

I really think that at this time the minister should give us some indication as to where the government intends to establish floor prices under agricultural products. It is now a year since we passed the act. The board has been functioning for that year, obtaining information, and at this time they should surely be able to give us some indication. Here is what is happening. Just recently we were discussing the Veterans Land Act in a committee of this house. We found that, according to real estate agents who were before that committee, in Canada the price of agricultural land has increased approximately twenty-five per cent. That twenty-five per cent increase is due to the increase in the price of agricultural products. If we allow agricultural products to drop twenty-five per cent, it simply means that the equity which our returned men have in any land which they may purchase under the Veterans Land Act, which is being passed by this house, will be wiped out, and therefore I think the government should give some indication at this time of where they intend to set floor prices. Personally I think the present ceiling price on agricultural products should be the floor price. The figures which I gave showed the tremendous sacrifice which agriculture is making, not only toward maintaining price ceilings in Canada, but toward the making available of supplies to European countries at a reasonable price. Therefore, when we are asking the government to set the floor price at the present ceiling price, it is not out of the way at all.

Mr. FAIR: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Fort William has the floor.

Mr. McIVOR: It is too bad for one Irishman to get ahead of another, but I know he will forgive me at this time. I have two reasons for speaking to-night. The first is that I was brought up on a farm. I was taught the rotation of crops and to farm in the way which pays. You might call it the horse-and-buggy days, but it pays for the farm and it pays for the farmer.

Mr. CASE: Does it pay for the horse and buggy?

Mr. McIVOR: The other reason is that in the district of Thunder Bay, which takes in Port Arthur and Fort William, there have sprung up in our district in the last ten years some of the best farms in Ontario. The district farmer, Mr. Norman Harrison, will bear me out in this. They are farmers who farm the farm instead of farming the community.

They have been taught that it pays to farm their farm, stay on their job and attend to their affairs.

Mr. CARDIFF: How many hours a day?

Mr. McIVOR: The reason for that is that the district farmer and the experimental substation which the present Minister of Agriculture saw fit to plant in that district—and it was needed years before—advise the people all over the country. The advice of the expert who runs that farm and of the district farmer is sought all over the country, and in the fall of the year they give splendid leadership at the agricultural fairs which are held in the different districts.

One thing stands out in this district, namely, the increase in the production of potatoes. They have a 500 bushel to the acre club. One man will take it one year in one district and another man will take it another year. This year one man took it in a district fifteen miles from Fort William. His prize-winning potatoes were the Irish cobbles. Another high-liner was a man with a non-Anglo-Saxon name. He grew the Chippawa. The next man took a prize with Green Mountains. It is not an unusual thing to see a beautiful farm of potatoes. It was a joy to any real Irishman who loves a potato crop to see those potatoes turned out in the fall. The best potatoes I have seen since I left the old sod were grown not with the help of barnyard manure or artificial fertilizer, but with the help of fish. These fish were known by a special name and even the Indians did not want to eat them, so that they were made into fertilizer for the potatoes, and I have never seen a finer crop. There was not a smell of fish on the potatoes; when you fried them you got—

An hon. MEMBER: Fish and chips.

Mr. McIVOR: —the very finest results, and they were the best potatoes I have seen in this country. Then we have something else that interests us and interests the farmers. We have a fall seed fair; and if you could go into the city hall in Fort William and see the samples of seed there you would say, long live the farmers of this district and the experts who lead them. The inspection of hogs, too, has prompted the farmers to take up this branch of farming. One man who has been in the business for only about six years now has over five hundred hogs. So that we just go back a bit and thank the minister for putting an experimental farm station in that district. If any hon. members have a good big district far away from a centre, go after the Minister of Agriculture. You will find him ready to