

but I know that the farmers are doing everything they can to produce to the utmost during the coming year.

One of the shortcomings of the government's programme is the withdrawal of payment for grain stored on farms. It is not possible in all cases for farmers to deliver all their quota, because the local elevators—and they are allowed to deliver at only one point—have not the space available. We are not getting such a high price for wheat that farmers can pay that storage. If you compare our prices here with those in the United States it will be seen that we are very much underpaid. In the *Western Producer* of January 21 last I find this item:

\$1.13 Advanced on United States Wheat

The United States Department of Agriculture has announced that Commodity Credit Corporation through December 31 had completed 514,687 loans on 386,297,684 bushels of 1942 wheat in the amount of \$436,695,969. The average amount advanced was \$1.13 per bushel, which includes some transportation charges from the area of production to warehouse locations and storage advances on farm-stored wheat. Loans had been completed on 171,874,656 bushels stored on farms, and 214,423,028 bushels stored in warehouses.

So that in the United States they are advancing on grain stored in the elevators and on the farms. I do not think the United States can grow better wheat than we can; in fact I do not think they can grow as good wheat, and their costs of production are lower than ours. Therefore we are being cheated out of a good many cents a bushel on all the wheat we grow.

On January 7 last the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) addressed the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in Toronto. I do not know whether the minister felt he would catch the farmers napping; he told them that the very real harm that agriculture would suffer would be from the deflation and collapse of prices that would follow inflation. If the minister can show me and show the farmers whom he addressed in Toronto, taking into account the price increases that have been allowed on the things we have to buy, that we would suffer by having the price of our grain, particularly our wheat, raised fifty cents a bushel, he will have to make a better explanation than he has done in this house up to the present time. Deflation and inflation are straw men that are often used to scare the farmers. But some of our farmers are at last getting wise about these straw men and are not taking very much notice of them.

We have been charged on several occasions with coming here looking for charity. The farming class, and I have talked to them in different parts of the country, are the last

to ask for or accept charity. Farmers comprise about one-third of the population of Canada. The remaining two-thirds are largely dependent directly or indirectly on the farmers, because if there were no farmers in Canada the country would go back to the Indians and those who in the past have exploited the farmers would be in some other country. We want parity, not charity.

A number of reasons may be given for loss of production during this present year. One of the first I would refer to is the shortage of farm help. On March 24 last the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) made an announcement in connection with farm help. At that time it sounded pretty good, but the action taken on several occasions since then shows that the Prime Minister and his order did not go nearly far enough. Many young men necessary on the farms, key men, were called up and given postponement only until a certain date. In several instances those young men, in order to get into the branch of the service that they wanted to be in, enlisted before their postponement had expired, and for that reason I know of several farmers who had to sell their stock and equipment and rent the land. Therefore there will be a considerable reduction in the production of live stock and live-stock products.

Again, because of lack of help in the last harvesting and threshing season, we have millions of bushels of wheat in the stook, and some of it even standing waiting for the combine. This cannot all be attributed to lack of farm help, because we had rather a late and rainy harvest season, and then when the time came that the threshers could be operated, several outfits that should have had a crew of ten men were compelled to operate with two or three or four. In my home district I know of only one outfit that had a full crew of ten men. For that reason, on thousands of acres in that vicinity, and I believe in perhaps forty per cent of the province of Alberta, the crop is still standing in the stook or waiting for the combine. This is not a healthy condition. When the grain is finally harvested the quantity will fall far below the earlier estimates. There will be a drastic reduction because of mice and rabbits and weather and other damage.

There is another serious situation in this connection. In many cases the grain is not all threshed; only sufficient has been delivered to pay the harvesting and threshing wages and other necessary expenses, and while their money is tied up in the field the farmers find that the machinery companies are seizing