

Farm Prices

a parity price for individual items of farm products. I do not believe that is sound. I think our objective should be parity of income, taking the general situation rather than the individual situation.

I am pleased to note the general approval that has been given to this measure. I was interested to read only a few days ago the representations that have been made to one of the committees of this house on behalf of the Canadian federation of agriculture, which propounded many of the principles that are contained in the bill that is now before the house.

There is one other thing that I should like to refer to before I sit down. We hear a great deal of discussion in this house, and it has been urged by hon. members from all sides of the house, of the necessity of producer representation on government marketing boards or boards dealing with farm products on behalf of the government or semi-government boards. Before I came into the house this afternoon I happened to pick up the statement of the Canadian federation of agriculture, and I was pleased to note what they have to say with respect to the representation of that organization in government activities at the present time. The heading of this particular paragraph in the report is as follows:

How is the federation given recognition in national affairs?

And this is what follows:

The president and managing director of the federation is chairman of the advisory committee to the agricultural food board and the dominion Minister of Agriculture. This committee, formed in 1943 simultaneously with the formation of the food board, has twelve members. Three of these are nominees of the Canadian federation. Three other members are also federation officers, but were selected as representatives of their respective provincial departments of agriculture at the request of the departments themselves.

The first vice-president of the federation is a member of the board of governors of the Canadian broadcasting corporation as the representative of organized agriculture.

The president of the federation was a member of the advisory committee to the official Canadian delegation to the united nations conference on food and agriculture at Hot Springs, Virginia, in May, 1943, at which forty-four nations were represented.

The federation has been officially represented by its president or secretary at all of the dominion-provincial agricultural conferences during the past three years.

The federation has had a voice in the formation of advisory committees to various government wartime boards, on which organized agriculture is represented either by federation members or federation nominees, and thus, by their presence on these boards, have an active part in the deliberations of these committees.

[Mr. Weir.]

Summarized, the various wartime advisory committees on which organized agriculture is represented in this way, are as follows:

National advisory committee to the agricultural food board and the Minister of Agriculture.
Advisory committee to the meat board.

Advisory committee to the Canadian wheat board.

National employment committee.

Committee on farm income tax.

National war finance committee.

National selective service advisory board.

War assets corporation.

Beef advisory committee to the foods administration W.P.T.B.

Dairy products advisory committee to the foods administration W.P.T.B.

Eggs and poultry advisory committee to the foods administration, W.P.T.B.

Fertilizer advisory committee to the foods administration W.P.T.B.

Fruits and vegetables advisory committee to the foods administration, W.P.T.B.

Honey advisory committee to the foods administration W.P.T.B.

Maple products advisory committee to the foods administration, W.P.T.B.

Seeds advisory committee.

That seems to me a pretty commendable list of boards and committees on which organized agriculture is directly represented, and I think what has been done by these organizations reflects great credit upon them. I commend the Minister of Agriculture and other officials of the government on having recognized the contribution that agriculture can make, through its own organizations, in assisting to carry out the government's programme at this time.

I do not desire to say anything further on this occasion, Mr. Speaker. I am glad this measure has been brought forward, because agriculture has been looking for it. I am satisfied that it is necessary, and I am happy to see that it is receiving general support in the house.

Mr. L. E. CARDIFF (Huron North): It is not very often, Mr. Speaker, that my voice is heard in this chamber, but as one of the farmers elected to this house I thought perhaps I should add something to this debate.

This is a measure to support the prices of agricultural products during the transition from war to peace. If it is being brought in only for election purposes, of course it will do no good. If it is an honest attempt to do what it purports to do, then I support it whole-heartedly. Something of this kind is long past due. Being an agriculturist, and never having made any money in any other way, I know perhaps as well as any hon. member in this house just how much money is being made in agriculture to-day. Of course I am supposed to make more money now because of the indemnity I receive as a member of parliament, but I should like someone