

Christmas turkeys should be going to the market now. In some areas they have not even been killed in the hope that some market development will take place or that the government will do something. So far, the federal government at least has been wringing its hands, and the Minister of Agriculture has been crying in his root beer, or whatever ministers of agriculture do. But I have not seen any action yet on this matter. The various provinces in Canada have initiated action through their marketing boards which has effectively stopped the transfer or shipment of eggs, poultry or turkeys from one province to the other. I would like to give one example in particular.

The lakehead or Thunder Bay is a natural marketplace for poultry products from Manitoba. It is a long way from the high producing areas of eastern Ontario, and as a rule it has been a natural outlet for surplus poultry products from Manitoba. Manitoba is now effectively cut off from this market. This is one example. In my own province of Saskatchewan eggs cost, if I recall correctly, some eight cents a dozen more than in Manitoba, again because of a marketing board regulation. Quebec, Ontario, and in fact all the provinces will, if they have not until now, be introducing regulations of this kind. In effect, it is an economic balkanization of certain industries. Let me suggest that if something is not done, this balkanization will escalate. This is something we should consider very carefully.

Recently Manitoba made an application to the Supreme Court of Canada to test the validity of these regulations. However, the application was turned down. I, as well as the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), asked the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) and the Minister of Agriculture what the federal government intended to do about it. The federal government said, in effect, that so far as the legal position is concerned, they will do nothing. What else they might do, I am not sure. The Supreme Court has said "no" to Manitoba, and the federal government has said "no" to opposition members. What then is to be done? I suggest that the government should hasten to bring in some farm marketing legislation to take care of the situation.

Bill C-197 was not passed by the House last year, and the Minister of Agriculture blames the opposition for that. We in this party supported the bill with some reservations—what I think were good reservations—and we would have hastened this legislation through with some amendments designed to deal with this particularly awkward problem. I should like to express criticism of the Conservative party in this respect. They have balked at Bill C-197. I agree it is their right to do so, but I have not heard them say what they would put in its place to solve the problem we have at present. If they have ideas in this regard, I suggest that they hasten to tell the House about them.

**Mr. MacEwan:** Read the amendments.

**Mr. Thomson:** I would like to hear the specific amendments, and then we can talk about them.

**Some hon. Members:** Read them.

#### *The Address—Mr. Thomson*

**Mr. Thomson:** I believe that the federal government, in putting forth Bill C-197 without clearing up this constitutional problem, is using the constitutional problem as an excuse. I think this interprovincial trade situation should be dealt with on the legal level as well as the legislative. Let us hope that the federal government will re-introduce the farm marketing legislation with some amendments, as has been suggested, to ensure that this will be a national marketing act. We do not want the chicken or egg industries balkanized permanently in Canada. We want a free interprovincial market for all products in Canada. I have heard that some people who raise hogs and beef in some provinces are being affected adversely. Some individuals who cannot ship their eggs or poultry to Ontario or Quebec say they will assist farm machinery manufacturers to produce farm machinery in Manitoba. I do not think this is a healthy situation to be developing in Canada. We should hasten to solve the problem now rather than allow it to escalate.

Nationalism, Mr. Speaker, has been described as the strongest religion in the world. Under the guise of nationalism we do things we would not even consider in other circumstances, up to and including murder. In Canada, we are cursed with an additional problem. It is provincialism, or if you like, regionalism. One of the reasons I have heard given for the fall of the Greek city states is that they never overcame their small, parochial local interests. In this day and age, with our modern technology, we should get beyond merely looking after small, regional areas and parochial interests.

● (3:50 p.m.)

One of the things which have developed since the end of World War II which has appealed strongly to me is the European Common Market. Instead of a lot of small countries fighting among themselves, looking after their own problems, these countries have joined hands in order to solve shared problems. Despite the problems that have attended the development of the European Common Market, I cannot help but admire what it has been able to accomplish. It has proceeded more slowly in some areas than was hoped, but it has proceeded very effectively in other areas. However, I have been disturbed at the tendency of Common Market countries to gather together to protect themselves against someone, or something from outside. If the Common Market is a good thing for them, I say it should be expanded to include all the countries in the world.

We in Canada are moving in the wrong direction. We are moving toward the development of local, provincial sections. This is not a good thing. We should be putting our house in order in an economic sense, and here I refer to agricultural marketing boards. Let us first solve our problem in connection with the regionalization of marketing boards, and then let us look for markets abroad.

At the moment we have a surplus of eggs, chicken broilers and turkeys, at a time when these normally go out in large quantities to market. The reason for such surpluses in some provinces is that producers have been cut off from their traditional markets. Because the feder-