

day that the conditions on our farms are not at all satisfactory. The government by this measure propose to help to a limited extent some of the soldiers who are still on the land which they secured under the soldier settlement scheme. But I think we should first of all very carefully consider what has brought about these deplorable conditions. I have witnessed a disposition on the part of the government ever since they came into office to belittle the interests of those who are engaged in agriculture, and to sacrifice those interests in order to obtain concessions and advantages for those engaged in other industries or occupations. I have repeatedly directed the attention of the government to this matter. A year ago when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) introduced a trade treaty with one of our sister dominions I took the ground that it was very unfair and unjust to those of our people who were engaged in agriculture, particularly to the returned soldiers who had been induced to go upon the land under the soldier settlement scheme. These men returning from the struggle and turmoil of war regarded these loans as very attractive, and the quietness of country life appealed to many of them, particularly to many who had not had very much farming experience, with the result that many of them have already been forced to abandon their farms and lose the money which they put into them, while others are in very difficult and straitened circumstances to-day. I readily admit that something must be done for those men. To my mind it is one of the greatest tragedies we have had happen in this country, that men who have rendered such sacrifice and service to their country should afterwards be placed in such a position that after years of labour and after spending everything they had, they are practically forced to abandon their last possessions. Now we are proposing a measure of relief or revaluation, and at the same time the government have another scheme under consideration, namely, old age pensions. All these things lead one to wonder what the end is to be. We talk about the wonderful possibilities of this country; the country apparently has great possibilities, but there is something radically wrong with the means by which this country is governed at this time. I have always taken the stand—and particularly so since the great country to the south adopted a tariff which is absolutely prohibitory—that it is absolutely essential for us to adopt something of that nature, so far as those engaged in agriculture are concerned.

Mr. NEILL: Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. What has the tariff to do with this question?

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Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): Notwithstanding the interruption, Mr. Chairman, I consider that it has very much to do with the question, and that it is largely responsible for the condition at present existing among those on our farms.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): What is the point of order?

Mr. DUNNING: The point of order is the one raised by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill). Is my hon. friend discussing the resolution before the House?

Mr. SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): I expected that a point of order would have been raised after the interruptions by the two hon. gentlemen opposite, but apparently none is to be raised. I was pointing out that the conditions which prevail to-day among the returned men, the conditions which are responsible for the remedial measures brought forward to assist those still on the land, might be remedied by other means. Before the orders of the day were called this afternoon I endeavoured to get some information from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) with regard to a matter which affects these men very very much indeed, but failed to do so.

The thing which is so apparent is that these men, with a very limited capital, engaged in mixed farming, in poultry raising, in dairying and in work of that kind being unable to start on an extensive scale, particularly in western Canada. I know that in Ontario they usually bought small farms and carried on that sort of farming, and to-day the government are endeavouring to supply the people of Canada with the products of foreign countries rather than with the products of our own farms. This is one of the most serious things with which the returned

5 p.m. soldier has to contend. Realizing that, I introduced a motion in the House some time ago, regretting that some redress was not being provided for these men, and it was this class above all others that I had in mind at the time. Now we propose to take \$30,000,000 or maybe \$40,000,000 out of the treasury of the country and hand it over to the 17,000 men still left on the land, by a revaluation of their property, and attempt to remedy their difficulties in that way. If conditions are as bad as the government admit they are, and if agricultural conditions in this country are so unsatisfactory that the value of land has depreciated to so great an extent, what about the rest of the people who are not returned soldiers and who are leaving the land by the thousands? Even