

of any intelligent policy or direction on the part of the government has greatly increased the difficulties.

In western Canada particularly, restriction of delivery, causing a serious loss of financial return, together with a lack of proper storage space, and lost markets, have caused a condition which endangers the entire economy. The wheat situation can best be illustrated by saying that the carryover of last year's crop, including stocks of Canadian wheat in the United States, was 301,000,000 bushels. The last estimate of the new 1940 crop is 561,000,000 bushels, so that for all purposes we have over 860,000,000 bushels available in this crop year. If domestic and foreign requirements reach 350,000,000 bushels, which in my opinion is too much to hope for, our carryover into the next crop year will be more than 500,000,000 bushels, or nearly 50,000,000 bushels more than all elevator and storage capacity in Canada.

This, however, is not the calamity it appears to be, because it may well become our greatest war asset. For Britain it is an assurance that so long as she can keep the seaways open we have over two years' supply of food for her in our own country; and second, it is an assurance to the suffering people of Europe that as soon as they care to and can cooperate with us in the overthrow of the dictators they too can be fed. In that respect it may prove to be a trump card. We therefore contend that the burden of carrying this asset ought not to be left with the producers, but should be assumed by the entire nation.

Since similar conditions face other branches of agriculture, we would make these suggestions:

1. That the marketing of all farm produce by appropriate boards with adequate producer representation be provided for.

2. The suppression of gambling and speculation in food products, including of course the closing of the grain exchange.

3. The acquisition by marketing boards of all farm produce at parity prices.

4. A cash advance on grain properly stored on the farms of 75 per cent of the wheat board's initial payment, and an issue of participation certificates on all farm produce marketed through the appropriate boards.

5. That on the participation certificates issued last year an interim payment should be made at once. This would assist the farmers to provide proper farm storage for grain, enabling the producers to benefit from the storage charges, now being paid to elevator and other companies.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

6. That all processing and packing plants be brought under cooperative or public ownership and control, to eliminate monopoly exploitation and to establish parity prices.

7. The appointment of a full-time Minister of Agriculture devoting exclusive attention to the industry, and the transfer of all agricultural marketing boards from the Department of Trade and Commerce to the Department of Agriculture.

The policies suggested require the establishment of a planning commission for the agricultural industry. Such a commission should recommend future policy, coordinate the work of the marketing boards and prepare plans for the saving and storage of surplus products during the war period. It should arrange for adequate distribution of food to persons on relief, on small pensions and on low standards of living. It should arrange also for the establishment of a domestic freight rate which would enable producers in other parts of Canada to use our lower grades of grain for the feeding of live stock. In addition, it should arrange for the export to Great Britain without profit to Canada of surplus supplies of food now rationed in the mother country. But let me emphasize that in addition to this immediate policy it should recommend long-term plans for the rehabilitation of the agricultural industry.

There are other matters which time will allow me only to mention briefly now. Foremost among them are the defence of Canada regulations. As I indicated to the special committee at the close of last session, I am far from satisfied with them in their revised form. I believe that every accused person and every accused organization ought to have the right of an immediate and fair trial before an impartial tribunal. I realize that provisions of a different sort relating to the examination of witnesses may be necessary during the war, but an accused and his counsel should have the right to examine fully the written evidence upon which detentions and internments of British citizens are made. In other words, we are again demanding that the rule of law shall be safeguarded and observed. Without these guarantees there can be no democracy and we are in danger of establishing in Canada the very system which we are fighting abroad. The government should provide the house as early as possible in this session with an opportunity of discussing the report of the special committee which dealt with the defence of Canada regulations at the last session.

Last evening the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) concluded his remarks with a reference to war and peace aims. I was disappointed that he left the matter, shorn