

*Metric System*

He may continue with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I can end on that note. I just want to add that the foregoing address was published on February 17, 1915, but the same problems exist today. I wanted to speak tonight because of the destruction of the history of our country.

**Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I had not planned to speak tonight but the Grecian eloquence of the hon. gentleman who just spoke has brought me to my feet, magnetized by his magnificent oratory and the plea he made to the stoney hearts of the government to stop this attempt to crush the western farmer beneath their grinding heel.

I do not think there have been many speakers from the east in this debate and I believe it is the time for Newfoundland to come to the aid and assistance of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:** It is quite obvious that the elevation of our late colleague to the late cabinet is not working; the western farmer is as deserted as ever. Despite the movement of the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Horner) across the hallowed precincts of this Chamber, the western farmer is still left without a friend in cabinet.

I had hoped that the Minister without Portfolio would speak tonight and explain to the House what his policy is with respect to this legislation. So far we have not noticed any great changes in it. The House has been promised that if the legislation is passed—that if members of the House endorse this attempt to impose the metric system on the western farmer—the relevant clauses will not be proclaimed until sometime in the future. We do not know when, but probably when the government is satisfied that the western farmer is properly quiescent it can sneak the proclamation through by order in council. It will not proclaim these sections of the act immediately, ministers promise. That is the inducement held out to members on this side to go along with this pernicious piece of puffery. We are not going to be taken in by that, Mr. Speaker.

The same gentlemen who brought us wage and price controls now attempt to bring in the metric system for western Canada in the same way. They promise it will not be proclaimed, but in a few months time we will hear that there is a national emergency and that if they do not proclaim it the country is going to collapse. They will go ahead and proclaim it. Surely they cannot expect anyone on this side of the House to buy that proposition.

I have not spoken on behalf of the Newfoundland farmer before; this is a new departure for me, Mr. Speaker, and I am glad to speak on their behalf. We do have farmers in Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, although I know that is hardly expected when one realizes the sophistication of the Newfoundland members in this Chamber. We are an extremely

sophisticated group—even the Liberals—but still we do represent farmers and fishermen. And our fishermen are quite sophisticated too, just as western farmers are sophisticated.

The western farmer is not going to have the sheep's wool pulled over his eyes—he is quite well aware that what someone is attempting to pull over his eyes is made out of false wool.

In my district of St. John's West the farmers unilaterally oppose this attempt to inflict the Liberal metric system on them. The dairy farmers in my corner of the world—and we have in the houlds at least 20 or 25 dairy farms—expect a gallon of milk from a cow, not some kind of metre or millimetre or whatever amount they are going to get in the future. They are used to milking their cows and getting a gallon.

● (2100)

The farmers of the houlds are dairy farmers, but we also have fine farmers in my district who grow potatoes. There are some ignorant people in this House who think we have no agriculture. We grow a magnificent root crop; our soil is ideally suited for root crops. We have the glorious potato, brought in from Ireland in the 19th century. It grows well in Newfoundland, and we are used to gallons of potatoes, not litres. We use the peck and the bushel, and we do not want the metric system imposed on top of these measurements until there has been some period of education and some public money spent to educate the public beforehand.

This legislation is all of a piece with the Minister of Transport's policy of user-pay. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) is also the minister responsible for libel and slander, and the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. He was here this afternoon but is not here this evening. He is not here this evening because the minister who is not responsible for anything, the hon. member for Crowfoot, is here this evening, and we are hoping that the minister not responsible for anything will be speaking this evening on this bill, because we understood that the main reason he crossed the floor of the House was to see this piece of legislation stopped. So far it has not happened.

How does this legislation tie in with user-pay? It ties in in this manner. If this legislation passes, the user will not know what he is paying. It is too obscure. It is like the user-pay principle, from which the Minister of Transport is now pulling back. But he wants this honourable Chamber to pass this legislation. How do I conclude that the user of products will not know how much he is paying for something? He will not know, because he is not familiar with the units of measurement measuring the goods for which he is asked to pay. I have here, in this Chamber, proof of a sinister Liberal plot whereby the consumers of Canada will not know what they are paying for what they use.

In my hand I hold an advertisement from the *Advocate Farms News and Shopper*, that world famous newspaper published in Alberta, I believe. It shows that you can buy a Chun King dinner, in a 1.13 kg. tin—I presume that's a kilogram tin—for \$1.65. Mr. Speaker, how am I to know how that translates into an ordinary tin? What's a "kg.?" Here I