

complicated subject presented by the drought in western Canada, the marketing of wheat, and other phases of the grain problem.

In the first place we must remember that world markets have changed considerably, and I doubt, as I believe most thinking people doubt, whether those markets will ever be the same again. I will cite some figures which I have taken from the Turgeon report, and which I believe demonstrate this fact better than any words of mine could do.

During the years 1922 to 1927, France, Germany and Italy purchased wheat to the average of over 200,000,000 bushels annually. Ten years later, from 1932 to 1937, their average purchases were just about 35,000,000 bushels, or hardly more than one-sixth of the amounts they bought ten years before. I do believe that this picture will never again present the appearance it did from 1922 to 1927. For the sake of western Canada I hope that I am wrong, but I doubt very much whether in the world of to-day we can look forward to those three and other countries ever again making the heavy purchases of wheat which they did in earlier years.

The hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) remarked upon the excellent bread he bought in South America. I well remember that during my first visit to France, away back in 1905, and on subsequent visits up to the time of the great war, I was struck by the splendid quality of the bread; I thought it was the finest I had ever eaten. It was crusty and white, and I was told at that time that the quality was due to the fact that over there they knew so well how to blend wheats. I might interject that the only bread I have tasted elsewhere which equals the French bread of those days is the crusty rolls they make at the Chateau Laurier. But during and since the war the quality of the bread in France changed markedly, and to-day you get, instead of that fine, white crusty bread, an inferior quality which is probably no better and no worse than the bread of many other nations. So France, like many other nations, can make bread of inferior quality, doing without Canadian wheat. They have not been buying much of our wheat, although they have been getting from Northern Africa wheat raised from fine quality seed obtained, I believe, from Canada.

I make this point from the scientific standpoint, of which I have some little knowledge, that while bread is called the staff of life, it can be the staff of life without being developed to the highest degree of quality. After all, bread is made up largely of starch, with gluten, which is protein. Three elements,

[Mr. Manion.]

starch, protein and fat, with salts and water, are all we take in for nourishment. Salts and water we obtain everywhere in our food and drink; protein is obtained largely from meat and cheese; butter and cream provide fats; starch is provided by bread, potatoes, beans, and things of that sort. So if you take a piece of bread, even of inferior quality, with some butter, you have what is required for a complete staff of life; and of course the starches can be obtained from other products. I noticed the other day an item in a newspaper which brought back that fact to me. It stated that the poorer people in Ireland, living as they did to a large extent upon potatoes and milk, were getting a perfect diet. The potato contains the starch, and the milk contains a certain amount of protein and also fat, so that potatoes and milk supplied the same type of perfect diet as bread and butter. Just as an Irishman could get his complete diet from potatoes and milk, so could the people of France and other countries which used to import our wheat get their starches from other wheats than ours, or they can take their starches in the form of rye bread, brown bread, peas, beans, potatoes and various other articles. I point that out because we in Canada must realize that we cannot force the world to take our wheat. The world can get along without it. The only way we can sell it is by, so to speak, coaxing them to take it, not by forcing it upon them.

Another point we should bear in mind is that the world production of wheat is just about ten times Canada's production, or roughly 4,000,000,000 bushels. In round figures Canada produces over the years about 400,000,000 bushels annually. I well remember that I was out in Fort William in 1929, when wheat went to about \$1.50 a bushel.

Mr. STEVENS: One dollar and seventy-five cents.

Mr. ROSS (Moose Jaw): One dollar and eighty-two cents.

Mr. MANION: All right. I remembered that it was around \$1.50. I recall that a big financier and dealer, a man well known to almost every westerner, was at that time making radio addresses across western Canada in which he prophesied, as did many other grain growers, that wheat would reach \$2 per bushel. I say this in no spirit of criticism, but it illustrates the prevalence of an attitude which did something to hurt our position in foreign markets. One of the pool organizations held a big dinner at the head of the lakes, to which they invited public men, and in consequence I was there; and they boasted