be necessary, if we have as bountiful a crop as we had last year, and if we have a large acreage of coarse grains seeded this spring.

I believe that the matter of lower prices for farm machinery is something which must be tackled by the wartime prices and trade board, or whoever is responsible. I say that because present prices of farm machinery are beyond the reach of the small farmer, even though by custom work he put such machinery to full time use.

We shall have to have more cooperation among the farmers, and I know they are going to be willing to give that cooperation. They are going to pool their machinery, and work as they worked in the early days, sharing the machinery which is available. They will go a long way toward cooperating with this government and do everything within their power, as long as the government will give them the little bit of assistance they so desperately need.

As far as increase in hog production is concerned, I believe that there, again, loans would do a great deal toward helping the situation. Some assistance must be given by the government to the small farmer in connection with supplying free vaccines, so that these farmers may not have the loss from diseases that they had last year. Then, too, farmers need greater grading supervision for cattle, hogs, cream, eggs and poultry. I think we should have a youth-training plan to include courses in dairying, poultry-raising and so on, so that our young people on the farm may grow up competent, and may be able to make the greatest possible production in their various fields.

[Mrs. Nielsen.]

I find it is almost impossible to go into great detail in the forty minutes allowed. It is impossible to discuss in detail the many improvements necessary for the farmer. I have seen in the press, however, that provincial governments are assisting in the setting up of small farm committees, and I would recommend that the federal government should do everything within its power to assist in this idea of the setting up of those committees. It is not a bit of use for the farmers to set up committees and take stock of what is needed in their own district unless they can have the assurance that the federal government will listen to their needs, and will supplement what is needed in the districts concerned, as far as supplies, stock, machinery and other materials are concerned. If they had the assurance that the federal government would do that, I believe there could be built up a scheme of cooperation between farmer and government which would result in an encouraging increase in production.

As I said before, this is a detailed matter, and something which cannot be covered by any blanket scheme. Schemes such as we have had in the past such as bonuses for the reduction of wheat acreage and for increases in the production of coarse grains do not give the assistance which is needed. That assistance is required in various ways on the smaller farms. I need not remind hon. members of the old rhyme about the lack of a horseshoe nail resulting in the lack of a shoe, the lack of a horse, the lack of a man, and finally the loss of a battle and a nation. What is the use of our planning a war effort as a nation, if any one of those branches in the war effort is falling short. If we fall short on the food front, then that shortage is going to damage the national effort of Canada all the way along. We must pay attention to the needs of our farm people. They are not asking for special attention; they are not asking for anything for their own salvation; they are asking only for an opportunity to get out and produce in a fair and decent way that which is needed.

If this government will give the necessary attention to the details, then I consider that there will be an opportunity not only to fulfil the quotas but to have on our farms in western Canada the right kind of security and happiness instead of frustration. Our farming people will then know that they are able to make a contribution worthy of them. Without these small details being attended to, we shall have cattle being slaughtered when they should not be slaughtered; we shall have fewer hogs; we shall have honey not collected; we shall have