

*Farm Machinery*

undertook to look after the machinery. There is hardly a young farmer today who cannot pull his tractor to pieces, or his combine or whatever it may be, and get it to work. They took one of the boys who loved doing that sort of work and put him in charge of this piece of machinery. He fixed this machine. He was paid so much an hour for every bit of work he did, not only on their farms but on his own farm, with regard to harvesting the crop. He looked after this piece of machinery. This group of farmers are still operating today under this arrangement. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, don't tell me this bill will not work among a group of farmers.

Today there is one thing wrong with us, and this is not just in farming. Today we are thinking big, too big. We are thinking big, and bigness is getting completely out of hand in the United States and Canada. We are getting away from small business, and small business is needed today as never before, not only to keep the economy of the country going but most important of all—and I know everyone will agree with me who knows anything about farmers or is a farmer himself—to keep in balance the heart of our nation, its people. This is what small business does, and it is what the small farmer is doing today.

One of the greatest obstacles to the development of a thriving farm community big or small is not only in the attitude of John Public himself but the attitude of the farmer. It is said that small business is doomed. If every one of us looked with this attitude at our businesses and at the businesses that are in our communities, and if we looked at our own lives with this attitude, we would be doomed. We all know that farmers are a group of people who have always been more satisfied with their way of life than any other group or industry, and rightly so. But we must remember that the fast changing world of today is affecting not only farm life but every walk of life. To keep up with this trend those who are in charge of business, be it farm business or industry, have to be quick to sense the need for change and adjustment. We cannot just sit and think of what our fathers did and be satisfied with that, whether it is in the farming business or any other type of business.

Because the farmer is satisfied with his way of life he has unconsciously been resisting these changes instead of using his energy and efforts to find a way of taking advantage of the changing circumstances. And this is not the case just with the farmers. I think if each hon. member in the house went back

[Mr. Roxburgh.]

to his own community he would find this true of other industries as well. I can name a number of industries in my own constituency which were the very heart and soul of little communities but which are there no more. They are there no more because they could not sense the change in the times. At the same time other industries which did sense the change in the times are now employing more people today.

This farm machinery bill represents one of these changes. It is something new; it is a completely new line of thinking, and if taken advantage of and given the chance it will play a very important role in keeping the small farmer in business today.

**Mr. F. J. W. Fane (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words on Bill No. C-121. First of all I must say that I am very pleased to see the Minister of Agriculture in the house today and to note that his many duties have not taken him away from the final day of discussion on second reading of this bill.

I have waited a long time for an opportunity to speak on this measure and to give the reaction to it of one who has farmed in Alberta for many years. I do not call farming an industry but rather a profession. I do not like being called a grocery grower or any other fool thing like that; I am a farmer and proud of it. I think farming is a profession. It is no longer the misfit who can go into farming. A farmer has to be able to manage his business and to have a proper outlook on life before he has a hope in the world of making a success of it. In this day and age people in all walks of life must be prepared to make a success of whatever undertaking they decide upon; and believe me, Mr. Speaker, one can be proud of being a farmer. No longer is he relegated to the business of farming just because he is a misfit at something else; that just cannot happen any more.

For some time we have been discussing loans of various kinds to farmers. I am one of those who still cannot see how any farmer can hope to borrow himself rich. The last time this measure came before the house was on Tuesday, September 22. Up to that time several measures had been discussed. All of them provided loans to farmers and amounted to a possible total loan of \$55,000 from the Farm Credit Corporation and \$15,000 by way of a farm improvement loan. Now we have a measure to make it possible for people in farm syndicates to borrow \$15,000 each. Therefore it is possible for a farmer to borrow up to \$85,000, and it would be his responsibility to pay it back.