

Let us get down to cases. The government has set up the Canada Grains Council to give farmers a forecast two years hence after its committees have studied these matters. We have a Canadian Wheat Board, the Board of Grain Commissioners, the Agricultural Research Council, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Amongst all these people are there not those who can reliably advise the government? If there are not, why do we have these agencies? If these people are capable, they should be called upon to give us the answers to the problems. Surely if they are paid salaries of \$25,000 or \$30,000 a year they should be able to advise the government in these matters.

Representatives of grain companies have been appointed to the Grains Council. Are these the people to advise us on grain problems, since these companies live on a guaranteed income in respect of the handling of grain. The government should reconsider this matter immediately and come to the conclusion that the situation is urgent. The government should realize that there is not time for long, drawn out sittings of committees that will make reports, half of which will be revealed to the country and the other half kept secret so that we do not know what the situation is.

I do not think there is any point giving the house the last grain quota figures. The government knows what they are. The situation has been stated many times in the house. What are we to do with excess land on which we shall not be able to produce wheat? Are we to go into livestock, cattle, or oilseed? Some direction should be given in this respect. The government should develop a policy which will solve the problem.

As well as being a grain farmer I feed some cattle. I was not amused the other day to hear the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) say he was prepared to join with a lackey of the chain stores and boycott the product I want to sell. I give the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) credit for standing on his feet and saying what he did. He said it because he knows the circumstances of the livestock farmer.

I have here the report of a speech which the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) made in Vancouver. He made a trip to Asia. I am glad he did. Perhaps he improved our grain sales in that area of the world. He is a very able man and was, I am sure, well received. While in Australia

*Alleged Failure to Aid Western Farmers*

he persuaded the officials of that country to lower the tariff on rapeseed, which had recently been increased. He also went to New Zealand. In his speech in Vancouver the minister said:

I was also able to point out—

That is, in New Zealand.

—the growing Canadian market for other agricultural products from New Zealand, mainly lamb and beef. The prospects are that there will be a very substantial increase in the Canadian market for these products in 1969, probably resulting in an expansion of New Zealand's total exports to Canada by as much as one-half.

They were \$19 million in 1968. I wonder whether before this agreement was negotiated the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture had consultations on the matter. I put it to the house that before Canada negotiates in respect of the importation of agricultural products from another temperate zone country which will compete with the products produced in this country, the needs of our own producers should be considered. We may have to make substantial transfers of resources in respect of production in the prairie region. We recognize this possibility.

I have lived on the prairies all my life and have no illusions in this respect. I know what is in store for us. I do not think we are heading for disaster, but we must make some adjustments in this area before encouraging the importation of meat products from New Zealand. I suggest to the government, that the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs should hold a conference and arrive at a conclusion as to where farming is going in this country, because we are past the point where we can fool around. I have great respect for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce; he has on many occasions been quite frank with us in the house.

• (9:10 p.m.)

I repeat what I have already said, namely, that the last thing we should be doing at this juncture is increasing imports which compete with Canadian industry already in a surplus position. We need an agricultural policy, and I am afraid that we have not got it. Where are we going? How many acres can we have in wheat? How much livestock can we usefully produce and market within the North American market? How much milk powder do we need, how much butter, how many cows? The Canadian Dairy Commission has