

Before this question came up in the house, so far as I am concerned and the members of the government we have been exceedingly anxious to find some way whereby assistance might be given to those who suffered, not because of having responsibility in any direct way at all, but because of the suffering of the farmers. But if my hon. friend is going to inject into this matter an alleged responsibility that is not ours, then in justice to myself, the department, and the government I shall certainly resist him to the limit. Let us be perfectly clear on that. My hon. friend cannot impose upon me responsibilities which are not mine. I take full responsibility for what has been done for which I am responsible.

Mr. SANDERSON: Let me say to the minister that I have not gone nearly so far as one of his own supporters.

Mr. STEVENS: Oh yes, my hon. friend did.

Mr. SANDERSON: No, I have not, and I have been very patient and lenient with the minister in his interruptions. My good friend from North Huron went much farther than I have done, but I am not afraid of the attitude of the Minister of Trade and Commerce in what he said to me in the last few minutes before he sat down. I am pleading for the farmers in South Perth who have sold their cattle and have lost their money. I do not know whether the minister knows what a loss of \$2,000 is to the average farmer in western Ontario to-day. Our farmers for the last four years have been plodding along and losing ground every day with the result that all of them are almost bankrupt.

Mr. ROBINSON: Not at all.

Mr. SANDERSON: A great many of them are. My hon. friend may be able to speak for the farmers in Essex but I am speaking for the farmers of South Perth.

Mr. ROBINSON: I meant the farmers of South Perth.

Mr. SANDERSON: I think I know them as well as my hon. friend from Essex does, and I want to say to the minister that I do not think he realizes the plight of the average farmer in South Perth or in any of the western counties of Ontario.

Mr. STEVENS: I do, and I am just as anxious as my hon. friend to find ways and means of helping them.

Mr. SANDERSON: I am very glad to hear the minister say that. My object in getting up to-night is not to get into a controversy with the minister at all. I want to plead with him and with the Prime Minister and the

government to be fair in this matter. I do not think my good friend the Minister of Agriculture can escape some responsibility in this matter, because primarily the shipment of cattle comes under his department. What he had to do with making the arrangements with the Richelieu Corporation I do not know. He may not have had anything to do with it at all.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Nothing whatever.

Mr. SANDERSON: But the minister will admit that propaganda went out through all this dominion that this government had at last found a market for Canadian cattle in Great Britain, and these shipments that went forward and were not paid for were part of the shipments for which the minister and his officials said they had found a market in Great Britain, and a market for large quantities of Canadian cattle. I do not charge the minister with any responsibility, but I do say to him that he should make some statement to this committee to-night in regard to this arrangement with the Richelieu Corporation. The Minister of Agriculture will perhaps understand me better than the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and I plead with him for the farmers of western Ontario. The Minister of Trade and Commerce said to-night that he does not see how any compensation can be paid in this unfortunate matter. I do not want to take up the time of this committee, or to get into any political discussion, but I do want to point out to the minister, the Prime Minister and the government that under the legislation they have brought down in this chamber in the last four years they have found money for almost anything and everything in the way of relief—unemployment relief, and I do not criticize that at all, and farm relief. Well, here is an instance of a dead loss of \$40,000 to farmers in western Ontario who already are so burdened that they really have not the money to pay their taxes. They got into this arrangement because it was represented to them that the government were behind it, and to a certain extent the government was behind this Richelieu Corporation.

Mr. STEVENS: No.

Mr. SANDERSON: Surely this government can find \$40,000 to reimburse these unfortunate shippers of cattle who lost every dollar. They did not get a single solitary dollar back. It is all gone—a dead loss. Surely this government could do something in a case so extreme as that.