

you think we feel inimical to the government because of its past mistakes. I have given you these facts as evidence that they, here in Ottawa with their officials, are not the best judges as to how to conduct our marketing system or of what the agriculturists of the west need as a first payment for the grain they produce.

We want to see good wages. We do not want to have anyone's wages low. We favour improvement of the lot and increase of the incomes of working men and working women. We are heart and soul with every speech and sentiment expressed in this house in support of raising the wages of those in the lower income levels to enable them to secure a comfortable standard of living. We do not want more for the western farmers than would be fair for the community at large. But we do ask that, as labour has its connections and associations with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) and his department, as no doubt business and professional men have their own organizations, and methods of advancing their interests, the government give the same measure of consideration to the proposals made by the western farm organizations when their officials come here, and not force the farmers always to have to be signing petitions or bringing delegations to Ottawa and otherwise doing things which they do not actually enjoy doing. We out west are peaceful fellows.

Again, I do not think there will be a great deal of opposition, even now, after the "jolt" of \$1 a bushel, if the Minister of Trade and Commerce would give us one assurance; and why does he not want to do it? It would not hurt. Both he and the Minister of Agriculture know conditions out there. They come from the west. Why do they not tell this house and the country that for the five-year period they are going to see that wheat does not drop below \$1 a bushel; that in that period they will continue the operations of the Canadian wheat board; that the wheat board will take delivery of all wheat so that there will be no speculation in it; that in the payment for this wheat a participation certificate will be issued and the wheat board will market all that wheat direct, as we expect they are going to do with the \$1.55 wheat this year; and that they will take the suggestion of the western farm organizations and make arrangements for one of two things to see that the various deliveries at least amount in the total to 280 million bushels to be accepted by the wheat board at this payment of \$1 a bushel—not less than 280 million bushels, which the farm organizations believe it is

possible to market every year without a surplus being carried over. This would mean approximately from thirteen to fifteen bushels to the acre to be delivered as authorized deliveries, depending on the fluctuations in the number of acres that may be put into crop, around 20 million acres or something approximating that every year.

Why do the government not do that? That is all we are asking for from the west so far as wheat marketing is concerned. It is not a great request. It is just an assurance that in these very uncertain years, while this transition from war to peace is taking place, the farmers will be given time to collect themselves and, if necessary, to reorganize the inequalities among themselves, to strengthen and improve the understanding of their organization, to improve the relationship between themselves, through their organization, and this government, whichever one happens to be here from time to time; and while that is going on, to give them this assurance that you will hold the price above or at \$1 a bushel and that they will do it through the mechanisms I have suggested. If the government will do that I think they will secure the blessing of every member here interested in wheat marketing and of the great bulk of the farmers of western Canada.

Mr. C. W. HODGSON (Victoria, Ont.): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate, I wish first to congratulate you on your elevation to the chair and, second, to congratulate the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) on his long term of office and of service to the country. I am sure we all wish him good health to finish out his term of office. Next I wish to congratulate the leader of the official opposition (Mr. Bracken) and to congratulate the people of Manitoba on having seen to it that he was their premier for twenty years. I wish also to congratulate the constituents of his riding on having seen fit to send him to Ottawa to represent and to lead our party. He was very wise, I believe, in not coming into the house on receiving the nomination, because in that period he travelled across Canada, saw all the different parts of the country and made a study of them, meeting people and gaining a wealth of knowledge which will certainly be of benefit to Canada in the future. So far as our party is concerned, it was not suffering from lack of leadership because it was being ably led by my genial friend the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon).

I am somewhat like the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), who spoke last night.