

me that in figuring net farm income it is not net to the farmer, because included in that income is the wage to the hired man. I am told that a statement is now being prepared by the bureau and will be released soon showing the really net farm income figures. I hesitate to put the gross farm income on the record, because it would be only misleading, since the gross farm income includes all costs of production, out-of-pocket costs of production such as taxes, interest on mortgages to corporations, seed and feed, oil and fuel, repairs to equipment, binder twine, fertilizer, spray material, and the thousand and one other costs that are involved. I am pleased to learn that at long last a study is being made of the problem by the bureau and we are to have actual net figures, because I think they will conclusively prove the statement which I made a few moments ago, that Canadian agriculture is not to-day and has not been through the years, irrespective of what government has been in office, receiving its fair share of the national income.

It is only fair that I should comment on the fact that the lot of Canadian agriculture has of course gone up and down depending upon governments, depending upon crops, depending upon world conditions, depending upon trade agreements and tariff barriers. If you will turn to the years 1930 to 1934 inclusive, you will find in this five-year period that while it is true the world was going through a serious depression, it is also true that the government of that day had an unfortunate trade policy.

Mr. MacNICOL: Only in your opinion.

Mr. CLEAVER: I am trying to be frank and to place the facts before the house, and if there is anything wrong with any of my figures I shall be glad to have them corrected. It is only my opinion plus the opinion I have formed during the discussion of this distressing problem with hundreds of my farmer electors. However, if you will take the five-year period from 1930 to 1934 you will find that the average farm income was only \$402 million, to at least 30 per cent of the workers of the country. Then if you take the four-year period from 1935 until the outbreak of the war, you will find that during that period there was a very sharp change in our tariff policy. Trade agreements were negotiated, trade started to flow again, and the farmers immediately began to receive the benefit of it, so that during those four years the average farm income increased from \$402 million to \$600 million. I say that \$600 million is not good enough.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Mr. Speaker, before you leave the chair, I wonder if it might be

possible for you to consider releasing eight or ten of these page boys on Saturday afternoon in view of the heavy week they have had and the late hours they are compelled to remain here.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have made arrangements.

At one o'clock the house took recess.

The house resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. CLEAVER: When the house rose at one o'clock I was calling attention to the fact that farm income had dropped very sharply from \$868,000,000 in 1927 to less than \$300,000,000 in 1932. I should like also to call attention to the fact that the statement which I have already tabled shows that not only did agricultural income drop sharply with all other incomes in the country, but agriculture took a much more severe loss than did other industries of Canada, because the percentage of agricultural income to the total income in Canada in 1929 was sixteen per cent and in 1932 it had dropped to ten per cent.

In my community at one time farming was very prosperous. Our farmers built fine houses and barns. Our farmers were well to do and were able to set up their sons, when they came of age and married, on other farms. But unfortunately that condition has passed, and as I have said once or twice already, agriculture through the years has been steadily and seriously deteriorating. I agree that in time of war it is right to prevent the spiral of inflation which occurred in the last war and which would have been ruinous to our present war effort had it not been controlled; but having done that I do suggest, sir, that this is the logical time, the opportune time, for us to take advantage of the lessons we have learned from war financing, to take advantage of the weapons we have forged out of the necessities of war, to correct this serious inequality.

We all know that productivity in Canada, both industrial and agricultural, has increased very materially as a result of the war. I think that all economists now agree that if any country is to be permanently prosperous through the years the standard of living of the people must be high enough to consume the goods which are produced in the country, plus the imports which are received from exportable surpluses. I believe that to be fundamental. Therefore if this country is to be permanently prosperous in the post-war years we have no option, we simply must raise the standard of living of agriculture to parity