

set and maintain a parity price on farm products. I believe that subsidies should be used only for the purpose of adjustment.

Another item which I should like to mention, and to which brief reference has been made to-day, is the condition of farm machinery. For the past five years the farmers, particularly those of western Canada, have been operating with old machinery. Much of it is broken down and some is beyond repair. Will the minister tell the committee and the country what he proposes to do in this matter? I should like to hear an assurance from him that repair parts will be available, and they must be made available if the farmers are to carry on their operations efficiently.

The minister seems able to produce statistical information on practically every question which is asked, and I congratulate him upon his knowledge of this information. But he should also from time to time indicate to the farmers what they may expect in the future. It is well to tell them what the country expects of the farmers, and it is well to inform the farmers what they may expect of the country.

At the appropriate time I intend to make a few more remarks with particular reference to the beef situation and the marketing of bacon.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): This item has to do with the programme to encourage the production of essential war supplies. I believe the specific matter we are discussing is that of the agricultural supplies board administration.

Mr. GARDINER: That is the item.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I listened to the minister's replies to some of the questions asked this afternoon, and, as the hon. member who has just spoken indicated, the minister gave a very nice speech. But I am endeavouring to find a solution of some of the problems which have been outlined. I have before me a petition which was sent to me by my constituency and is signed on behalf of a number of farm organizations, complaining about the unsatisfactory marketing of hogs. I am aware that the minister on May 8 gave quite an explanation of why the packing plants could not handle the large number of hogs which were being brought to them, and he returned to the subject to-day, saying in general that many more hogs had been brought into the packing plants this year than in any other year since the war started. I do not suppose there is any question about that; the minister has given the figures and I accept them as correct, but that does not solve the problem. The condition complained of still exists. The minister went to quite a length

this afternoon to show how well the farmers have responded to the "leadership", as he called it, of the Liberal party in raising the required production. I do not know whether that is evidence of leadership. I would have thought that when the government asks the farmers to raise a large number of hogs to supply war demands, the government should be in a position to handle those supplies. But that is where the minister's explanation stopped; he did not go on to say that the government have plans to take care of this production for which they asked. That does not show planning, or leadership.

Mr. GARDINER: I did say that when we got down to the item I would be prepared to discuss it; that is, the meat board.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is what I am dealing with.

Mr. GARDINER: No; it comes under the meat board.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I have looked over the details carefully, and I cannot see where the raising of stock would come under that.

Mr. GARDINER: The whole handling and marketing of live stock—hogs and cattle—comes under the meat board.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I will finish now what I had to say, and then I need not repeat my remarks if the minister will answer the question. The point is, that while the minister has reviewed the facts I have indicated he has not solved the difficulty which faces the farmer, and I have been waiting for his explanation so that I can answer the great number of letters I have received and tell the farmers just how soon their problem will be solved. It is all very well to say that the farmers are very patriotic in their response to the call. That is true; but the fact is that, in making that response, they, like those in other industries, should receive proper remuneration for their labours. I recall having visited about a year ago some aircraft plants, which, too, are doing a good job; but in this industry, as in the building of ships and the manufacture of guns, industrialists receive a profit on their labours. The full costs of production, including labour, raw material and overhead are ascertained, and upon these outlays their profit is calculated. It seems to me only fair that the farmers, when they raise hogs at the request of the government in a time of national war emergency, should be guaranteed the cost of production plus a fair and reasonable profit. I would not claim for them an excessive profit, and they are not asking for it. But