

Supply—Agriculture

the price of the higher grades falls it brings down the price of the lower grades.

I have examined the submission of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture presented to the government on the question of price supports and the technique followed. In the proposals they suggest that the offer to purchase method means more in the interests of the producer than the method used by the government. The federation speaks for a large part of the farm organizations of Canada. They are not satisfied with this policy.

When the Conservatives were elected in 1957 and re-elected in 1958 some of us thought that with so many new and young members the Conservative party would be different from the old party of the days of R. B. Bennett. It was thought it might become a truly "progressive" Conservative party. We have seen the government in operation for about three years. There is substantial evidence to show that the voices of the members who first wished reform and improvement are being silenced and diminished. The voice of the old reactionary Tory element in the Conservative party is again coming to the fore.

The old Tory policy is the order of the day. That policy is to get rid of price supports as such. That policy does not seek to provide a floor on the market. That policy aims to throw everything possible on the open market. That is the technique being used today: dump eggs and hogs on the open market without any offer to purchase or floor price; turn the farmers back to the tender mercies of the packing companies and let them fend for themselves. In order to give the policy an appearance of being open and to conceal from the producers what is being done, let us talk about the deficiency payment technique and say it is wonderfully successful in curtailing production and reducing surpluses but let us not mention what is happening to the economic returns to the producers of these products.

I do not want my remarks to be taken as opposition to a deficiency payment made as I believe it should be under the terms of this legislation on the basis of a specific grade and the price the farmer receives for that grade of commodity when he takes it to market and not on the basis of averaging out the price which means that approximately 50 per cent of the product will be sold below the price and the farmers themselves have no guarantee of receiving a just price.

If the minister would say to the producer, "We will provide you with a deficiency payment that will bring a return to you for each grade you sell that is being supported, by the difference between the price you receive

[Mr. Argue.]

and the support price," there would be no objection. But the government says, "Throw it on the market, we will not keep a precise record of the amount you receive for each grade and pay you on that amount but will take the averages and pay you on them." This means the producer does not receive the money provided for under this legislation.

I have said in this chamber as well as to farm organizations on previous occasions that I think it is a shame in a democratic society that a government should bring before parliament legislation which reads in a certain way and tell the producers affected they are entitled to certain basic minimum guarantees on their produce and then by a back door undercover method deny the producers the things to which they believe they are entitled under this measure. In spite of the references made to any other department I do not think the government is carrying out the spirit or the letter of this act. Mr. Chairman, I see that it is five o'clock.

The Chairman: It being five o'clock it is my duty, pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15, to rise, report certain resolutions and request leave to sit again later this day or at the next sitting of the house as the case may be, in order that we may proceed to the consideration of private and public bills.

Resolutions adopted in committee of supply this day reported and concurred in.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): It being five o'clock the house will proceed to the consideration of private and public bills, the former having precedence, pursuant to section 3 of standing order 15.

PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Mandziuk: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask for the unanimous consent of the house to deal with three private bills, namely Bill No. S-22, to incorporate Laurentide Finance Company; Bill No. S-23, respecting International Loan Company; and Bill No. S-18, to incorporate Adanac General Insurance Company of Canada.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rea): Is the house willing to give unanimous consent that these three items be referred to the committee of the whole in one motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING

Bill No. S-22, to incorporate Laurentide Finance Company.