

That is one of the reasons why it is not possible in this bill to do some of the things which it has been suggested ought to be done somewhere sometime. It may lay the basis upon which other legislation can be built up later on, or other actions taken later, which may accomplish some of the things that some hon. members have in mind. But this bill is intended to do exactly what the title says it is intended to do—an act for the support of prices of agricultural products during the transition from war to peace. Then, as we read everything which is in the bill, and everything which has been said from time to time, the intention is to take into consideration all the things that have been done in relation to farm products during the period of the war and particularly during the period of price control, and then in any transition period following the war, whenever it is declared that the terms of the bill be applied to a product during that period, we apply the terms of this bill in such a way as to see to it that anything at all that the farmer was denied by way of price through control during the war is made up to him during the period of transition after the war, in order that he may maintain his position among the different producers and consumers. That, in general terms, is the object of the bill and that is what we have in mind doing.

Many questions have been asked with regard to different subsections of section 9, and I think those can be best dealt with in committee. However, it might be necessary to call attention to certain remarks made with reference to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of section 9. In that there will be found some reference to how certain products may have to be handled, and the question is asked, particularly by the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore), as to whether under that we are to set a price to consumers in Canada and whether we are to pay subsidies over and above these particular prices, or what is to happen, or what may happen under this legislation.

That clause was intended to deal with products such as cheese. Cheese is handled in a certain way in this country. It is largely produced by the cheese factories which are under control of the farmers who deliver their milk to the cheese factory, and their cheese is marketed before boards. They obtain certain price levels for that cheese. If nothing is done about it at all, cheese will go on to this market at the price level established before these boards, but it is conceivable that a price level of that kind may not be as high as the price level ought to be to take care of the circumstances then existing. In such circum-

stances the price would be paid by the factory to the farmer, and the factory would be reimbursed by the board.

That is a possibility under that clause of the bill, in which case it would result, to all intents and purposes, in a subsidy being paid to the producer. It has been stated that if that were carried to the extreme, and if the other powers given here were applied in certain ways, one might get certain results. I have no doubt that if the price were retained at too high a level, or the return at too high a level, one might get a greater production of some commodity than was desired; but in placing this bill before the house, I would impress upon hon. members that during the period through which we have been passing, and which we wish to have taken into consideration in deciding what we are to do in the transitional period, no one has been preventing the farmer from producing as much as he possibly can of the products we are discussing in this bill. The reason for that is that there has been a market for all these products. The only one for which we have not had an unlimited market is wheat, and that is not dealt with under this bill. But there has been up to date an unlimited market for all farm products we are discussing under the bill. I submit that it would not be just to the farmers to say to them, "In the first year after the war you must cut ten, twenty or twenty-five per cent off your production, and at the same time not provide that you should obtain a floor price for all the product you do produce, if that floor price may be above cost of production; because there has been a time during this war when some of our products were sold under cost of production. You may have to make an adjustment which is not based on cost of production alone."

That is another reason why the bill is applied to the transitional period. That does not mean that when the transitional period is up, any government which happens to be in power at that time is in duty bound to do away with the legislation in its entirety, that it will have no right to amend that legislation in any way. Of course, any house that may be here at any time after the war has the right to amend the measure in any way it may see fit. But this particular bill is for the purpose of dealing with a situation that does exist, as it exists, during the transitional period between war and peace. I hope that our markets for farm products for a period of years, possibly two or three or more, for most of our products, will be sufficiently good that we shall be able to obtain a price which is comparable with the price we are now obtaining