

sees that they are kindly dealt with; he was sent here by Industrial relations, Halifax. That one down at the gate is there to prevent me selling any vegetables except by weight. I have no scales, hence do not sell any vegetables. Last summer I did quite a business selling early vegetables to wayfarers, but not having scales this year I did not sell any. The man you refer to was sent here by Hon. Mr. Motherwell, Ottawa. He has one on each farm, 9,000 of them altogether, so it is said. Oh, yes, that man over in the turnip field is Dr. Melville Cumming. His job is to prevent turnips from growing big, and to see that one of them does not grow bigger than the other. Not a bad fellow, Melville; but his head gets, at times, not lousy, but buggy, and then he cuts up as queer capers as any of them. But of all the ministers, the Minister of Agriculture has them all beaten. He has his experts, wherever a stalk of grain grows—thousands of experts. The other day in the House of Commons when Motherwell was on one of his particular frolics, all the opposition members were after him; among them Col. Cantley, who said to him, "If you go on as you are going, there won't be a Liberal farmer in Pictou County at the next election." "So much the better for you," retorted Minister Motherwell. Members finally appealed to Hon. Mr. Lapointe to decide whether the foolish laws being passed by the minister were *intra vires* of parliament. Mr. Lapointe declined to commit himself, alleging that he likes freedom. "Oh," Motherwell replied in effect, "I dealt with his deputy and he assured me that this law to sell roots and vegetables only by weight would be all right until it was appealed against in the courts."

It did not appear that the Premier was present, but curious to relate not one of the Liberal members either praised or blamed the apparently mad minister for his foolish course. But in order to be fair we must relate that a farmer or gardener can sell a bunch of carrots or a bunch of onions without weighing it, providing the green tops are left on.

As a rule, a political party could carry on if the half-baked fools they sometimes elect would act half wisely in parliament. Ministers like Motherwell would kill any government even if the angel Gabriel was Premier.

Mr. WARD: Before this vote passes I would like to say a word regarding the grant to B fairs.

Some hon. MEMBERS: We have passed that.

Mr. DUNNING: That vote was passed long ago.

The CHAIRMAN: I must inform my hon. friend that we are now at vote 48.

Mr. WARD: I rise to protest against the way in which we are passing these items. Sitting in this end of the chamber we are unable to hear what is going on. The chairman speaks in quite an inaudible voice and we cannot hear. I want to protest against the treatment we have received at the hands of the Minister of Agriculture in respect to grants

to the B class fairs. We have made repeated representations to him to continue these grants. In the judgment of those who have an intimate knowledge of fairs, the B class is the one fair upon which all other fairs rest. Had the Minister of Agriculture been here to-night and in charge of his estimates, I can assure you this item would not have passed. As he is absent we are perhaps in the position of being practically forced. I appreciate that the minister in charge of these estimates is not in a position to accept a reduction, and I do not wish to embarrass the government. I served notice on the Minister of Agriculture a week ago that when this item was before this house it was my intention to move that this item be reduced by \$85,000, the amount that would be paid to A fairs. Perhaps it would be well to examine just why we are protesting against the action of the minister in this regard. As far as I know there is not an A class fair in Canada that has not a very large surplus.

Mr. FORKE: My hon. friend will pardon me, we have had a deficit at Brandon for years.

Mr. WARD: I think you will find that most A class fairs have surpluses, and I venture to say there is not a B class fair that is not suffering deficits. In most cases the directors are carrying a personal responsibility in order to manage the institution. We are asking that the grant of \$1,500 which we have been receiving for the last two years be continued. It seems rather strange, Mr. Chairman, that an industry producing several hundred of millions of dollars of wealth in this country cannot pay the small amount of \$33,000 to supply a grant of \$1,500 to twenty-two B class fairs. While I do not intend to move a reduction of the amount now being paid to A class fairs, it is my intention next year to move that that amount be reduced by the amount paid to A class fairs. I regret very much that we have to go back home this year without this very necessary and needed grant to B class fairs.

Mr. McINTOSH: As a representative of the riding of North Battleford, I must stand up in this house to-night and protest against the action of the Minister of Agriculture in taking the stand he has in connection with class B fairs in Saskatchewan and outside the province. I believe this is one of the biggest mistakes any Minister of Agriculture has ever made in the history of Canada. I cannot understand how any Minister of Agriculture