

Farm Prices

put up the present buildings on the farm. Less than ten per cent of the farmers in my riding can afford to employ a hired man. Life therefore on the farm has been reduced to what is practically drudgery. We all know that the live stock on the farm have to be fed and watered three times daily. The farmer without a hired man cannot go off with his wife for a holiday for a day or two or anything of that sort. One of them must remain on the farm to look after the chores.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Somebody has to milk the cows. It has been that way since Adam and Eve.

Mr. CLEAVER: Right you are, but my point is that there is no hired man on the farm to take his turn under present conditions.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): He would not stay there to-day anyway, unless you chained him.

Mr. CLEAVER: I have a suggestion that might keep him there, but I will come back to that.

In addition to the drudgery of farm life as it now is in Ontario—I am speaking only for the part of the province in which I live—we find that the buildings and the fences on the farm are badly out of repair, not because the farmer wants them that way but because he cannot afford to repair them and cannot hire the help to repair them. The weeds are not pulled out when they should be; the fences get out of repair. Drive through Ontario to-day and compare it with what it was forty years ago.

I think that all parties in this house agree that agriculture in Canada generally is in a depressed condition. I believe that there must be a fundamental and continuing and persistent reason why this is so. I suggest the reason is that through the years we have extended protection to industry even during the course of low tariff governments. We have extended protection to industry which has brought about this disparity, with its inequalities, between the income received by agriculture and the income received by the rest of the people. I would like to put on the record, if I may, a statement I have received from the bureau of statistics.

Mr. SPEAKER: With the consent of the house.

Mr. CLEAVER: Perhaps I should give an outline of the information contained in the statement before asking the consent of the house to put it on. I take the last fifteen years from 1929 to 1943 inclusive. In the first column is given the net farm income, the

income originating in agriculture; in the next column the total national income of Canada; in the third column the percentage which the net farm income bears to the total national income of Canada. May I have leave of the house to table this statement without reading it.

	Income originating in agriculture (millions)	Total national income of Canada (millions)	Percentage which farm income bears to total
1929.....	\$ 868	\$5,273	16
1930.....	575	4,452	13
1931.....	377	3,580	10
1932.....	297	2,813	10
1933.....	319	2,722	11
1934.....	423	3,147	13
1935.....	466	3,371	13
1936.....	529	3,827	14
1937.....	595	4,368	13
1938.....	596	4,291	14
1939.....	676	4,554	15
1940.....	723	5,404	13
1941.....	880	6,500	13
1942.....	1,324	7,500	17
1943.....	1,126	8,800	13

Average of 15 years—13·8 per cent

Hon. members looking over this statement will notice, taking the whole fifteen years and adding them up, that the average net income received by Canadian agriculture, though it represents something over thirty per cent of the people employed in Canada, is 13·8 per cent; 13·8 per cent of the national income goes to something over thirty per cent of the workers. I agree at once that you must add to those figures the income in kind which the farmer and his family receive from the farm. He has a part of his living from the farm, and I have obtained from the bureau of statistics the figures with regard to that item. I will not trouble the house to give them all, because I understand that these figures may now be under revision. I have the figures from the bureau from 1929 to 1940 inclusive and they total \$1,165·1 million or an average of \$150 million a year. When you add that figure to the net farm income which I have already given you will find it brings up the net farm income figure to a point where it is still grossly below the share which this group in our economy should receive.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: You should also deduct the depreciation.

Mr. CLEAVER: I am coming to that. I think I know what the hon. gentleman's suggestion is. There is also one other item which should be deducted, not added, when you take the net farm income figure, and that is the figure of wages paid to hired men where they are able to employ them. The bureau tells

[Mr. Cleaver.]