

the price of Canadian wheat could have been maintained notwithstanding what happened in other countries?—A. They had not developed that technique.

Q. You see we have done it since.—A. Yes, we have, but at that particular time they had not developed the technique of doing it.

Q. But if it could have been done they might have found a way out.

Mr. CLEAVER: I wonder if we could have the official record now.

The WITNESS: The point is it was not done because the technique of doing it was not discovered yet.

The CHAIRMAN: May I just suggest that Mr. Bickerton is talking to me at the present time.

Mr. BLACKMORE: That is quite all right. I am just interrupting with a question the same as the others do.

The WITNESS: At the time this happened there were a lot of people in other parts of the world who were definitely hungry. Right at that every period there were many hundreds of thousands of people died of famine in India, and had we had the technique of moving our international financial economy around we could have possibly got wheat to those people. It was definitely a cause of starvation in the midst of plenty during that time. There were a number of very peculiar things happened until the technique of moving was discovered. You remember that in the United States the government subsidized people not to produce hogs and hog producers were wondering what was the best type of hog not to produce. In Denmark they took a lot of their hogs, threw them on a pile, put gasoline on them and set fire to them. We dumped coffee, and all that kind of thing.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. If they had increased the purchasing power of their people so the people could have bought those goods it would have helped?—A. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Before we go on to hogs, let us dispose of the wheat situation. I have the paper before me. It is a report of the Economic Committee of the League of Nations on the agricultural crisis. May I just mention that the Economic Committee proceeded with the assistance of the International Institute of Agriculture, and the committee summoned a meeting in January, 1930, of twenty and in January, 1931, of twenty-four experts acquainted with the general problems of agricultural economy. This is the substance of the conclusion. You will find this statement on page 22:—

The depression in agricultural products is at the bottom of the general crisis; the depression in cereals is at the bottom of the agricultural depression. It is the depression in cereals rather than that in other agricultural products which has suddenly brought the mass of the farmers face to face with the problem of markets and prices.

Just before the war, the international wheat market had apparently reached a sort of equilibrium. Violent fluctuations had formerly taken place in very localized markets, one district frequently experiencing a glut of wheat while neighbouring districts suffered from a serious dearth. This state of affairs had given way to a highly regulated system which was brought about by a development of the world market and which made all the wheat producing countries interdependent; prices had been equalized with the help of the growing traffic facilities.

There is one more statement that I want to read, and you will find it on an adjoining page. I would ask you to remember that this is printed in a report made in 1931. It is as follows:—

On the whole, European production is below the pre-war average level; it only slightly exceeds it occasionally, in particularly favourable