

Farm Machinery Prices

the prices of farm products over a 15-year period have not only failed to increase but in many instances have decreased. This is the reason, Mr. Speaker, why I would like to have a Royal Commission investigate this matter and take appropriate steps to correct the unjust and unfair situation that exists today in our agricultural industry.

I have just one more table. This deals almost exclusively with prices for wheat, oats and barley in the Prairie Provinces. Here, too, the index is based on 1935-39 equalling 100. We see that in 1949 the index stood at 255.4, while after a 15-year period in 1963 it rose to 268.4. There has been a tremendous increase in the cost of farm machinery, while there has been an increase of very few points in the price of agricultural products, in this particular case wheat, oats and barley.

As I stated earlier in my remarks, Mr. Speaker, the number of farms has decreased during the 10-year period 1951 to 1961 by 23 per cent. This is the reason why farm delegation after farm delegation come to see the Federal Government, ask to have their plight investigated and come up with suggestions and recommendations whereby our

farmers may receive the same treatment that is accorded other segments of our population. I would like to see the House approve this motion so that the Government might go ahead and appoint a Royal Commission to investigate this problem.

I could deal with many more points in this connection and supply more information from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, but there is only one hour in which to discuss this matter and I would like to see other Members from all parties in the House stand up and express their views. I would like to have your permission, Mr. Speaker, to submit the tables I have mentioned, which were received from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, for either printing in the body of *Hansard* or as an appendix to *Hansard*.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. Does the House give permission to having the tables referred to by the hon. Member included in his speech or as an appendix to *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's note: The tables above referred to are as follows:*]

VALUE OF FARM IMPLEMENT AND EQUIPMENT SALES, CANADA, 1954-1963
(Values at Wholesale Prices)

Year	Farm Implements and Equipment	Repair Parts	Total Sales
		- dollars -	
1954.....	146,702,695	27,335,796	174,038,491
1955.....	153,124,434	28,451,964	181,576,398
1956.....	170,767,455	31,824,672	202,592,127
1957.....	149,901,593	33,820,056	183,721,649
1958.....	172,014,376	33,978,663	205,993,039
1959.....	212,231,379	38,887,438	251,118,817
1960.....	217,465,183	41,312,625	258,777,808
1961.....	201,776,532	39,643,554	241,420,086
1962.....	238,797,225	43,879,451	282,676,676
1963.....	287,839,732	49,721,863	337,561,595
1964 ^a	366,503,241	52,594,582	366,503,241

^a Preliminary.

SOURCE: *Farm Implement and Equipment Sales*, Cat. No. 63-203, and 63-009, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

[Mr. Rapp.]