

*Metric System*

I come back to what I was saying with reference to the functions of an opposition in the face of a bill such as this dealing with the metric system.

**An hon. Member:** You are mad now!

**Mr. Woolliams:** Yes, I am mad and I am glad somebody has said I am mad. I am going to be mad when it is proposed to change our history and traditions at a cost of millions of dollars for no good reason at all.

As I said, under the Torrens land system land was divided into acres, not hectares. It was divided into quarter-sections—

**Mr. Marchand:** Where did the acre start?

**Mr. Woolliams:** Well, I would say to the little minister of small business, who is as small as the business he is talking about and is small because he is not supporting our arguments, that in Kamloops they have lots and blocks. When they find out that they have a block for a minister they will know they are in a lot of trouble.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** Unworthy of you!

**Mr. Woolliams:** It may be unworthy, but facts must come out tonight because we are fighting for our traditions.

**Mr. Marchand:** You are talking about this bill. Tell me how large an acre is.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** It is 1/640th of a section.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Yes, and 160 rods.

**Mr. Marchand:** What is an acre and where did it start?

**Mr. Woolliams:** I will say this. "Acre" is from a Latin word, but acres, sections, townships, municipalities and counties come from the Torrens land system which developed the West. Mr. Speaker, I have never been interrupted so often in a speech by so many members.

**Mr. Kaplan:** We want the bill.

**Mr. Woolliams:** He wants the bill! They are like a girl who wants the pill. They always want something.

**An hon. Member:** Oh! Where is Horner?

**Mr. Woolliams:** You have got Horner. He was going to change all these things. Where was he today when the vote was being taken? He was absent. That worries me because I did believe he was conscientious in thinking that he could do more within the cabinet than outside it. Now he is not only outside the cabinet but he is outside parliament.

Let me come back to the point I was making. I want to refer to something which Mr. Paul Martin said, the present High Commissioner in England. He said that the duty of the opposition is to oppose everything and to turn out the govern-

[Mr. Woolliams.]

ment. That is what he said when he was in the opposition. I felt that was hard lines. I opposed the Hon. Paul Martin, who was quite a gentleman, when he said that. Realizing now what kind of government we have and what they have done to parliament, they should be criticized by the opposition. Perhaps we have not carried out our role. We have always taken the affirmative and we have been criticized for that. During the last election we were criticized about wage and price controls, which was the big issue. That was a positive approach. The Liberals took a negative approach. The election was over, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) returned to Sussex Drive and he brought in wage and price controls.

● (2200)

**Mr. Paproski:** He deceived the people of Canada.

**An hon. Member:** You have lost a year.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Maybe the hon. member is correct and I have lost a year, but Canada has lost ten years under the Trudeau government.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Woolliams:** Now we are being criticized because we are opposing this bill.

**An hon. Member:** What have we lost because of the Conservative government?

**Mr. Woolliams:** I read the speech of a gentleman whom I have always admired. I have not always agreed with him, but I certainly asked him many questions.

**Mrs. Campagnolo:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Woolliams:** You can mutter, you can sputter, but I am talking about Lester B. Pearson. He made a speech at a Canadian Club luncheon and quoted with affection a former prime minister who was a Conservative. He said:

It holds its opposition partly because of its great traditions. It has fought kings and dismissed them. It has raised up an army to destroy a king and was itself destroyed by its army; only to recall another king and to rise up again on the site of its own destruction. It has been modified and reformed to meet the changes of centuries. It has been led by the greatest men that the country has produced . . .

He was talking about the British—Pitt the Elder and Pitt the Younger, Sir Robert Peel, Disraeli, Gladstone and Lloyd George. This country has had great prime ministers. We have had Macdonald, Laurier, Meighen, Mackenzie King—

**An hon. Member:** And R. B. Bennett.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Yes, we have had R. B. Bennett. I will stop at this point and digress for a few moments. History has not been very fair to R. B. Bennett. The depression was on in 1930 when Mr. Bennett, who was from my city, took office. The late Mackenzie King said that there would be one five cent piece for the unemployed in any province in which the premier is a Conservative, and that destroyed the Liberal Party. It may have been said deliberately. At the time Mr. Bennett was in office there were ten million people in Canada, and he came