

storage charges could be paid to them instead of to the line elevator company, and the government would get their money out of the storage charges when the wheat was sold. That is all we are asking for.

Mr. WOOD: It is a wonderful thing if you can get it. We in Ontario do not take eagerly to having the government provide granaries for the farmers in the west. We have had to erect expensive buildings to carry on our operations, and we are always glad to have a little wheat in our granaries. We do not expect the government to lend us money. We find it somewhere.

Mr. LEADER: I am sure the hon. member for Brant is one of those who would be willing to cooperate with western members in order to try to understand our problems and to arrive at some solution which would be beneficial both to the east and to west. We do not want the government to build our granaries; all we ask is that it be made a little easier for us, especially when they are ready to pay out this money to the line elevators.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Is it not true that wheat is the only commodity which the farmers of Canada have been denied the right to sell? Consequently there is some obligation to the farmer.

Mr. LEADER: One could make a whole speech on that question. There is no doubt there is something in what the hon. member has said.

Mr. WOOD: That is not so.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): What other commodity is there?

Mr. LEADER: I should like to say something about the barley industry. I believe we can grow as good barley in Canada as can be grown anywhere. If the seed is sown on good ground, if the barley is properly harvested, the product will be as good as that grown any place in the world and will be sought after by the distilling interests. There is a market for more good barley in this country, and barley is a revenue producer for the government. According to the figures which I have secured from one of the blue books, in 1939 the government obtained, through the excise tax on malt, a total of \$3,177,299.20; in 1940 the revenue from this source was \$11,402,150.76. While all that did not come from barley, almost all did. About 95 per cent of the grain used to produce malt is barley, and 97 per cent of the malt entered for consumption is used in the production of beer. The beer manufacturers do not get any revenue from me in that connection, but

[Mr. Leader.]

it is interesting to note that a bushel of barley produces thirty-six pounds of malt. The excise tax is ten cents per pound on malt, which means that a bushel of malting barley provides a revenue of \$3.60. Yet we have been selling this for thirty cents a bushel. There is some room for thought right there.

There is, in connection with barley, a matter which I have brought to the attention of the government on three or four occasions. The grain trade charge \$15 for selling a carload of wheat, but to sell a car of barley of the same capacity, they charge \$18.75. They have been able to get away with this. I do not know how long it will continue, but I have brought it before this house and to the attention of the government privately. The answer I have been given is that this is a matter to be settled by the grain trade. I took it up with the grain trade, and the counsel of the grain exchange told me that they believed the charge was reasonable. If we leave it to the grain trade, we shall continue to pay \$3.75 more selling commission on a carload of barley than we do on a carload of wheat.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fournier, Hull): I am sorry to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but he has spoken for more than forty minutes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go on.

Mr. LEADER: I thank the committee for listening to me, and I shall conclude right away. I have been speaking as a farmer and as a representative of farmers. I am speaking not only for myself, but also for my constituents. On several occasions I have found it necessary to oppose the government. That is not because I wanted to; it was simply because I believed honestly that I am here to represent my people before supporting the government or any other party. That is my honest belief. I am simply trying to discharge the duty which has been imposed upon me.

Mr. FAIR: Mr. Chairman, on March 27 I had an opportunity to discuss the wheat question, but eleven o'clock came along before I had completed my remarks and we were sent home for the day. Under the policy laid down by the government this year, a price of 70 cents a bushel will be paid on 230,000,000 bushels. This will net the farmers of the west less than \$115,000,000. We know from past experience that we cannot get along on that amount. If we do not get enough to live on from the sale of our products, we shall have to have relief or something of that kind. We do not want relief. I think I stressed this point when speaking on the last occasion. I