

to any particular price, but I did suggest that the government take the time and trouble to find out the actual cost of production. This can be done. On other occasions we have brought forward arguments, and have proved them, to show that it costs considerably more to grow wheat than is paid at the present time. I can remember the Minister of Agriculture in a discussion at the last regular session, stating that wheat could be grown on certain farms at 30 to 40 cents a bushel. Mr. H. G. L. Strange says:

I have averaged up the price of all the wheat produced for 62 years and I find it comes to \$1.14 for No. 2 northern at Winnipeg.

That is the opinion of Mr. Strange, who is at the present time director of the research department of the Searle Grain company. Other figures go to prove the same thing. According to bulletin 159 of the central experimental farm at Ottawa the figure of 95 cents at the farm is given. We must also remember that the farmers of western Canada are paying by way of interest on debts between 25 and 35 cents a bushel for every bushel of wheat grown. Other industries are guaranteed profits, and I do not see any reason why, particularly at this time when wheat is going to be one of the things that will help to win the war, we should be asked to grow wheat at a loss. In the United States they are taking particular care of their farmers. I quote from the *Western Producer* of March 28, 1940:

At Washington last Friday the United States senate passed the big \$923,000,000 farm appropriation bill—\$203,000,000 above the budget—estimates, in the face of a warning from Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau that it should not expect the increase to be paid from the treasury's cash balance.

We could enumerate several other subsidies paid by different countries, but I will not go into that. I will give the figures from the Searle index for June 19, 1940. This will give an indication of the purchasing power of the farmer to-day. The index price of the articles the farmer buys, 147 items, now stands at 134; 1913-14 equals 100, which means that these articles cost the farmers in the west at the present time 34 per cent more than they did in 1914 before the great war. The price of wheat, No. 1 northern, as of June 18, basis the open market price, is now 23 per cent lower than it was in 1913-14. This means, therefore, that a bushel of wheat in western Canada now has a purchasing power in relation to the articles farmers buy of 57 per cent in comparison with the purchasing power of 100 which it had before the war. And we are still compelled to pay our debts, to pay everyone his pound of flesh, and to feel happy about it. I wonder how it can be done.

[Mr. Fair.]

Some people have the idea that western Canada is getting the cream and other parts of Canada none of it. I may have another opportunity to go into this question to show that we are not getting more than other parts of Canada. An hon. member says that we are getting less, and I think we can prove that easily. We can also show that we are paying more. I heard the arguments put forward by the member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley) and the member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas), and being a little further west than they are, we are in just a little tougher position. We have more freight to pay on the wheat we ship, more freight on our machinery and on other commodities we purchase.

We have heard a good deal in this house from both sides about the desirability of preserving Canadian unity; we are told we must preserve Canadian unity at all costs. But before we can hope to preserve Canadian unity, we must not forget that we cannot do it if one section of the country is trampling another section under its feet. We must have unity on an equal footing.

I would urge the government to make full use of the wheat board act for the sale of wheat and other grains. I would ask them to guarantee farmers, as they have guaranteed industry, the cost of production with a reasonable profit. I would also ask that the representation of the producers be placed back upon the wheat board. It would look rather strange and amusing, and possibly expensive, to other industries, if we had a number of farmers set up as a board to sell the products of any industry in Canada or to sell the labour or other services of any other class in the community. But that is what is happening to us to-day. How many representatives of organized agriculture have we working on the wheat board or in conjunction with it to-day. I do not think we have one. Is that fair? There is an injustice there that should be remedied and remedied at an early date.

We find that the railways are collecting the same freight on our wheat to-day as when wheat was close to \$3 a bushel, and the elevator companies are collecting the same charges. The Winnipeg grain exchange is collecting the same commissions. Speaking of commissions, when we had a wheat commission set up not long ago to investigate the marketing and production of wheat, we found we had one hon. gentleman on that body drawing just \$200 a day, and in case he could not make a living at that, we found an additional \$20 a day set out for living allowance. If deals of this kind were