

months from now. I do not think it is fair to ask the banking people to do it, but that is what the government are doing by the statement they issued to-day. I believe the statement made by the minister indicates a move in the right direction, but I would not call it a step; it is a mere gesture. I believe the processing tax of 15 cents a bushel should have been at least 50 cents and that the initial payment of 70 cents a bushel should have been greatly increased. I would ask the government seriously to consider providing some line of credit for the farmers on the grain they will not be able to deliver this fall. The farmers of the west do not want to make a cent out of this war. All they ask is a chance to break even, do their share and contribute what they can to the effort we must all make at this time. So I think it is the duty of the government to give the farmers more consideration than they have been given up to the present.

We have a board that is supposed to control prices, and I should like to tell the committee something with regard to comparative prices to-day, citing an instance that happened on our own farm. The other day they had to buy an oil filter for the tractor. That filter consists of twenty pieces of felt cut in the shape of a doughnut, one on top of another. Those pieces of felt cost twenty-five cents each, or a total of \$5 for the filter. The man brought the pieces of felt home and weighed them; they weighed a half pound. In other words, we paid \$5 for a half pound of mixed cotton and wool. Last spring I sold the wool that went into those pieces of felt for twenty-two cents a pound. In other words, I received eleven cents for the material which I bought back for \$5. The same day the price of oats at the local point was 14 cents a bushel. In other words, it took 1,200 pounds of oats to buy back a half pound of wool that we sold for eleven cents. Surely no one in this house believes agriculture can carry on under such conditions. We have a price control board. Why do they not do something?

To-day prices for repairs to a binder are from 192 per cent to 226 per cent higher than the cost of the binder itself. That represents too much of a spread. Probably more repairs are required for binders and mowers than for any other implements; yet the mark up on these repairs is higher than on those for any other farm machinery. I think the government should do something about the matter. Action can be taken in two ways, by raising the price the farmer gets for his products and by seeing that he is not overcharged for the commodities he has to buy. After all,

[Mr. Wright.]

it does not matter whether we get 70 cents or \$1.25 or \$2 for wheat; it is what the bushel will obtain for us that counts. I believe that the government should give some consideration to these matters before bringing down this bill.

Mr. LECLERC: As an easterner I realize that the western farmers have reason to complain that the cost of farm implements is out of all proportion to the price of wheat. But may I ask how it happens that in travelling through the west we see millions of dollars worth of equipment lying out in the fields without any shelter? Surely a farmer could buy a thousand feet of lumber and build a shelter for these expensive implements.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. MacKinnon (Edmonton West) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 118, to amend the Canadian Wheat Board Act, 1935.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

#### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

##### COMPENSATION FOR INJURY BY ACCIDENT— STATUS OF PENSIONERS REENGAGED IN EMERGENCY

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Acting Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill No. 112, to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Vien in the chair.

On section 1—Arrangements with local governments or municipalities for the use of the force.

Mr. STIRLING: Does this mean that agreements can be entered into with municipalities in those provinces in which the Royal Canadian Mounted Police do not operate at present?

Mr. CARDIN: The amendment is to empower the minister to make such arrangements with municipalities in those provinces in which the mounted police operate at the present time.

Mr. MacNICOL: May I ask in what provinces the mounted police now operate?

Mr. CARDIN: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are the provinces in which we have the mounted police operating.