

raised to 70 cents. In 1940-41 and 1941-42 the price of 70 cents was maintained. In 1942-43, after more than 400 farmers and other business representatives came from the western provinces to interview the government, the price was raised to 90 cents; and only last September, for the crop year 1943-44 the price was increased to \$1.25, guaranteed.

For the purpose of computing income tax a five-year instead of a two-year period should be used, because there are plenty of ups and downs in the farming industry. While a farmer might break even or even make a little profit in one or two years, over five years he might experience a considerable loss.

Another question, which I believe is receiving the consideration of the Department of National Revenue, is that of taxation on payments we are getting from the wheat board on the 1940-1941 and 1942 crops. I notice that the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Gibson) is present. I would point out to him that we farmers, while waiting for our money from the wheat board, were paying interest on debts which should have been discharged with this wheat board money, also paying storage on the grain and interest on the initial payment. During the years 1940, 1941 and 1942, income taxes were much lower than they are at present, and it would be entirely unjust to require the farmers to pay the high rate of tax which prevails on incomes at the present time. I understand that the committee is working on this matter, and I hope the point I have raised will be taken into consideration. Last year I asked the Minister of Finance to exempt farmers entirely from the income tax brackets until the injustices that prevail are removed. He did not see fit to do so, and I am renewing that request to-day.

There are other things that are not satisfactory. For instance, there is hog grading. We had a change of system which is very good, but it is not working out in dollars and cents from the point of view of the farmer. Someone near by says that it has been fixed up for him as a start. That may be another way of fooling the farmers a little longer. The packers who finally handle the hogs when they are ready are guaranteed the full amount of profits, and the farmer gets what is left, or a certain share of it.

There are other things to be fixed up and I trust the Minister of Agriculture will see to it that a number of them are attended to. The same thing is going on in connection with the beef cattle market. The farmers are not satisfied with the services that are being rendered. Wool prices are in the same unsatisfactory condition. While last year the minister made

comparisons with prices paid in the United States, his argument did not hold very much water, because he was arguing on the basis of our wool being shipped to the United States and sold there. My argument is that there is no reason why our wool in Canada should not bring as good a price here as United States producers receive there for their wool, because in most cases they buy at a better price than we are allowed to buy at.

We are told that when we have legislation providing floor prices under agricultural products everything will be all right. I can agree with that, provided that the floor is placed at the proper level. If it is placed in the basement, or if the basis for fixing prices is taken on what prevailed during the depression years, in 1932, for example, when farmers received five per cent of the national income, then we might as well have no floor. We have to get to the point where the farmers will have their proper share of the national income before we shall have a proper adjustment basis. In that connection I might say that we have on the order paper a resolution which has been standing there since February 7 in the name of the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Johnston) as follows:

Whereas agriculture has seldom received its fair share of the national income of Canada;

And whereas the cost of producing all agricultural products varies considerably from year to year;

Therefore be it resolved,—That, in the opinion of this house and in the interest of the nation as a whole, the government be requested to set the prices of agricultural products at such a level that it will guarantee to the farmers of Canada such a yearly percentage of the national income as will have the same relation to the national income as the agricultural population bears to the national population of Canada.

On these grounds I believe we shall get that which is properly coming to us, but while we continue to figure on some false foundation there is no possibility in the world of Canada becoming the nation it should be. There is no reason either why the farmer should be treated as the poor relation. The farmers are finally waking up to the fact that they are not receiving just treatment. Perhaps that is why our Saskatchewan friends cannot agree with the reading of speeches in the house or even speeches delivered in any other way by some hon. members, because the farmers of that province not very long ago told the government in very plain terms that they were not satisfied and that something had to be done. When I say that I do not mean that the farmers of Saskatchewan and the businessmen out there voted for socialism. They were simply not satisfied with the machine they had. They did