

cents was to be given, twenty cents above the seventy cents for the year—or for years—prior to that time, and much below what it should have been. The fact is that the summer-fallow bonuses in the year 1942, the prairie farm assistance and prairie farm income bonuses, have shrunk so much that there is very little financial return from that ninety cents when the amount which is taken away by the bonuses is subtracted. We were told by the Minister of Agriculture that the government was taking every dollar it possibly could out of the treasury and paying it on our wheat crop. Hon. members who have followed the record of the various articles which have been purchased for the prosecution of the war will have noted that in every case cost of production plus profit is paid, and that the farmer is about the only class in Canada that is denied the cost of production. We have been told that the operations of the wartime prices and trade board are the cause of prices in some cases not having been put up. But those who are on the land and have had to buy farm machinery will agree with me when I say that wartime price orders did not provide that those from whom we had to purchase these things should be treated in the same way. If you bought a tractor a year ago this spring it cost you about \$85 more than it did the fall before; and in several other lines similar rises of price have been recorded. I do not think, therefore, we are getting the equality of treatment which has been spoken of in this chamber time and time again.

I know that the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture have done their best; the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Gershaw) has given them thanks, and I want to do the same—for small mercies. But the hon. member who preceded me must realize that these two ministers are a minority of the cabinet, that the more powerful interests are represented by the other seventeen members of the cabinet, and for that reason we are denied that to which we are entitled.

Since coming to Canada I have been trying to get farmers organized, and in the course of that work I have discovered various reasons why farmers have been kept where they are easy to deal with—that is, kept as near the bread-line as it is possible to keep them and yet have them produce interest on the money which they have to borrow to carry on their businesses.

In his announcement the Minister of Trade and Commerce told us that we were expected to reduce our wheat acreage this year by three million acres, and that we would be

[Mr. Fair.]

allowed to deliver a straight fourteen bushels per acre. I am not sure whether in all cases we shall be able to deliver fourteen bushels, because, while this year we have had an exceptionally heavy yield of wheat and coarse grains, that condition may not recur for some years. If we look over the averages for a number of years we shall find that the yield this year is nearly as good as that of two average years.

In the course of his statement the minister said that in 1942 we can deliver only 1942 wheat. This, I believe, is a grave mistake on the part of the wheat board and any others who have the authority to deal with the question. There are, I believe, in the house today men who have a carry-over of No. 1 wheat and at the same time are compelled to deliver No. 6 and feed wheat in 1942. That is, they must deliver No. 6 and feed wheat to the wheat board in order not to break the law and incur a fine by the wheat board, while they are compelled to feed to their live stock the No. 1 wheat they have in their bins. I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if that is right or just or reasonable or good business. On the day the minister made his statement I asked if he would not immediately bring in an amendment to the Canadian Wheat Board Act and have this changed, and let us get down to business, but because of the rules of the house I did not receive a reply. I now ask the minister and the government to make an immediate change in the regulations so that a common-sense policy can be put into effect and farmers shall be allowed to deliver any grain they may have, whether grown prior to 1942 or during that year. I suppose none of us, when eating a piece of bacon, can tell whether it was produced from No. 1 wheat or feed wheat; and, while we are shipping most of our supplies at the present time to the old country, they over there are not so particular that they will not eat the pork and bacon produced on low grade feed.

We are asked for an increase in hogs, cattle and poultry products. I believe that the farmers of Canada—I am not referring only to the farmers of western Canada—from the Atlantic to the Pacific are doing everything possible to meet this demand. From the Wainwright district I have a number of resolutions; I do not think it necessary to read them because I believe the Minister of Agriculture has copies of them. On December 16 the farmers there met and organized to the best of their ability. I am not sure how effective that organization will be or what cooperation there will be so far as the government is concerned,