

Supply—Agriculture

Machine	1953 Price \$	Price F.O.B. Calgary \$	Approximate increase \$
Motor baler	1,875	2,467	580
#15 Side rake	325.45	637	310
c32 6' power mower ..	309.80	485	176
Forage harvester	1,625	1,900	275
Grain auger	356	450	98
Manure spreader	436.70	560	124
#37 tandem disc	374	986	612
6 flexible harrows ...	146	250	104
2 rod weeders	465.30	660	195
Farm wagon	234	340	105
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	30,009.95	48,309	16,166

On our own farm of 1,500 acres, we have the following machinery:

Machine	Year	Purchase Price \$	Today's Price \$
Oliver gas model #99 tractor	1947	2,050	—
Replaced by Oliver diesel #99 tractor ..	1958	6,020	6,320
Caterpillar D-4 diesel bulldozer and hydraulic unit	1939	4,750	15,181
New Holland baler ..	1956	2,127	2,575
Bale elevator	1955	242.10	320
16 ft. swather	1954	2,100	2,750
Massey Harris 102 tractor	1946	2,200	3,500
Massey Harris 30 tractor	1948	1,900	2,700
Massey Harris self propelled combine No. 27	1952	5,662 #92	8,350
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Grain loader	1952	505	720
10' tandem disc	1947	475	986
Manure spreader	1951	435.31	560
Side delivery rake ..	1951	451	637
Hay wagon	1951	210	340
Power mower	1950	288.99	485
Graham home plow ..	1949	315	720
Graham home plow ..	1949	315	720
8 section flexible harrow	1948	151	250
24' rod weeders	1949	490	660
15' seeder tiller	1951	1,178	1,700
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		37,493.40	57,524

F.O.B. CALGARY March 3, 1959.

I think when we talk about the cost price squeeze that probably the real squeeze on the farmer is coming from this cost of machinery. This is a squeeze which the farmer feels as a result of the strife between management and labour. I am taking no sides on this question because I am not one who has ever taken part in negotiations between management and labour. I am certainly not going to hold myself out as an expert. We know that the leaders of both parties, Liberal and Conservative, have exhorted management and labour to keep prices down and try to stop this escalator from forever climbing. The farmer is one person who is caught in the squeeze because he cannot pass on the additional cost to the consumer. When the cost of a combine increases by \$4,000 in five

years, there is no way for him to pass on that increased cost so that he can get back that extra capital expenditure.

I hope the time will never come when control regulations are necessary. I am not one of those who would like to see compulsion introduced because there is something about a free economy which is typical of our Canadian way of life. But it may be that if a farmer has to continue to pay double the price for his machinery every five years there is something to be said for the answer which Senator Kennedy gave to a question which he was asked at a press conference. Senator Kennedy, as no doubt members of this committee know, is a United States democratic senator who is aspiring to the presidency of the United States. This is the question he was asked:

But you would have the people pay more taxes to help India. President Eisenhower exhorts businessmen not to raise prices and labour not to demand higher wages. Isn't this asking people to go against their selfish interests?

And the answer he gave was:

I never thought exhortations did much good. I don't think it fair to expect businessmen and labour people to control themselves just because you have made a general request. Unions are in the business of getting more for their people and management is in the business of getting more for itself, and I think government intervention has to be more precise and stronger.

It would seem to me that if this strife between management and labour cannot be brought to an end we may in future have to impose some kind of control, and I know that every hon. member, no matter on what side he sits, would prefer to continue with a free economy. However, agriculture cannot continue to function with prosperity if it is caught in this squeeze, because it is all a question, as I said before, of what a bushel of wheat will buy and what a pound of beef will buy.

Now I should like to say a few words with reference to the remarks made by the leader of the C.C.F. party to the effect that the western Conservative members have betrayed the western farmer. I was fortunate enough to have six men from Bow River forming a part of the farm delegation. One was the master farmer from that area. They knew the problem, and we discussed the problem together as I have discussed it with you, Mr. Chairman, this afternoon. They know that the big problem concerns what a bushel of wheat will buy and what a pound of beef will buy. If we could get costs down, then the price of a bushel of wheat would not be out of line, but it is out of line today in the light of the prices which a farmer has to pay for his machinery and what he has to pay for all the other things he needs to purchase.