

bushels would be in Canada. The crop is estimated at from 350,000,000 to 400,000,000 bushels. Our total storage capacity is 425,000,000 bushels, and our net storage, after allowing for a 10 per cent operating capacity, is about 382,000,000 bushels, with some possibility of storing another 20,000,000 bushels in the United States. That leaves storage available in Canada for approximately 160,000,000 bushels. That can be improved a little by allowing about 100,000,000 bushels for the domestic consumption of the coming crop. A certain portion of the crop never reaches market; it is used for seed and other purposes. That will relieve the situation a little.

In my opinion the present situation is similar to the one we had in 1935, when on December 1 we had practically 365,000,000 bushels of wheat on hand. There were 155,000,000 bushels of the 1935 crop and 205,000,000 bushels which had been taken over from Wheat Producers Limited. There was still the remainder of the 1935 crop to come. So I ask, why all this excitement, why all this delay in bringing down this measure? Why make so much ado about the situation in western Canada? I well remember in 1934 and 1935 when we had a considerable quantity of wheat accumulate. I remember the howl that went up from this house, particularly from the hon. member for Wood Mountain (Mr. Donnelly) and the former members, Mr. Vallance and Mr. McIntosh. I recall that when the 1935 wheat board bill was being discussed, the present Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) moved an amendment that the bill be not operative after August 16, 1936. I recall the criticism which was offered because we had not sold wheat, and all that sort of thing.

I would say that we have been quite generous to the present minister in not pressing for more information. I sympathize with him because he has a real job on his hands and he is new to the department. Had he been more experienced he certainly would have been asked to furnish more material. We should have had a complete report of the operations of the board up to date, similar to what was furnished in 1936. I have in my desk copies of the reports of the Canadian wheat board. The first was issued in 1935-1936. It sets out the amount of wheat received, the amount carried over from the 1935 crop, the amount taken over from Mr. McFarland, the prices at which all grades were sold, and all that sort of thing; it was quite a detailed report. We have not had such a report since 1936, and I think it is due to this parliament. The minister could have

made an interim report, so to speak, because he gets a report every Friday night from the board.

The war is not the cause of Canada's wheat debacle; it is the policy of the wheat board and the failure of the government to carry on businesslike sales operations. They did not exert the pressure they should have last fall in negotiating the deal with the British government. It is the government's responsibility, and I think we should note that they have not been aggressive enough in their selling policy.

Mr. McNEVIN: Does the hon. member not admit that the market is much curtailed?

Mr. PERLEY: We know that, but we know also, from the figures I shall give in a few minutes, that they could have sold even more this year. In order to substantiate what I have said, I should like to quote from a statement made by Mr. Sanford Evans, who has been writing reports on the grain situation for some time. He made a statement in 1938 and another one in 1939, which I believe I quoted on the floor of this house. He said that there was not a single act of the present wheat board which could be interpreted as an act to resist a price decline. Yes, the minister may look up; they are up there in the gallery and I see them. In twenty minutes I could name fifty men who have been associated with the grain business in western Canada and who could do a better job. As I said, the war is not the cause, and to blame the war is only a feeble alibi. In the season 1938-39 the board exported only 166,000,000 bushels of wheat at the low average price of 60 cents.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: May I ask the hon. member who is up there?

Mr. PERLEY: The hon. member ought to know. I see them. I did not say who was up there. The minister looked up and smiled at someone in the gallery.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is experienced enough as a parliamentarian to know that he should not make any reference to the galleries.

Mr. PERLEY: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Chairman, and I hope the hon. member will refrain from pressing me to say who happens to be in the gallery. It is a feeble alibi to say that the war is the cause of our trouble. The board sold 166,000,000 bushels in 1938-39 at the low average price of 60 cents. By August 31 of 1939 there was a carryover of 102,000,000 bushels. The war has not lessened Canada's exports. Prior to July 15 of