

*Interim Supply*

• (10:30 p.m.)

[English]

Ontario Industrial Farmers Must Have \$5 Milk. The demand for \$5 per hundredweight for milk used for industrial purposes is neither frivolous, greedy or unreasonable. As a recent resolution of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture says, even this price is still short of economic equality for producers.

This should not surprise anybody.

[Translation]

This is an assessment from a group which represents the farming class.

In another publication, one can read the following:

[English]

Canada's 1967 Dairy Policy Not Acceptable.

[Translation]

And in the last paragraph, this is what we read:

[English]

Government policy is supposed to help the people, not drive them up the financial wall.

This is a thoroughly bad, thoroughly unacceptable policy. Mr. Greene was able last summer to divert the wrath of dairy farmers toward Queen's Park and Quebec City, thanks to the unsophistication of those heading the protest movement. If he hopes this year to continue avoiding criticism by putting up another false front in the form of the Canadian Dairy Commission he is wrong. Farmers now have a little less Greene in their eyes than they did.

[Translation]

Here are some really harsh articles for the minister who cannot maintain that he has not been warned.

I have in hand a copy of *La Terre de Chez-Nous* dated August 9, 1964 which says:

Ottawa turns a deaf ear. The C.F.U. is continuing its representations on behalf of dairy producers.

And in it, we can see that the minister has certainly welcomed the farmers' representatives, but that the latter returned dissatisfied with their unsolved problems.

We have there, Mr. Chairman, an idea of the unfavourable conditions against which farmers are struggling, especially when we know, for instance, that they have to meet ever increasing production costs, while the price of their products is stable or falling.

I have here a price list supplied by a farmers' co-operative in regard to the prices of meal as of June 15, 1966 and February 27, 1967.

It is astonishing, Mr. Chairman, to note the extent of the price increases.

[Mr. Ricard.]

For instance, corn meal went from \$3.50 per hundredweight in June 1966 to \$4.05 in February in 1967. The other prices I will quote are for the dates referred to, that is from June 15, 1966 to February 27, 1967. Wheat meal, \$3.55 compared to \$4.00. Barley meal, \$3.30 compared to \$3.55. Oatmeal \$3.30 compared to \$3.50. Growing meal for hogs, \$3.85 compared to \$4.10. Dairy cattle meal \$3.50 compared to \$3.80. Bran meal \$3.40 compared to \$3.80. Shorts \$3.50 compared to \$3.85.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to tell the minister that the situation is serious among the farmers. The farmers came here with members of the C.F.U. to meet the minister and members of the cabinet only a few weeks ago and they have clearly established their positions, and their very difficult situation and unless the government takes the responsibility and decides to give them what they are entitled to I think it will be too late if a decision is delayed five or six months more. If we wait another five or six months, it will be too late.

If I had the time, I would like to refer the minister to the warnings we gave him in the last few months, to the criticism of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in January last when they met in Winnipeg. I shall merely quote the first sentence of the first paragraph:

It is resolved that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture express in the strongest terms, its opposition to the suggestion of the federal Minister of Agriculture, to the effect that total subsidies to the dairy industry would be maintained at their present level.

And in the second paragraph, they say that a minimum objective of \$5.10 per hundredweight of manufacturing milk is absolutely essential.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that those few remarks will convince the minister. It is high time for him to assume his responsibilities and to take the necessary steps to give the farmers a truly advantageous position.

Another topic on which I should like to dwell, Mr. Chairman, is the textile industry. As we know, this industry is the second largest employer in the province of Quebec. It gives work to some 52,000 employees at the present time, that is approximately 60 per cent of the total national labour force in the textile industry. The annual output amounts to approximately \$850 million.