

# Queen's County Member Urges Square Deal For The Maritime Provinces

## Attempt To Obtain Continuance Of Wheat Bonus Opposed By Mr. J. H. Myers, M. P. Who Cites Difficulties Of Maritime Farmers And Fishermen In Present Crisis.

On May 10, while the House of Commons was in Committee on Supply, an amendment was moved by the Progressive leader, Mr. Robert Gardiner, seconded by Mr. M. N. Campbell, (MacKenzie), that the Government "should seriously consider continuing the five-cent bonus on wheat as a measure of relief for the crop year 1932-33." The following speech on the amendment (which was lost on division) was delivered by Mr. J. H. Myers, M.P., for Queens, this Province.

Mr. J. H. Myers (Queens): I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that it is the furthest thing from my thoughts or from my desire to prolong this debate or to prolong the session, which I consider should by now be pretty well over; but I feel I should be remiss in my duty to the farmers of eastern Canada, at least to the farmers of Prince Edward Island whom I have the honour to represent in this house, if I were to allow this amendment to pass unopposed.

I have the greatest sympathy on earth for the wheat farmers of western Canada, and that remark, I believe, applies with equal force to those of us who are farmers and who represent the farmers not only in eastern but in central Canada as well. I think I am safe in saying that we have been wonderfully patient with and wonderfully kind to our western brothers in the difficulties which they have laid before this parliament during the last two sessions, in so forcible a manner. We certainly sympathize with them and we are willing at all times to extend to them the helping hand.

But when it comes to singling out wheat growing or wheat growers in any one part of Canada more than another, I feel it my duty to draw the line at that. I wonder how the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) expects me to get along when I return to my constituency and after they read in Hagsard and in the newspapers the stirring appeal that he has made to the house on behalf of his wheat growers in western Canada, what will they say to me? What will the men down there say who are selling the very best grade of potatoes that can be found anywhere at eight cents a bushel, while thousands and thousands of bushels of them will be carted out into the fields this spring, finding no market whatever? Let me draw to the attention of my hon. friend this fact: Wheat is a commodity that you can keep over for a number of months; potatoes automatically market themselves. Within the next two or three weeks they will be off the market; they will be rotting and will be carted out to the fields for manure. The hon. member for MacKenzie (Mr. Campbell) said that you can separate wheat from any other farm commodity; he thinks he has a right to do that. In doing that, you separate the wheat grower from the grower of any other commodity and that I consider is most unfair and unjust.

### Says Practice Dangerous

With reference to the bonus system, my opinion is it is the most dangerous practice in which any government could ever engage. Wheat, they say, is very important to the wheat growers, largely so because they have a great quantity of it and it adds greatly to the wealth of the dominion. We admit all that; but the production of potatoes, or fruit, or hogs, or beef, or eggs, or butter, or cheese is just as important to those who are engaged in these industries as the growing of wheat is to the wheat farmers of western Canada. If you begin to extend this bonus system to wheat, why not extend it to every other commodity which the farmers are engaged in producing? But that is not the worst feature of the situation. We cannot stop there. While I am a farmer, I am quite free to admit that there are in the Dominion other people engaged in other important occupations who have just as much right to consideration as the farmers.

Miss MacPhail: They have all been well looked after. They have had their bonus.

An hon. member: Not in the hon. member's riding.

Mr. Myers: The hon. member for

their great Master made a scourge of knotted cords and expelled from the temple everyone except those who were there for a certain purpose. My Presbyterian constituents will after a while begin to wonder that the hon. member has any wheat on which to ask for a bonus. The extract continues:

—threw the whole question of a bonus and production into the melting pot and discussed the question from almost every conceivable angle.

In the course of the discussion the delegates found themselves in some embarrassing situation. "To be or not to be" was the question. They were faced with the necessity of abrogating one of the accepted principles of the U. F. A. movement if they approved of the bonus, and yet they realized that in these troublous times, the bonus might be a way out.

In the first instance the convention found itself approving of a resolution favouring the bonus. Then on a motion to reopen the discussion on the resolution was rejected, following Mr. Gardiner's address.

The original resolution, No. 83 on the list, was submitted by the Grand Prairie, D. A., and read as follows:

"Whereas we appreciate the bonus on wheat by the Dominion Government, being a step in the right direction, and

"Whereas there is no bonus for other agricultural products

"Therefore be it resolved that we demand that the Dominion Government bonus agricultural production and that the amount of the bonus be in proportion to the benefits enjoyed by the manufacturers through the tariff."

