

*Supply—Agriculture*

only by the fact, as he admitted, that he comes from an industrial riding and therefore cannot have information available to him which is available to those of us who come from more versatile agricultural districts.

I think all hon. members recognize that the facts are otherwise. One has only to look at the titles of the statutes which this government has passed in connection with agriculture since it came into power in 1957 to realize that they cover a very broad field. I have here a book which is frequently quoted by members of the opposition when they find that their own sources of information are more unreliable than usual. They turn frequently to this little pamphlet "The Record Speaks", and I am glad to see they recognize true facts when they see them.

This little pamphlet makes it obvious that help for wheat growers is only one of a wide variety of subjects with which this government has concerned itself. Consider the Agricultural Stabilization Act. The very names of the commodities brought under support in connection with that measure speak for themselves. There are nine items, and only one of them is wheat. Then again, anyone who has had experience with the excellent work that is being done by officials of the farm credit corporation will realize that those officials are going above and beyond the call of duty in attempting to round out the farming operations of those who come to them for assistance, particularly those taking advantage of the provision which deals with supervised loans. A notable effort is being made by those officials to make the farming operations of these people more versatile and economic. Certainly in my constituency I know that people who have applied for assistance under that act are being advised, where that is deemed feasible and proper, to round out their farming operations and not restrict them merely to the growing of wheat, in order that there may be several prongs of economic support. Then again, the acreage payments are in themselves a firm indication that this government has not concerned itself with the wheat farmers alone but with all the farmers of Canada.

The amendments which were made two years ago to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act made provision for using grains other than wheat as a yardstick in reaching a decision as to whether or not a particular area should be entitled to assistance under that act. Then, finally, there is what I would call the crowning jewel of the diadem of agricultural assistance, the rural development act which is now before the house for second reading.

That is a brief list of some of the enactments brought in by this government, and

[Mr. Baldwin.]

it is sufficient to indicate that attention has not been entirely restricted to wheat farmers. I think it indicates a recognition by this government that the problems of agriculture are of long standing in their nature and in time. They are ailments which, like certain ailments of the body, require deep rooted and fundamental changes. That has been the difficulty in the past; we have seen only dilatory, temporary and short term attempts to deal with effects, and no attempt at all to deal with causes. This government has recognized that there are causes responsible for present difficulties, and it has directed its attention to those causes. I am convinced, as are those who live in the agricultural districts of Canada, that, given time, the cures which this government is putting into effect one by one will be efficacious.

I noticed that when the minister was speaking on the rural development act he mentioned that the provisions of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act were to be made applicable to all parts of western Canada. In particular he mentioned the Peace River district. I was very glad to hear him say that, because this is something which all the farmers in my district will be glad to see. I am sure the hon. member for Cariboo, who has joined his efforts to mine in an attempt to make those provisions applicable to the northern part of Alberta and British Columbia, was also pleased to hear that statement by the minister.

Perhaps the hon. gentleman will be good enough to advise me before the discussion of these estimates is completed whether it is correct that it is not necessary to bring in an amendment to the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act in order to make the provisions of that act applicable to other parts of Canada, but that the same result may be achieved by regulation or order in council. I hope this will be done and that suitable publicity will be given to this action, because I believe there are people in my own constituency as well as in other parts of the north who would very much like to take advantage of the provisions of that legislation this year.

I wish also to associate myself with the remarks made by the hon. member for Jasper-Edson some time ago with regard to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. The provisions of this act have been made far more flexible and useful. I think we can almost say, in fact, that within the four corners of legislation of this kind we have gone probably as far as we can go without actually making it applicable on an individual basis. From an examination of this act and the way in which it was conceived and has been changed and amended I do not think it would be possible