

as the farmers in any part of the empire or of any of the allied nations. We should be treated fairly and on an equal basis. The Chicago price for May wheat as I got it to-day is \$1.40; at Winnipeg it is 92 cents. Why should there be 48 cents difference? That may be something for the minister to explain.

Early in the session, that is on Friday last, the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced the programme with respect to marketing and production in the coming season. As I moved the adjournment of the house last evening, the minister did me the favour of writing me a note saying that he regretted he could not be here to-day. Accordingly I replied that there were a few things which I intended to say to him to-day that I would defer until some other occasion. However, the Minister of Agriculture is in the chamber, and he is second in command, indeed he may be first in command with respect to this policy, because it deals with production and prices.

Here is one criticism I am going to make at this time. The house has been talking for a week; we have had speeches from every quarter. The first day, before even the mover and the seconder had spoken, an announcement was made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, although not in any detail, of his policy. In my opinion the Minister of Agriculture should have been one of the earliest speakers after the mover, the seconder and, possibly, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Graydon). At least, following the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture should have gone carefully into this matter and let us know what the whole position is, what the government proposes to do as regards price and production and the rest of it, so that we should not be speaking at random here, as some of us, maybe myself among them, are doing. We should know exactly what the minister has in mind so that we could discuss the subject intelligently. The Minister of Trade and Commerce announced the plan as being a reduction of three to four million acres in wheat, the maintenance of the 14-bushel quota, no storage on farms, the price to remain the same, and the production of oats and barley to be increased, at the same prices. It will be recalled that I started out to say that this would be very unsatisfactory. But I was right when I said it. I have before me a report from Calgary of the meeting of the Canadian federation of agriculture, at which disappointment was expressed in no uncertain language. The president said that he re-

[Mr. Perley.]

sented the action of the government in ignoring national organizations such as the federation of agriculture, the Saskatchewan pools and so on; and when the government were framing a major policy with respect to this farm problem why should they not have been consulted? Mr. McCaig, president of the Saskatchewan cooperatives, threatened that a delegation of one thousand would come to Ottawa. We had four hundred here last year. That had some result. They did not get all they asked for but they achieved something; and I venture to say that if transportation facilities and accommodation were available there would be a delegation here in protest against this very thing. I believe these organizations should have been consulted. There was no particular hurry; we could have waited another month or, at any rate, three weeks.

Last year the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) promised in a speech that there would be proper farm representation on all important boards dealing with production and other farm matters and national war services. Why has that undertaking not been carried out?

My time is about up, but let me say that I hold that the farmers should have a fair deal, which includes fair representation on all boards having to do with production.

I think the amendment is properly worded and meets what is the popular demand. The Progressive Conservative party's creed is freedom, security, opportunity and the British partnership. I believe no one will disagree with those principles. Let me quote from the words of the new leader of the Progressive Conservative party when he spoke on the radio on December 21:

In my opinion one of the principal obstacles in the way of an all-out prosecution of Canada's war effort is the failure of the government to adopt a courageous and realistic man-power policy. There is confusion and doubt with respect to man-power, not only in the armed services and in the munitions and other plants but also on the farms of this country. This is due to a lack of control and coordination within the government itself, and to an excess of timidity in setting up and enforcing policies which the effective prosecution of the war demands.

There is much of our programme that I should like to put on the record, but in conclusion I will merely say this: I believe we have now reached the point that we should consider those things which count most with respect to Canada's effort in the winning of this war: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear; that thereby a continued peace may be