

Agricultural Conditions

This has been done for many years by all governments. Bull clubs have been established throughout the country for a long time.

7. Immediate improvement of quality of our swine; government to buy every good sow which comes on the market.

For years the Liberal government had the same policy; I can remember that for fifteen or twenty years that practice has been followed.

8. Eradication of disease among poultry.

About the year 1916 or 1917, under the Union government, if I remember correctly, this policy was begun and still continues.

9. Increase of efforts to eliminate parasites.

Apparently efforts along those lines are not being greatly increased because we find that the estimates for the entomological branch have been decreased. Apparently they are going to restrict their activities.

10. Transformation of experimental farms into local educational centres.

We have not seen any great activity along that line.

11. Cooperation with provincial governments in carrying out policies and bringing to the farmers the discoveries of government scientists.

There may have been some activities along that line, but I do not know of them.

12. Research work in feeds to inform farmers of best balanced ration available in each area.

Of these twelve points, eleven have been clipped from the policies of former governments and have been the policies of past administrations. There is only one new one, namely, that referring to the national marketing board. We have heard a great deal about this board which is still in process of being formed. I am in happy cooperation with the idea, and hope it reaches formation. I should like to say to the minister, however, that such a board may be fraught with great difficulties and troubles, especially owing to the fact that an economic conference is shortly to be held in Ottawa. Those in charge must be careful concerning any steps taken towards the formation of such a board.

I have endeavoured to outline the policies of Liberal and Conservative administrations. What has been done with regard to them? May I say that in 1930, the Liberal government passed an estimate for \$25,000 to set up a commission to investigate live stock and live stock products. That commission was never formed, and the investigation never took place. After two years have elapsed we find that at the present time this government is going to do a similar work. In the mean-

[Mr. Donnelly.]

time, however, it has allowed two years to pass before beginning the program.

In his speech to-day the minister referred to the amount of farm products we have exported. He did not, however, tell us about the prices we received for them. If we cannot sell products abroad at our present prices, when will we be able to sell them? If an hon. member were running a shoe store he could sell his shoes at \$1 a pair much more quickly than at \$5 a pair. It would be much easier to sell wheat at 50 cents a bushel than at \$1.50 a bushel. At the present time wheat is being sold for about 45 or 50 cents a bushel and eggs at four cents a dozen, whereas at an earlier time we received \$1.50 or \$1.65 for our wheat and 25 cents or 30 cents per dozen for our eggs. To-day the farmers in the west are saying, "We are not selling our products; we are giving them away." Certainly if we cannot give them away we must be passing through very hard times.

The other day I said to a farmer, "How much do you get for eggs?" He said, "Four cents a dozen." I said, "They cannot go much lower than that," "Oh, yes they can," he said, "they can go four cents lower." Probably that man was a pessimist, because he believes that the price can drop four cents more. We hope it does not, and that it begins to recover. It is impossible to imagine conditions much worse than they are to-day.

The minister referred to a reduction of ocean freight rates on cattle shipped to the old country. Yes, that is true; they have been reduced. I presume the government is taking credit for that drop. But, surely if it takes credit for a reduction in freight rates on cattle shipments it will give the Liberal government credit for in the year 1926 or 1927 reducing freight rates on cattle \$15 or \$20. Surely we can give the Liberal government credit for that. Is the minister also taking credit for having reduced ocean passenger rates? The shipping companies have reduced the freight rates on cattle; they have also reduced their passenger rates. Why? Well, any hon. member knows the reason—it is good business. The shipping companies are out for the business; that is all. If this North Atlantic shipping combine figured it was good business to put up the freight and passenger rates to-morrow, they would put them up. I hope they will not. They are not looking after the farmers' interests; they are looking after their own. If the minister was instrumental in bringing about the reduction in freight rates, I should be willing to give him credit for it, but I do not think there is any credit coming