

commodities western farmers buy increased from 100 to something in the neighbourhood of 133.5 or 134. That increase in the cost of living, and consequently in the cost of production for the western farmer, constituted a great source of irritation and perhaps temporary ruin financially. In reading over the bill I just wondered if the minister had made adequate provision for taking care of the rising cost of production, whether he had any device similar to the social credit compensated discount, by the application of which he could prevent the cost of production from rising. This is another avenue thoroughly worthwhile exploring.

Raising the question of where the money is to come from brings to mind a matter that seemed to be disturbing the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker). He was afraid of the increase in centralization and regimentation in this country, of the increase in taxation, of the tendency to level people down, to redistribute poverty or scarcity. He did not use those words but I think those were his ideas. May I point out to the minister that wherever centralization of power takes place, wherever there is a tendency to tax people more and to level down the general income of the country, these tendencies are socialistic and consequently are directly contrary to democracy. The greatest danger that can arise under socialism is the destruction of democracy. I say that in no passionate way whatever; it is a simple, straightforward fact. The hon. member for Lake Centre went into considerable detail to show that there was a tendency toward the destruction of democracy through centralization and greater taxation. I do not know whether the Liberal government feel very happy to think they are lining themselves up with the great socialistic trend in the world, but they must face the fact that to the extent they have shown in this bill what their technique is to be, they are doing that very thing. The people of Canada hardly need to bother about building up and electing a Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party in order to get socialism in this country; they need only to return the Liberals next time and probably they will get all the socialism they can endure. I have no grounds for believing that the people would fare any better under a Conservative administration, either, because apparently the Conservatives think along exactly the same lines. They think there is only one way in the world to get money, namely, by taxing it out of the people. They are obsessed with that foolish notion. According to them, it does not matter what goods and services we have; it does not matter how much the real wealth of the country increases, there is no other way to

[Mr. Blackmore.]

get money. Apparently they seem to think money is a divine thing which has to rain down from the skies. It cannot be created in accordance with need—impossible, according to their ideas! They will have to outgrow these ideas, or the results of their efforts—both Liberals and Conservatives—will be socialistic, just as definitely as will be those of the C.C.F.

There are one or two other questions which I think should be propounded for consideration at this stage, while we are considering the principle of the bill. Is it the aim of the bill, in a general way, to guarantee the farmers of Canada against loss? Or is it the aim to guarantee them an adequate income? The minister will correct me if I am in error when I say that I assume the object is to guarantee them a good income. And since he does not contradict me—

Mr. GARDINER: I am waiting until you have finished.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I am asking the minister a question.

Mr. GARDINER: And I will answer it; but I cannot answer it yes or no.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I assume the minister has answered that the object of the bill is to guarantee the farmer a good income. If that is the object, then, of course, the increase in production in nearly every kind of agricultural product in Canada will be tremendous.

I have no objection to that; I have no fear of abundance. I can see plenty of places in Canada and in other parts of the world where abundance can be used, if the government can discover the proper technique of distributing that abundance. But if the government stupidly persists in being unable to see the method of distributing an abundance of goods, then there is a serious danger arising from that abundance.

When a few minutes ago the hon. member for Lake Centre said that we never again would see destruction of goods he probably was just a little out of contact with realities in his reasoning; because the advocates of scarcity, the men who think scarcity will do anything under the sun, except discover a means of distributing abundance, will do almost anything except use that abundance. They will keep producers so that they cannot deliver more than so much of their goods, and the goods will sit out in the field and spoil. Even the minister, with his enlightenment, has been guilty of that.

Mr. GARDINER: No, no.