

Trade and Commerce (Mr. Euler) assured the members, and myself in particular, that on some item in the estimates we would have this opportunity. I shall be very brief and I regret that this important problem has to come before the committee in the closing hours of the session.

The question of the marketing of coarse grains is becoming almost as important as that concerning the marketing of wheat. I shall not take the time to go into the comparative values of coarse grains from the feeding standpoint, as sufficient figures have been placed on Hansard during this session by the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Leader), and during last session by the then member for Souris, Mr. Willis. That would take too long, but I should like to read briefly from a memorandum which was sent to me. Following the discussion we had on the resolution which stood in my name on the order paper early in the session, I received the following memorandum:

One of the counterbalancing factors influencing farmers in planning their acreage to be sown to barley is the cash return per acre. The superiority which barley possesses over other cereals in producing additional live stock food value per acre will make an appeal to the cereal producer who is growing cereals for feed purposes on his own farm, but will have little attraction to the farmer producing the cereal as a cash crop.

The two principal reasons why barley is not more extensively grown as a straight cash crop are: first, unfair grading, which results in too small a proportion of the crop earning whatever premium may be carried by malting or export barley, i.e., that is the trade does not in any year pay the premium for all the barley they export or turn to the malting companies; and second, the price to the farmer of ninety per cent of the barley grown in Canada in any year is governed entirely by the export price of from two to six, and not in any season exceeding ten per cent, of the crop produced.

The farmers in western Canada, particularly those in the southern halves of the three prairie provinces, were forced last year to market their coarse grains because of the destruction of the wheat crop by rust. The price at which they were forced to sell their coarse grains in order to get some money with which to carry on was very low; in fact it was unprecedentedly low. I have in my possession a letter which I received the other day from a farmer in the Wolesey district. This man farms two or three sections of land and last year he lost most of his wheat crop through rust. He told me that in order to get a forty gallon barrel of gasoline he had to sell seventy bushels of barley.

Following the short discussion which took place on the resolution that stood in my name on the order paper I received many

letters endorsing the proposal that coarse grains should be brought under the Canadian Wheat Board Act. I also received copies of resolutions which had been passed by boards of trade, pool organizations and municipal organizations. Section 14 of the wheat board act provides for bringing coarse grains under the operation of the act by order in council after a recommendation by the wheat board to the government. The machinery is already set up, and I think it is important that this action should be taken. I trust the government will give this matter its consideration immediately. It is important that the step should be taken in time so that the farmers will have an opportunity of marketing their coarse grains under the act when the new crop comes on the market. I do not want to delay the committee and I regret that we have to discuss this very important matter so late in the session. I know many hon. members of this committee, particularly those from western Canada, will endorse this proposal. I hope that as soon as parliament prorogues they will bring what pressure they can to bear upon the government to have them take this problem into consideration.

There is just one other matter I should like to discuss. I may be a little out of order, but much time has been taken up to-day in discussing matters that were really out of order. I should like to direct attention to the fact that in western Canada a great many organizations are anxious that the board should handle the 1936 crop and that a minimum price should be set at an early date. The crop year ends on July 31, and I think it is important that this price should be set in good time. Last year a delay occurred because of certain necessities, but this year the machinery is set up, the board is in operation and there is no reason why a price should not be set in good time.

I should like to bring to the attention of the committee and the government three resolutions which have been passed recently in Saskatchewan. One was passed by the retail merchants' association at their meeting a few days ago in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They suggest that the board continue and that a price of 87½ cents or better per bushel be fixed at as early a date as possible. Another one was passed by the live stock breeders' association meeting in Moose Jaw, in which they ask that a price be set and that the government consider taking coarse grains under the wheat board act. The third resolution was passed by pool delegates from