

*Supply—Agriculture*

surplus of grain produced in western Canada had been dumped on the market like it was a few years ago and the price established according to the amount of grain offered on the world markets of that day. Some order has now come out of chaos, and grain farmers by and large can look back over the last few years without being too unhappy about the situation.

● (5:10 p.m.)

I notice that members have a great deal to say in this house about grain farming and wheat. I lived in Alberta for a good many years. I was not engaged in grain farming specifically but in an allied industry. As a matter of fact, I sold them the products to which they fed the grain. The industry in which I was engaged assisted in using up a lot of grain. All across the dominion of Canada there are industries allied with farming, and many of these are not exactly dependent on the grain business. The poultry industry, the hog industry and the turkey industry are quite large. The beef industry is, of course, dependent on and supplementary to the grain industry on the prairies. Various other industries from Vancouver to Halifax are associated with the grain industry.

It seems to me there is a quiet revolution taking place in the agricultural industry. I am wondering whether we really understand what to do about it. People want to produce their products at the lowest possible cost. They are gathering together at seminars in university rooms, in lodges and in church basements for one purpose, to figure out how they can keep the cost of production down. It was not too many years ago when it took 16 weeks and four pounds of feed to produce each pound of flesh on a broiler chicken. Today we can do this in eight weeks with two pounds of feed or less. What has happened to this saving in the cost of production? It has gone to the consumer and the consumer is paying less and less for products. Neither I nor any member of this house can blame the government because we are living in a private enterprise economy. Thank God that is the situation in this country.

There is a quiet revolution taking place. There are places right across Canada where people are doing something about the situation. They are gathering together and forming economic units, although not in the manner described so often and so eloquently by the hon. member for Crowfoot. These people are getting together and deciding how to take

advantage of provincial legislation by forming into what they refer to as marketing boards which in fact are procurement commissions. They plan production in relation to the market and they produce what housewives want to buy. They sell this produce to secondary industries at their prices and then forget about it. They leave the marketing to the secondary industry.

We have heard all kinds of rumours about marketing boards, but I think we should be very careful we do not adopt the concept that we as producers should suddenly blossom out as people who understand marketing and distribution. We should remain with product planning and be satisfied to be paid in relation to production costs and forget about subsidies. We do not want handouts all the time, and I could get plenty of testimonials as far as this is concerned.

**Mr. Bigg:** That's a good trick if you can do it.

**Mr. Pringle:** Let me try to answer the hon. member by referring him to the British Columbia broiler marketing board. This body came into existence about eight or nine years ago. Before that a farmer might have received 20 cents a pound, and in those days if you sold by live weight you barely received a subsistence price. A farmer might have found himself with many chickens and receiving only 15 cents, 16 cents or 17 cents a pound. The marketing board established planned production and today these farmers are receiving prices based on the cost of production and they use secondary industry. They do not need farm improvement loans because they are able to go to the banks to borrow money. There are chicken men in British Columbia, chicken men in Alberta and, in fact, chicken men in Ontario.

**Mr. Bigg:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Pringle:** Yes.

**Mr. Bigg:** Would the hon. member tell me who owns the broiler industry in Ontario? Is it owned by the farmers?

**Mr. Pringle:** I assume the hon. member is referring to the integrated broiler industry in Ontario. I am not able to give the hon. member the facts and figures, but I know there are several of these businesses here. I am not suggesting this is correct or that it is wrong, but I am suggesting that had the farmers of