That would be pretty hard to figure out, I imagine. I continue to quote:

After further discussion, centering round another resolution, a motion was moved to refer to the previous resolution No. 83 for further consideration, and in speaking against adoption of the resolution in the reopened discussion Mr. Gardiner said:

"When we come to a matter such as this, tariffs and bonuses can never be equitable in any well-organized system. I recognize that these are unusual times and conditions are unusual and that the people are living under a heavy load, but in my final judgment a bonus such as this is small relief, let alone adequate relief. It is only too true that we have people benefiting from special privileges, but remember, special privileges is always at the expense of someone else. If the farmers get a special bonus, who would pay for it if not largely the farmers themselves. As the great producers of wealth they would have to bear the largest share of the resulting taxation. If we pass this resolution a greater burden will come back on our own shoulders and will stultify development."

Donald F. Kennedy, M. P., a member of Parliament for Peace River, was present and stated that it was not correct to say that we did not ask for a bonus or something like it. Continuing he said that several U. F. A. members asked for help for farmers during the exceptional happenings of 1931. The five-cent bonus was the government's idea. He did, however, contend that financial assistance had been sought. If all bonuses were opposed then the same arguments must be advanced against the bonusing of coal and other products. In conclusion he said "I don't see why we shouldn't accept a bonus on wheat even if we have to pay part of it ourselves in taxation."

Rice Sheppard agreed with another speaker that the farmers would do well to refuse the bonus and, if need be, tighten up their belts a little more and keep on smiling.

Alberta's Attitude

That is the chap I would like to have heard, Mr. Speaker. I should like now to quote from a Canadian Press dispatch to the Manitoba Free Press. It says:

Alberta farmers want no bonus on farm products. They stick to the free trade principles and they are prepared to "draw their belts tighter" rather than ask the Dominion Government for assistance comparable to what they believe the manufacturers receive from the tariff. So they decided at their annual convention Tuesday afternoon.

It was not a unanimous decision, however, for first of all the convention passed a resolution asking that the present bonus of five cents a bushel on wheat be extended to agricultural production generally and in proportion to the benefits enjoyed by manufacturers through the tariff.

There is a sudden about-face decision. On a word from one of their representatives in the federal parliament, E. J. Garland, member for Bow River, supported by the views of the leader of the association, Robert Gardiner, member for Acadia, they recalled the bonus resolution and threw it out by an overwhelming vote.

Another resolution along the same lines gave Mr. Garland a chance to get his word in. He merely opposed the resolution and said that he was sorry the former one had passed. The new resolution was defeated, and then a demand arose for reconsideration of the former one. At this point Mr. Macklin asked for the opinion of Robert Gardiner in that he would have the responsibility of advocating the policy adopted in the House of Commons.

And this is what our friend the member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) said:

"My view is that bonuses and tariffs can never be equitable," said Mr. Gardiner. "A bonus of this description would be no relief to agriculture." Those who produced the real wealth of the country were the ones who would have to pay, he said, and the farmers would have to pay for the bonus themselves.

The report continues:

The debate lasted two hours and at times was heated, but the change in sentiment was complete. When the final vote was taken the bonus resolution had few supporters and a demand arose for the elimination of the request for extension of the present wheat bonus to an acreage basis. The hour of adjournment prevented debate on this and it will likely arise again.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say this, and just one word will do me. It is true that agriculture in Canada, as in every other country, is in very bad shape now. We are sorry for that, but as Mr. Rice Sheppard whom I have just quoted said, we have simply got to tighten our belts and look pleasant. That is the only way I see at the present time. But remember, we are having a very important meeting in Ottawa this coming summer, the Imperial Economic Conference. It is the duty of this government to look after the interests of the Canadian farmer, the primary producer, for I believe, and with good reason, that the Canadian farmer is still the backbone of prosperity in the Dominion of Canada, and always has been and always will be, and in times past he has stood for a great deal, and I hope that whoever is charged with bringing before the Imperial Economic Conference the needs and wants of agriculture in this dominion will have that work well prepared beforehand and well mapped out, and with the economic union between the different parts of the British Empire which I hope will take place as a result of that conference, I trust that there are better days ahead of the Canadian farmer.

