

straightened out and equalized and these amounts went where they properly belonged, you would have far better service in Canada.

On different occasions we have asked that the grain exchange at Winnipeg be closed, and again we might follow the example set in Britain. Right after the war started, the exchange was closed there. Why not here? Not many months ago I read in the press that the company headed by the present purchaser of wheat and cereals for the British and French governments had a profit of 19 per cent, and yet we are asked to sell our wheat at very little better than half the cost of production. I do not know whether I should go any further with that. But I have a little piece here which I think applies very aptly to our present Prime Minister. It says:

Man can circle the earth without touching the ground; men can kill other men twenty miles away; man can weigh the stars of heaven; man can drag oil from the bowels of the earth; man can compel an icy waterfall to cook his meals hundreds of miles from the stream; man can print a million newspapers in an hour; man can breed the seeds out of oranges; man can coax a hen to lay 365 eggs in a year; man can persuade dogs to smoke pipes and sea lions to play guitars. Man, in other words, is quite an ingenious and remarkable package of physical and mental machinery.

But, when this astonishing person is confronted with one problem, he retires defeated to his hut. Show him six men without money and six loaves of bread belonging to men who cannot use it but who want money for it, and ask him how the six hungry men can be put in possession of the six surplus loaves and watch him then. It is then that he (the prime minister) attends conferences and appoints committees and holds elections and makes speeches and cries out that a crisis is upon him. He does a score of useless things and then retires to his hut, leaving in the shivering twilight the tableau of the six hungry men and the six unapproachable loaves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the government do something really in the interests of the farmer, give him for once a square deal and be fair with us.

Mr. J. A. ROSS (Souris): Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that much of the leadership which we should normally be now receiving was sacrificed or destroyed during the great war. In my opinion we citizens of Canada are most fortunate in having to-day as Minister of Finance a man of character and practical training such as we have in the present incumbent of that office, the hon. member for Prince (Mr. Ralston). I was indeed pleased to hear him state in his budget address that he would not strain the word "sacrifice" by applying it other than to those who offer their lives in this great conflict. That was a very fine statement.

In rising to offer a few observations on this question I do so as a representative of an agricultural constituency in western Canada, and while fully realizing that our first and foremost concern at this time is the winning of this war, my remarks at this moment will pertain to matters of an agricultural nature. The people of my constituency have been through difficult times during the past ten years, due to both climatic and economic conditions. They are not quitters, but in every sense of the word are optimists. They are out there to-day as other western agriculturists, with their backs to the wall, but putting up a magnificent fight. They expect justice and fair play from the government. Accorded these, the western farmer can be depended upon to make his full contribution both to the winning of the war, and following that, to the upbuilding and development of this great dominion.

A great deal was said last fall about the agreement entered into between the governments of Canada and Great Britain with regard to the importation of Canadian pork products by Great Britain and the price to be paid. Farmers of this country were encouraged to go into pork production in a big way, and thus use much of their grain as feed. Under date of May 23, 1940, the house was informed that as far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned, complete bacon agreement information between the British government and the government of Canada is not available for publication. The fact is that notwithstanding the great surplus of bacon in this country, during the first four months of 1940, there were 27,186,900 pounds of pork imported into Canada from the United States. During 1939 a total of 264,366,943 pounds of vegetable oil was imported into Canada from foreign countries, replacing dairy products, lard, tallow and animal fats, and this vegetable oil was imported duty free. According to an order for return delivered June 21, 1940, United States bacon has been used entirely for the military camps throughout Canada since January 1, and vegetable oil shortening has been furnished to the Canadian army one hundred per cent in place of lard and animal fats, under requisitions of the Department of National Defence. Surely there should be greater cooperation in such matters. This situation is most discouraging to the hog producers of Canada at a time such as this.

I should like now to discuss wheat. I would compliment the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley) for bringing up this matter this afternoon as a matter of urgent importance. As was stated by the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas) this evening, wheat is a most important product to