

thus maintaining men in employment in industry throughout those years. I maintain that we should do this in order that, if difficult years should return, we may have in the west men who will produce those foodstuffs which will not only enter greatly into our trade but become essential for the preservation of those who may be called upon at some time in the not far distant future to defend this and other parts of the empire.

We in the west have not forgotten the days when we were producing our wheat from fourteen or fifteen million acres of land, and doing it to the advantage of all our farmers. At the same time we were maintaining ourselves in such a position that we could still produce live stock in the volume and of the quality that we had been accustomed to produce. We have not forgotten that this parliament set up an organization that came into western Canada and asked every public man to take the platform and advocate the production of wheat as it had never been produced before. When we said that we had no credit, that we could not buy the machinery with which to break up the land, they said to us, "We will provide the credit." And that credit, Mr. Speaker, represents a large part of the debt that farmers have had difficulty in paying ever since. When we were unable to provide the man power—and at the same time help to fight the battles of the empire and this country—to break that land up by the use of horse power, we were told, "We can supply you with the machines." And the machines were put on our land. The land was broken up; and when that period had passed over many of those lands began to blow about, as every farmer knew they would blow about when he was breaking them up in the first place.

But if the Dominion of Canada were to say to me now that we owe nothing to the people who live in those particular areas into which that propaganda was carried during the war period, then I would say that any appeal we have to make in the future to the people who live in those areas would probably fall upon deaf ears, if we required the same kind of assistance as we required in our period of great trial, not many years ago.

Mr. MacNICOL: Would the minister state, too, that the government encouraged manufacturing institutions of eastern Canada to double their output in the war period?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, the government encouraged eastern plants to do a similar thing, and we have been reminded of that during this session, quite a number of times. One of those plants that got into financial

[Mr. Gardiner.]

difficulties, partly as a result of the fact that the government called upon it to perform a national task at that time, has been a matter of considerable discussion in this house, ever since the session opened. So far as I am concerned I think we should remember our relationship not only to the great agricultural industry, but to all industry as associated with that particular period.

As I said a few moments ago, you cannot associate our wheat problem, and the necessity for dealing with it with a tariff as it is associated with industry. I said, Mr. Speaker, that some impossible tasks were being placed upon the government by some of those who are associated with some of the provinces of Canada at the present time. In that regard, I recall the fact that we had been asked to provide subventions whereby coal could be brought from Alberta down to the central part of Canada to be sold. I should like to state to the house the reply I gave on that occasion. I said I had bought Alberta coal in the city of Regina, and that for Saunders Creek coal I had usually paid from \$11.50 to \$12.50 a ton. I stated that at the time I was burning in Ottawa the best Welsh coal, and that I was buying it for \$12.50 a ton. I asked Mr. Aberhart how he proposed to bring Alberta coal from the city of Regina down to the city of Ottawa, having in mind the fact that Alberta coal has about two-thirds of the B.T.U's of Welsh coal, if that Alberta coal was costing me as much in Regina as the Welsh coal was costing me in Ottawa. His reply to me was: "That is your problem."

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a much bigger problem than even that. It is associated with the remark that caused me to enter upon this discussion a few moments ago. It is associated with the remark: Why should other countries accept of the products of this country in order to help feed their people? There is only one reason why they should do that, and the reason is that we can produce better the product they require; we can produce it cheaper here than they can produce it. The reason why they should be using it is that they can produce other commodities which we require, much cheaper than we can produce them. We ought to be shipping our wheat to Germany; we ought to be shipping our wheat to France; we ought to be shipping our wheat to Italy—

An hon. MEMBER: Have you tried it?

Mr. GARDINER: —but the people in those countries are not prepared to take our wheat. They are prepared to set up a price which is three times as great as the price we