Prime Minister Scores Attitude Of MacKenzie King

OTTAWA, May 14.—The fight honorable leader of the opposition seems to be incapable of giving the house a constructive suggestion on any subject," declared Premier Bennett in the House of Commons yesterday. "He must magnify himself to depreciate others." Mr. Bennett discussed the arguments advanced by Mr. King to prove that the holding of an Imperial Economic Conference in Canada was not the achievement of the present Government—that it had been suggested by the Liberal leader, and that it was as a matter of fact an adjourned conference.

"I don't care whose mind germinated the idea of holding a conference in Ottawa," exclaimed the Prime Minister. He had been described as of the opinion that the July conference was not the adjourned conference of 1930. Nor did he think it was, Mr. Bennett continued. When the 1930 conference adjourned it was to meet in Canada the next year. It did not meet and in the meantime there was an election in Great Britain. Immediately after the election the Prime Minister said he sent an invitation for a conference to be held in Canada this year. That invitation had been accepted and in all the correspondence between the countries of the Empire it had been treated as a new conference.

"But what does it matter?" the Prime Minister asked. "Most Canadians would be glad the conference was coming here, whether it is an adjourned conference or a new one. But the leader of the Opposition believes nothing any good can transpire unless he is the mover. Surely we have gotten beyond that idea of the college boy who must insist that 'I did it with my little bow and arrow.' That is the attitude of my honorable friend."

Referring to his utterances in 1925 Mr. Bennett said he did name settlement and development as two important matters that should be discussed. The idea was that there were wide open spaces in Canada in dire need of settlers while there were parts of the Empire congested with over-population, and that there should be a more even distribution.

### Arrested As Vagrants

NORTH BAY, Ont., May 14.—(By The Canadian Press)—John Grear and Benton Rolland, who were held by provincial police here for questioning in connection with the death of George Smith, 87 year old storekeeper at South Tetagouche, near Bathurst, N. B., April 20, were this afternoon arraigned on vagrancy charges and released on suspended sentence. Word received by the authorities here was to the effect that other persons had been apprehended in New Brunswick in connection with the case.

### Deportation Order To Be Repealed

HALIFAX, N. S., May 14.—(By The Canadian Press)—The deportation order against Nick Maychuk, one of nine alleged Communists held here, will be appealed at a hearing before Hon. W. A. Gordon, Minister of Immigration, at Ottawa today, M. H. Franklin, Montreal, Barrister, will represent Maychuk.

### Growing Rat Menace Stirs Saskatchewan

REGINA, Sask., May 13.—(By The Canadian Press)—Veteran campaigner in the war against cut-

### Transatlantic Rates To Be Increased

MONTREAL, May 12.—(Thursday) —(By The Canadian Press) — The Gazette today publishes the following: "Trans Atlantic passenger rates may be raised in the near future, as the opinion has been expressed in steamship circles that the twenty per cent reduction, announced by all conference lines on March 30 was too drastic. The subject is now under consideration at a meeting of the Atlantic conference in Paris, and a statement concerning this subject is expected shortly. It is understood that all companies operating in the trans Atlantic trade, excepting the United States Lines, are anxious to see some increase in the rate, though it is maintained by executive officials of the American organization that the new fare will eventually result in stimulating traffic."

### Couple's Gain Is Hotel Man's Loss

MONTREAL, May 14.—(By The Canadian Press)—Hotelkeeper

### Worm, Grasshopper and Drought, Saskatchewan is Girding for an Offense Against its Newest Enemy—the Rat.

Saskatchewan is girding for an offense against its newest enemy—the rat. Moving westward at the rate of 18 miles a year, a rodent army has infested the eastern portion of Saskatchewan and is moving westward.

### Usually Approve of Weddings but Things Were Reversed Here Recently

When a local hotel manager found that he had lost out financially a result of one couple gaining bliss.

### Some Time Ago He Received Two Reservations from Australia for a Lady and a Gentleman who Were Going on a Conducted World Tour

They apparently had not met at that time but Dan Cupid must have worked overtime for in the six weeks interval between their departure from home and arrival in Montreal they had given up their single blessedness and become one. The original reservations for two single rooms were cancelled and a new one made for one double room—poor business for the hotel.

### Investment: Make a Sound Investment of Your Life; Speculation May Result in a Crash.

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The south union y...

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