

In order to thank Providence for the most prosperous era in the history of our country, which is unequalled in the whole world, I believe that the government could not find a better time to appoint an ambassador to the Vatican. We should be proud to do so, since ours is such a Christian country, and in view of the fact that forty other countries have already led the way, namely; France, Belgium, Great Britain, United States, Japan, China, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Ireland, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Finland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Holland, etc.

(Text)

Mr. JOHNSTON: When are you coming back to Canada?

An hon. MEMBER: You do not understand what he is saying.

Mr. GOUR (Russell): I will speak so that my hon. friends can understand.

Mr. Speaker, I must say again that our farmers are urgently in need of help from the federal government since we are not getting enough from the provincial government of Ontario, especially chemical fertilizer at better conditions, assistance in the draining of the lands, et cetera, in order to keep our farmers on the land and to encourage the veterans in settling on the land.

Good roads and electricity are also essential. The farmers cannot keep their sons on the farms, when it is a matter of seventy-five hours or more work per week, without offering them reasonable and necessary accommodations.

It is essential to the farmers, as well as to the workers, that a reasonable profit margin be established between production cost and sale price, the same as between the salary of the worker and the cost of living.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that the constituency of Russell has flourishing flax cooperatives. I would fail in my duty if I did not take a few minutes of the house's attention to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). Is it not a fact that it is due to his unprecedented ability that he provided ways and means of stimulating our farmers, who replied splendidly to his call and have multiplied several times our production from coast to coast. Thanks to them, we are now the country which provides the most food to the starving people throughout the entire world.

As a result of the laws which the Minister of Agriculture has had adopted and the bonuses which he gave the farmers in order to encourage them to better their products, to-day we are offering products which are superior to

those of every other country, and you will agree with me that this is all to the honour of Canada.

It is also due to his ability that our country and its products are better known and that we are getting more advantageous markets everywhere in the world.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have reasons to believe that we can never have a more qualified Minister of Agriculture. I sincerely wish that we shall be granted the envious privilege of keeping him in his present position for many years to come. The country is most fortunate in having such a competent minister at the head of this department. I would remind hon. members that if agriculture is not prosperous, Canada cannot be prosperous.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the minister for the precious help he has given all the cooperatives and flax industries which were of such great importance to our war effort. I feel certain that the flax industry will continue to render great service to our country provided that the government will continue to extend its assistance to its development until such a time when we shall have mills which will be providing work for thousands and thousands of workers.

I shall conclude by saying that we must thank Divine Providence for having given us such a glorious statesman at the head of our country, the most qualified man in all the world to-day, our Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King).

Mr. A. M. NICHOLSON (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with hon. members in congratulating the Right Hon Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) upon having been selected to go to Geneva on an important mission for his country. I am sure people in all parts of the country will hope that the ocean voyage will improve his health and that in the near future he will come back in the best of condition. During the war I participated on many occasions in victory loan campaigns in my constituency. I always made it clear that while the C.C.F. did not have a mandate to conduct the financial programme of Canada, being a democrat I accepted the verdict of the majority. I told my constituents that I thought we were fortunate in having as Minister of Finance one who would not use his high office to improve his own personal position. I told them that if waste or inefficiency existed in government, those conditions did not prevail with the knowledge or the approval of the minister. I am sure that those factors had a great bearing upon making it possible for Canada to achieve such an impressive war effort.