

*Assistance to Western Grain Farmers*

before he leaves on his trip to Rome in connection with agricultural matters he should remedy the defect which prevents Saskatchewan farmers from selling their rapeseed in this manner, which would not interfere, directly or indirectly, with elevator space used for wheat and other crops. The matter has been before the government. It was presented with the support of the government of Saskatchewan but apparently the Wheat Board is standing firm. It should be made known to them that the order is directly contrary to the wishes and desires of the western farmer.

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the minister has put before the House the program which the government intends to follow in this very serious situation. Within its limits it is a workable program, but I am afraid it will fall far short of meeting the needs of other types of farming. For instance, it says nothing about assistance in providing livestock feed in the area concerned. From the information I have been able to gather it appears that because of wet weather farmers have been unable to gather the feed necessary to carry their livestock through the winter, and in this part of the prairies there is a significant concentration of livestock. I strongly urge the minister to address himself to this problem as I doubt very much that the farmers, of themselves and by themselves, can meet the situation. The last thing we want to happen is a reduction of hogs and, more particularly, cow-calf herds in that area. This is a very important matter.

I think action should be taken to ensure, with the co-operation of the grain companies, that drying facilities are available in case some of the flax or rapeseed can be taken off the ground. Anyone who knows anything about rapeseed no doubt realizes that if the seed stays outside all winter it will be ruined by the time spring comes. Rapeseed piled in the outdoors will not survive the winter. Flaxseed was showing a 15 per cent moisture content, I believe when tested yesterday. The chances are pretty slim that these grains will dry. I would have been much happier if the minister had said that drying facilities would be set up. Possibly cash advances in addition to the ones contemplated in the program now before us will need to be introduced.

I do not wish to downgrade the program the minister has put in motion, which is similar to existing programs in the form of cash advances, crop insurance and PFAA. Such programs are designed to be of assistance to

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

farmers. Let us not forget that farmers need assistance. The price of farm products has declined and costs of production have gone up to such an extent that the farmer has been caught in a cost-price squeeze and cannot afford to meet the slightest extra cost without the risk of finding himself in deep trouble. I hope the minister will consider these representations.

[Translation]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I have just read the statement the Minister of Agriculture was good enough to make here about problems now arising in west Canada in connection with the crop. This is indeed a most trying experience for the 25,000 western farmers, particularly those in the province of Alberta.

I believe the government should take action to assist those western farmers financially, and not let it remain just another plan. We must make haste as expenses are incurred regularly and day by day. Funds must be found to provide the farmers with financial resources, income, in order to meet their commitments.

However, I wonder whether the Minister of Agriculture could not take the necessary steps to prevent excessive effects on prices of grain for the preparation of mill-feed in the eastern provinces.

The eastern farmers are also experiencing difficulties, and their dairy and production problems as well as others are known to the members of this house.

The federal government will give assistance to the western farmers and I would ask, on behalf of the eastern producers, that the government also take the necessary steps to prevent a possible increase in prices which would be greatly detrimental to the eastern farmers.

I welcome the intended government measures which I feel are timely. The bill concerning subsidies for unthreshed cereals should be introduced—and this is also the minister's opinion—as soon as possible.

As far as we Cr ditistes are concerned, we can assure the western farmers and the government of our full co-operation.

• (11:30 a.m.)

[English]

### REMEMBRANCE DAY ACT

#### ADDITION OF PRECEDING SUNDAY

**Mr. Barney Danson (York-North)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-146, to amend the Remembrance Day Act.