

Supply—Agriculture

farm. He is farming 1,500 acres of land and he has equipment which was purchased anywhere from 1947 up to the present. He uses all this equipment because he is a very efficient farmer; he is one of the master farmers in Alberta. The cost of the equipment he has, based on the cost price at the time of purchase, amounts to \$37,493.40. If he went to the market today to buy that same equipment it would cost him \$57,500. This illustrates one of the problems. If you consider the cost of that equipment at 1953 prices you will find the cost would be about \$30,000, whereas in 1958 the cost would jump to \$57,000. The cost of farm machinery has almost doubled, and this seems to be one of the problems.

When I was in the library this morning I was interested in looking back over the records and found that a commission was set up by this house in 1937 to inquire into the price of farm machinery. It may be that the time has arrived when this situation should be reviewed. The cost of farm machinery in Canada seems to be out of all proportion. I want to show hon. members, especially those who do not come from western Canada, how the cost of some of these machines has increased. I am one of those who believe that when the farmer is prosperous the whole economy of the country is in a healthy state. I am not one of those people who play one section of the country against the other section, as has been done by some political parties.

As an example let us consider a 14-foot combine. In 1953 it cost \$5,750 and today it would cost \$9,800. Then, take a swather; in 1953 it cost \$948 and today it will cost \$1,149, an increase of about \$200. I think one of the most startling examples is that of a Caterpillar D-4 diesel bulldozer with a hydraulic lift. It cost about \$5,000 in 1940 and today it costs \$15,000. These are just typical examples of the increased cost of farm equipment. It seems to me the time has arrived when we should review the prices of farm machinery in order to keep agriculture in a healthy condition. I should like to know, as a member of parliament, how many dollars worth of labour goes into the construction of this Caterpillar D-4. I should like to know how many dollars of profit result from the sale of this item. The cost of this item would have to be worked right back to the cost of the steel. However, I think that could be done and it is time such an investigation by a new commission was undertaken. We need to know the reason for such increases in farm machinery.

There is one other thing I should mention. I believe the purchasers of farm machinery

[Mr. Woolliams.]

should keep in mind the fact that there is no tariff on farm machinery entering Canada. I ascertained this fact today. This means that a combine has no duty imposed on it. There is no duty imposed on farm machinery entering Canada from the United States. I discussed this question with a member of the customs branch, and he was kind enough to review the list of items I gave him. He said that there were no duties imposed on the list of machines, except two of them. I refer to the list of equipment used on the 1,500-acre farm in Alberta. I have heard many times from political platforms references to the tariff protection given farm machinery, but that just does not exist.

There is one thing about which I am not sure, and I should like to hear an answer to this question if it can be answered. Why does the machinery in the United States cost less? Why does it cost more when it comes into Canada and yet there is no duty imposed upon it? I have heard no answer to this question as yet. I should like, with the permission of the house, to put on *Hansard* the list of machinery to which I have referred. This shows the list of equipment used on the 1,500-acre farm and also the prices of that equipment in 1953. There are two pages, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: May I ask the hon. member the source of his information?

Mr. Woolliams: This information came direct from the farmer who purchased the equipment, and from an agent in Calgary.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the committee agreed that this table should be placed on *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Woolliams: The tables are as follows:

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY			
March 3, 1959			
	1953 Price	Price Approx- F.O.B. imate Calgary	increase
	\$	\$	\$
14 ft. #181 combine ...	5,750	9,800	4,000
10 ft. #101 combine ...	2,301	6,040	3,700
120 Swather			
power take-off	948	1,149	200
Self propelled swather	was none	2,800	790
	(\$2,010 when first came out)		(in four years)
I.H.C. 660 diesel tractor	4,758	6,475	1,700
I.H.C. 460 diesel tractor	4,099	4,863	800
15 ft. diskall	789	1,497	710
15 ft. diskall with seed attachment	1,100	1,697	597
#50 Chissel plow	735	977	240
2-K6 24 x 6 press drills complete	1,820	2,390	570
No. 46 P.T.O. baler ...	1,571	1,866	280