

Bills of Exchange Act

apparently was not thinking about anybody except those who had no cares at home in respect of livestock and that sort of thing. Before coming into this house in 1940 I ran a dairy; and I should like the hon. member or anybody else to tell me how I could run that dairy on a five-day week. I worked from five o'clock in the morning until at least eight o'clock every evening, Sunday included; there was no way to get out of it, unless someone else did the work for me.

I do not object to anyone working a five-day week if he can get away with it. But I still claim that it is utterly impossible for the dairy farmer to have anything less than a seven-day week. He has his cattle and other stock to care for. It may be that he does not have to work as many hours on Sunday as he does on other days, but he still has a certain amount of work to do. While today some can get along on a five-day week, yet I feel there are certain classes in the country upon whom others are dependent, and those people should not be permitted to have a five-day week. As a matter of fact I cannot see for the life of me how labour is any better off on a five-day than on a six-day week, because the workers have just that much more time to spend the money they earn. They would be better off if they were employed, rather than running around on the loose.

I do not think work ever hurt anyone. As a matter of fact I think the thought of work has killed more people than the actual work. So long as we agree that we must work to live, then it seems to me the five-day week cannot help the situation.

I speak for the farmers of this country. It is an utter impossibility for them to have a five-day week; and they are still the most important body of people in the country. Until such time as their production is not needed or wanted, we will have to give them due consideration. I am sure the five-day week would not be satisfactory. As a matter of fact for those who must look after cattle it is utterly impossible to shorten the week, because those cows have to be milked every day.

I remember well once hiring a man who came from England. He was a fine chap, too, and I kept him for three years. However, I will never forget the first three weeks he worked for me. We were operating a dairy, and there was about as much work to do on Sunday as there was on any other day. This man did not say anything the first Sunday, but on the second Sunday he told me that he resented working on Sundays. I said, "So do I; but we have to do a certain amount of work on Sundays. However, if

you can figure out some way to get out of it, I shall be glad to co-operate with you. On the other hand, if you wish to go away any time all you have to do is to say so and we will let you go and have someone else do the work." I said, "I have never yet been able to find a way of getting out of caring for cows and milking them on Sunday, just the same as on any other day." That man stayed with me for more than three years and, as I said, was a good man. He was conscientious and worked well, but he did resent having to work on Sundays when he first hired with me. However when he learned that someone had to do the work he was content to do it.

I think the five-day week is detrimental to the country at large. It is not good even for those who can get away with it, because they have just that much more time to spend the money they earn in their working hours.

Mr. J. S. Sinnott (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Quelch) and the hon. member who has just taken his seat. At the present time we are faced with the serious problem of inflation. Every time I hear the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) rise in his place and advocate shorter hours with more pay and less work, I feel that he is helping this serious inflationary trend more than anyone else I know.

In common with the hon. member who has just taken his seat, I had a dairy herd before coming to the House of Commons. I had to get up at six o'clock in the morning so the cattle could be fed and milked, and the milk ready in the cans and in place to be picked up by the truck at seven o'clock in the morning. We were never through our work before eight o'clock at night. I suggest the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) does not figure very well. I figure 4,380 hours for the 365 days in the year, at twelve hours a day. If dairy farmers were paid at the rate of people working in factories, milk would not be 20 cents a quart, but would be nearer 50 cents or 60 cents.

If the banks are insisting upon the five-day week for their employees, in those towns where Wednesday afternoon is a holiday, if the banks would be content to have Wednesday instead of Saturday it would be satisfactory so far as I am concerned. Most farmers come to town on Saturday afternoon and it would be most inconvenient if, upon arriving in town, they found the banks closed. I must say therefore that I am not in favour of the closing of banks on Saturday mornings. However, if they insist upon the five-day week I would not object to their taking Wednesday afternoon.