

population which will take away some of the wheat surplus. We have heard about the wheat problem ever since the Israelites were in Egypt; however, at this time I shall not go into a discussion of that matter. We have had large quantities of wheat on hand in one year, and have wondered in the next year where it has disappeared.

Production must be controlled to protect producers and consumers. In Switzerland today wheat is being produced on the mountain sides, and it is absolutely uneconomical to raise it under those conditions. In Great Britain there is talk of putting about 2,000,000 acres of mountain areas into production. A British expert has written a poem on the subject:

Red is the wheat denatured
On which the fowl is fed;
Red the impending ruin
About the farmer's head.
Red glow Helvetia's harvests
Amid the glaciers cold
Where every frozen wheat ear
Has cost its weight in gold.

I believe it would be better to pay a higher minimum price on a lesser number of bushels and then sell the balance of the crop at the ruling prices. When we are in committee the minister may tell us why certain conclusions have been reached. I would point out, however, that I have had a great number of resolutions from chambers of commerce and farmer organizations in my district, and from all points in Alberta and Saskatchewan, which bear out the view I hold. I do not wish hon. members from Saskatchewan to think that just because I come from Alberta I do not consider the people of Saskatchewan my brothers. Their problems are the same as ours; we are all one.

I do not wish to make immature statements. At all costs we must persevere in our efforts to solve the problems facing the country. In this time of transition, when distance is being annihilated, it seems to me that the end of political geography is in sight. The people in the maritimes have the same problems as we have. That must be so in a day when one can fly from Montreal to Vancouver in fourteen hours, and it is reasonable to suppose that at some future time it may be done even more quickly than that.

Another important factor would be international goodwill and confidence. To-day I received from the old country a copy of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial*, which has this to say about the wheat conference in London:

But the difficulty of controlling a world-wide commodity like wheat can hardly have been reduced by the growth of international distrust.

[Mr. Hayhurst.]

That is my belief exactly. If Canadians in one part of Canada cannot cooperate with those in another part, how on earth can we expect to cooperate with other countries of the empire or with other nations of the world which may have ideologies different from ours? I do not wish to delay this measure because I realize that the government has a tremendous problem on its hands. So far as I am concerned, I would much rather work in cooperation with those who want to solve this problem than to put any stumbling block in their way.

Mr. F. D. MacKENZIE (Neepawa): Mr. Speaker, in my opinion it is quite proper to consider Bills Nos. 82, 89, 83 and 63 under the general heading of aids to Canadian agriculture, and I shall use that as my general text for what I have to say on Bill No. 83 which is at present before the house. The subject covers so much ground that it cannot be comprehensively developed in the brief time at one's disposal, so I shall content myself by touching on only a few of its phases, some that have not been dealt with previously in the debate. I should like, therefore, to discuss briefly why the wheat industry should be saved in this emergency. First, it should be saved for the salvation of eastern agriculture and, second, it should be saved for its own sake because of its importance in the whole Canadian economy and especially its historical place in the building up of Ontario and Quebec. I want to deal with the usual type of newspaper and other objections to this agricultural assistance and finally with the economic background of the whole wheat depression situation. I hope to do this in much less than forty minutes.

First we cannot shift from wheat growing to other types of farming in western Canada without destroying eastern agriculture. I gave the reason for this in a speech which I made some time ago in this house, when I used as a single instance, dairy farming. I showed the disaster that would come to the eastern dairymen if the prairie farmer were to shift to dairy production to any great degree. It is vitally important to eastern agriculture that the wheat farmer of the prairie should continue to produce wheat. Surely I need not elaborate further on that. I should like to speak at somewhat greater length of the benefits of the wheat industry itself and its tremendous importance in the building up of the cities of Ontario and Quebec.

There are a great many people engaged in the industry, and many more are dependent upon it. There are not only the farmers