

step on it, and you will get something that will make your heart glad.

Mr FAIR: I am thankful the Irish are such a peaceful race; otherwise the hon. member for Fort William and I would probably be in a battle in the middle of the floor right now. I do not know what kind of country he comes from, but it seems that every once in a while the hon. member has to rise in his place and keep the name of Fort William before us; otherwise it would be entirely forgotten; and as somebody says, where is Fort William?

I did not take time to kiss the blarney stone before leaving old Ireland, and apparently the hon. member for Fort William did; consequently my remarks this evening will be very brief, because I believe as we go along and take up the various items we can discuss anything we wish to mention. However, there is one matter I should like to bring to the attention of the minister and the government once more; that is, that the farmers of Canada should receive something closer to their proper share of the national income than has been the case in the past. I make this statement because I think we all realize that approximately one-third of the people of Canada live on farms, and that during the years from 1926 to 1940 one-third of the people received only 11.3 per cent of the national income, or approximately one-third of that to which they were entitled. Again, on many occasions I have pointed out that the farmers work many more hours than any other occupational group in this country, and take chances on climatic conditions. At the present time many of us have our crops under fifteen inches of snow and will not have an opportunity to reap them until spring. In addition to all this, we are up against the manipulation of markets and many other things. To-day we find that at least a large proportion of labour in Canada is on strike for better agreements, union security and increased wages, and we are also told in the columns of the press that labour is now aiming for a forty hour instead of a forty-eight hour week, with no decrease in pay. I believe some of our farm leaders in Canada are slipping, because a number of them are satisfied with the prices we are receiving. In my opinion those farm leaders should set their sights a little higher than is the case at the moment. I make that statement, because practically every other occupational group is taking steps to secure its fortunes in the future; and if we are to succeed on equal terms with the rest of the people of Canada it is up to us to do something for ourselves.

[Mr. McIvor.]

Many reasons might be given for the troubles that have been experienced by agriculture. It is often said that God must love the common people because he made so many of us, and I believe a very large percentage of those common people have been placed on the farms. One of our troubles is that in the past we have failed to organize. I well remember back in 1923 when we organized the wheat pool and had quite a hard time to get even fifty-one per cent of the farmers in our province organized. Then, in a very short time, as soon as the line companies offered a better trade for grain, even though they stole up to five bushels a load the farmers bootlegged their wheat from the pool to the line elevator companies. While that condition exists, it is not very easy for us to get along. So that unless we have something like equality of treatment for the farmers of Canada we cannot have a prosperous country. If one section of our people are slaves while the rest are masters, that is not a healthy condition.

One thing I should like, as I have pointed out previously, is to see the Prairie Farm Assistance Act amended to provide a general crop insurance scheme, even if there should be some extra cost to the farmers. That can be done, and I believe it should be done in order that the interests of the farmers may be protected. I also believe the income tax problem of the farmers should receive very favourable consideration. The Minister of Finance has stated that the question of farmers' income tax is being reviewed. When that review is completed I hope something worth while will be done in the interests of the farmers, because I believe we all remember that while the farmer was taking his losses during the depression years, there was no attempt by the Minister of Finance or the government of that day, nor has there been any attempt since, to see that the farmer was given any relief by way of reduction in interest charges or reasonable prices for the things he sold and the things he had to buy. During the war the farmers sacrificed millions of dollars in the prices they received for the products they sold, so that we think we should now be given a square deal.

I believe we shall be able to discuss the matter of hog and cattle prices later on, but in passing I suggest that an increase in prices of cattle and hogs would help make more food available for Europe, and also would do away with the bureaucratic rationing we have at the present time. As far as I am aware, the farmers are not complaining about rationing, but we feel that a proper policy for agricul-