

Supply—Agriculture

some coarse grains and by that means maintain agriculture on a more sound basis.

Mr. Stewart (Yorkton): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Liberals from Saskatchewan, I wish to congratulate you on your elevation to your present position. We from western Canada are not used to this eastern atmosphere; the air is heavy, so it will take us some time to get used to it. You have already had one demonstration in the house and I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, while I am congratulating you on your elevation to your position, before the Saskatchewan delegation is finished with our friends over there to the left you will have plenty of time to exercise that discretion which I hear you possess in such large measure.

This house has been regaled for two days by the members from Saskatchewan in the C.C.F. party. We in Saskatchewan feel some responsibility for that party because it started in our province. I believe I speak for the fourteen Liberal members from Saskatchewan when I say that, since it started there, it is up to us to eradicate it from that province. I think we can assure you that three years hence that job will be done.

Our friends have a right to speak in this house, however. They have exercised that right for two days continuously. Yesterday we had a demonstration when they introduced an amendment concerning old age pensions, not with any hope of securing old age pensions but simply for the purpose of political propaganda.

Mr. Knowles: Order; there are two points of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I am afraid I must point out to the hon. gentleman that we are now dealing with the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Stewart (Yorkton): The point of order is well taken and my point has also been well taken.

We are fortunate in having as Minister of Agriculture a man from an agricultural province. Some bright newspaperman who works for the *Ottawa Journal* inserted an item in Saturday's paper to the effect that the Minister of Agriculture and I had almost engaged in fisticuffs twenty years ago and that we were sitting in approximately the same relative positions in this house as we occupied in the Saskatchewan legislature. We can scrap fairly quickly and get over our difficulties just as quickly. The Liberal party in this dominion has proven it is broad enough to take in anybody in Canada.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): You said it, brother.

Mr. Stewart (Yorkton): I had not noticed that my hon. friend the member for Lake Centre was not in the house. I regret that he is not here. I believe that eventually hon. gentlemen of the Conservative party are going to find out that he was elected by half the Liberal votes in his constituency and that he will be taken into the Liberal party.

An hon. Member: Taken in is right.

The Deputy Chairman: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but if we are to make any progress I would ask him to keep to the item.

Mr. Stewart (Yorkton): I am coming down to the agricultural estimates. Certain remarks have been made in connection with those estimates, Mr. Chairman, by the members of the C.C.F. They have criticized the administration of the department. Most of us have read the pamphlets they brought in, even the *Christian Science Monitor*. I think they have brought in every pamphlet except Eaton's catalogue and the *Western Producer*. The Minister of Agriculture and the efficient officers in his department have read most of these treatises.

The group for whom I am speaking represents thirteen rural constituencies in the province of Saskatchewan. I believe my hon. friends in the C.C.F. have one practical farmer in the person of the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright). He is quite free to join us in consultation on agricultural matters.

In connection with the estimates for this department, there are certain things that bother the western farmer, whether he is from Saskatchewan, Alberta, or Manitoba. I realize that the Minister of Agriculture is not in charge of the selling of our grain but that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) is charged with that duty.

I trust that when I question the minister, even though he may to a certain extent have to usurp some of the functions of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, he will try to give us some information that will be useful to our constituents. For instance, one thing that is bothering the western farmer is the matter of the surplus grain that has been accumulated in the United States. Those of us who are familiar with grain handling realize that, by a system of subsidization which is followed in the United States, and by increasing the acreage the last few years until last year, the United States has gradually accumulated a surplus of wheat. We also realize that England has been purchasing our western grain with United States funds.

We as members from Saskatchewan have discussed the matter, and if it will aid the