

I should like to say something about what was more or less a bombshell which was thrown into this house yesterday, when the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) told us that the floor price of wheat was to be set at not less than \$1 a bushel. For twenty-five years the farmers of the west have been trying to get an agricultural policy. Now we have a policy of a kind, but I can say that a floor price of \$1 a bushel for wheat is not satisfactory to the western wheat growers. I am not going to rehash all the arguments which were presented so well yesterday by one of our members, but I wish to say that I do not believe the farmers of this country should be called upon to make a sacrifice in this connection. I believe that in every possible way we should help the nations needing this wheat; but if any sacrifice must be made, then all the people of Canada should be asked to make it. In the past the farmers have been sacrificed all the way through to build up an industrial Canada. We who live in the west know that only too well, because we have had to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in higher costs for all the things we have had to buy. This has been the result of tariff protection given to industries in eastern Canada.

Not only that, but if we are to make loans to these countries to buy the wheat, the sacrifice should not be made only by the grain growers of western Canada. The government would have been well advised had it placed a floor price on wheat of at least \$1.25 per bushel.

Mr. GARDINER: Under the legislation up to date, \$1.25 is the only floor price that has been placed.

Mr. CAMPBELL: I should like now to say a few words about taxes. Certainly I am in favour of a reduction in taxation, and I am prepared to make a suggestion as to where we can get money to make it possible to reduce taxes. I find that in the report of the Bank of Canada, dated February 10, 1945, the net profit from our operations in the central bank for the year 1944, after providing for contingencies and reserves, amounted to \$20,312,659.68. There is one instance where the government through the operations of the central bank made a profit of that much money.

Then, again, in the report of the Canadian National Railways security trust for the year ended December 31, 1944, the surplus earnings of the system are set out at page five as \$23,026,924.35 less the abandonment of dock facilities at Seattle valued at \$626,871. I do not think that figure should be taken into consideration.

[Mr. Campbell.]

Something was said a few days ago about the machinery of production. I believe people throughout the world realize to-day that the machine has displaced man-power. Millions of men have been replaced by machines, and this means that we are faced with the necessity of changing some of our ideas. I contend that the machinery of production should be owned by the people of Canada, for their benefit. Whoever controls that machinery also controls the economic life of the people. I contend that if the machine is to be started only when someone can make a profit, there will be many times in the coming years when it will be idle.

There is no reason why we cannot produce enormous amounts of wealth in Canada under a planned economy. If the people throughout the country do not plan the economy for this high production, it will not be attained. I understand that in 1932 Canada produced only a little over three billion dollars worth of wealth. But when during the war years we had a plan to win the war, to build ships, to build jeeps, tanks, trucks and the like, we went to work with a plan to win, with the result that our production jumped up to around nine billions of dollars.

To-day we hear a great deal about full employment and a high standard of living for our people. If they are to have that standard of living we must produce great wealth. If it was possible for us to produce wealth to the value of nine billions of dollars in 1944, when 750,000 of our boys and girls were in the armed services, and when a large percentage of our people were engaged in war factories—and of course they were producing part of that wealth—I do not see why we should not set our sights for at least nine billions for the next year, and increase our production during coming years to the point where we can supply the needs of all our people. If we plan our economy with that in view we must see to it that those who produce the wealth will receive enough purchasing power to buy it back.

That cannot be done under a profit-system, because under that system one group of people get too much purchasing power, and this means that there will be a large group who will not have sufficient purchasing power. If we are to have a condition where wages are knocked down—and it looks as if that is taking place to-day—and if we are to look to foreign markets to get rid of surpluses, I am afraid that Canada is in for a lot of trouble. Not only will this country be looking for foreign markets, but every country in the world producing surpluses will be looking for them. Those countries which to-day are