

initial payment at 70 cents. I often wonder, when I hear people talking about 70 cents as being the price which the farmer is going to get for his wheat, what makes them so absolutely sure of it. It puzzles me, hearing people talk about the future of the market, where they get their knowledge. How can they tell whether the market will go up or down, and whether the price of wheat will be more or less at any future time? This measure simply guarantees to the farmer that much as an initial payment. For example, the price of wheat in two or three weeks might be a dollar, or 95 cents. I do not see that there is any justification for asking the government at this time to say what the price of wheat will be next fall. Think of saying during the winter what you are going to get for next year's crop, and then begin to argue that 60 cents is not high enough! How can anyone tell what the price is going to be? The initial price should not be set by any government until about the first of August. I think the government have made a mistake in saying now that they are going to guarantee a price of 70 cents; that might have been left until the first of August. It is possible that when the first of August comes we shall be wanting 90 cents. I can imagine some of my hon. friends wanting \$1 or \$1.25, because what they want is sure to be above whatever price is set.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): We shall have to get it to pay the doctor.

Mr. DONNELLY: When I hear my hon. friends talking about the cost of producing a bushel of wheat I often wonder. I agree with the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, (Mr. Perley) who is a practical farmer, that there is nothing the farmer produces of which the cost of raising is harder to tell than a bushel of wheat. I have been farming in western Canada for some thirty years and in one section where I have been farming for the last ten years it has cost me \$5 a bushel at least; in the other section where I am farming it has cost me far less than \$1 a bushel. Yet these people say: "Oh, there is no trouble, all you have to do is get out a yard measure and measure it just as you would a building." These professors and others who sit in arm chairs and tell a working farmer what it costs to raise a bushel of wheat just make the practical farmer laugh.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Your Minister of Agriculture quoted professors.

[Mr. Donnelly.]

Mr. DONNELLY: That is all very well, but I am talking as a practical farmer. I have seen two farmers side by side, one a good farmer and the other a poor farmer, not a thing separating them but a bit of barbed wire fence; and the poor farmer's crop cost him less than \$1 a bushel, and the good farmer happened to get frost or a poor kind of wheat and his cost two dollars or more. I saw a farmer last year who had 400 acres of Thatcher wheat and he harvested 32 bushels per acre; right beside that field he had one sown in Marquis wheat and in that field he did not put in a binder. How can you calculate the cost? It is the most absurd thing; no wonder people laugh when they begin to tell what it costs to raise a bushel of wheat.

Mr. BLACKMORE: We have all seen things like that.

Mr. DONNELLY: With regard to the limitation of the amount that they are allowed to sell to the pool, I quite agree with what has been said, but in a different way. I do not think there should be any limit put on, because when they begin to market wheat you would not find a thousand farmers in western Canada who would have more than 5,000 bushels. I know the farmer. He will sell wheat in his father's name, his brother's name, the hired man's name and in the name of his relations all over the country and not one of them will have more than 5,000 bushels. I do not like to see this limitation; it is just an inducement to do that sort of thing. It should be taken out; I do not see any advantage to it at all. At the present time I do not see that the government are going to lose money anyway, even if they do give that initial price of 70 cents. I have just as much right to say that the price will be 80 cents or more as these people have to say that it will be below that. Why not let the initial price stand for all, and let them all market their wheat?

One thing that I like to see is the provision in this bill for the farmer of Ontario and the east to come in and benefit, if there is any benefit in it for him. On that account I am glad to see the bill brought in. Otherwise I would say to the minister that he would be well advised to withdraw it, fix the price at the first of August and take out the 5,000 bushel limit, and on the other hand go ahead with that measure in regard to the eastern farmer.

I have here a table showing what this proposed legislation means to the western farmer. It shows the results for a hypothetical half-