

I point out these instances merely to indicate what can happen under this prescription which is now employed to cure the ills of the wheat farmers. Am I in order when I say that I can visualize the possibility of the greatest political racket which has ever been carried on in any part of Canada? Every other man is to be an inspector, with a long list of regulations. When we did have regulations, the minister had the power, he said, to do what he liked with them. When we had a committee to find out who was entitled to collect, he still had the power to pay, whether the man was a potato farmer, whether he sawed wood, whether he grew wheat, whether he got rent from the government, or whether he got hail insurance.

Thirty-five million dollars is a great deal of money, and we have no assurance that that is all; for this is the lowest possible estimate in order to put it through this house. It may go to seventy million dollars. The Lord only knows where it will go to. Somebody said that it should go to a hundred million dollars. Yes, probably you get so accustomed to taking it, you feel you had better keep it. I submit, however, that this kind of thing is no solution. It is a retrograde, defeatist type of policy. The kind of bonus that I suggest to my hon. friend is a bonus for the production of the highest class of products rather than a bonus for reduction and no production of anything, by summer-fallowing at \$4 an acre. We find that summer-fallowing means the cultivation of fallow land before August 1, 1941, in such a way as to conserve soil moisture and prevent soil drifting. Is there an hon. member in this chamber who would rent a farm on a lease drawn up as loosely as that? What is to constitute a summer-fallow? Any one who has farmed knows what a summer-fallow is.

Mr. GARDINER: What is it? Just what is it?

Mr. ROWE: I am not going to take the time of the committee in defining it, although I know what one is, probably better than the Minister of Agriculture, and have summer-fallowed just as much land as he has. I wish to say, however, that this leaves an opening for a man to run over a large tract of land with a wide spring-tooth cultivator, hitting it here and there, so that from over yonder you can call it "all black and \$4 an acre."

It is not a question of assistance to western Canada. It is not a case of a policy dividing east and west. It is not a question of doing something for those who, I know, require help. I do know, I think, the posi-

[Mr. Rowe.]

tion of the farmers, at least throughout my own district in Ontario, and I have some idea of what conditions must be in western Canada. I have seen hardships, and I submit that the farmers of Ontario are having their difficulties. I know of many people who have lowered their standards of living, many who have broken their health, many who have lived in a condition of privation such as they never before experienced until the last few years, and who are struggling with their backs to the wall to try to support the Red Cross, the war services drive, and doing their level best. I know women who are knitting provided they can get the yarns, and people who are humiliated because they cannot contribute to these worthy causes as they did in the past, on account of the fact that they are struggling, with their heads up, trying to solve their own problems.

Talk about national unity! This sort of thing divides us province from province across the dominion. We set up a vote and we loosely draw the regulations. It leaves it wide open to all sorts of manoeuvring and twisting, which the Minister of Agriculture would not do, but probably some of his friends or my friends might do if they had the opportunity.

Mr. TRIPP: Is the hon. member questioning the good faith of the western farmer?

Mr. ROWE: I cannot help it if the hon. gentleman does not understand my speech, but I can say that I have never questioned the good faith either of himself or of his supporters in western Canada, because, I too, am a farmer. Why should I question the good faith of farmers? I do, however, question the soundness of this as a farm policy, because it is ridiculous on the face of it. As the hon. member for Souris has pointed out, this is a time of war, and the Right Hon. Mr. Churchill is pleading to this country for ships and more ships. He is asking that every man should go to work. He is asking every working man and working woman in England to help. He is asking old men who have not worked for years, to bend their energies to the prosecution of the war. Even boys are engaged in putting out fires. He is pleading with the people of every part of the empire to produce and produce in enormous quantities so that when the post-war days come, we can point out to the nazis, the Italians and every other nation in the world that we, under a democratic system, have a bread-basket big enough to give a lunch to every man who is hungry.

What are we doing in the face of all that? We are bonusing our farmers to stop growing wheat, simply because it is difficult to get it across the seas. Well, Britain is eating