

legislation in the last moments of the session, so long may we expect to have to do so; and very soon the country will come to the conclusion that we are of no use, but are simply here to sign the bills presented to us by the other House. The sooner we take a stand on the matter the sooner the Government will see that we are given an opportunity of looking into legislation.

Hon. E. MICHENER: Honourable gentlemen, it is unfortunate that this Bill has been so long delayed in coming to this House. Personally I am in favour of a proper form of rural credits, and think they would be of great advantage in the promotion of farming, especially in Western Canada, where there is practically no such money available. This, of course, involves the question of a system of financing for the encouragement of agriculture. Most other great agricultural countries have already adopted some scheme. I recognize the fact that our present system does not give encouragement to farmers and if there is any country in the world that needs such a system, as the one proposed, it is Canada, especially Western Canada.

I do not wish, however, to go into a discussion of this question. I really believe that if we had had this Bill before us a few weeks ago there would have been no difficulty in the way of discussing it and of its becoming law. I have glanced over the Bill. It merely puts the Provinces in a position to carry on their own administration for the loaning of this money. While I will be very much disappointed if the Bill falls by the way, I recognize the force of the arguments of my Leader (Hon. Sir James Lougheed) and of the last speaker (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster), and realize, in the face of the diverse views that are held on this question, that its passage is almost too much to hope for.

Hon. N. A. BELCOURT: Honourable gentlemen, the subject-matter of this Bill has interested me for many years. I feel that this is probably the easiest and most direct way of bringing assistance to the farming community. I think there is a pretty general feeling abroad, and in this House, that we should do something for the farmers. I agree, however, with the honourable gentlemen who have preceded me, and would not ask that this measure be gone on with. This is a most important piece of legislation, and I feel sure that if we were to go into the subject it would not receive the consideration which it deserves. It involves a principle which probably cannot be applied in this country in the same way and to the same ex-

tent that it has been applied in Europe and the United States, where it has met with great success. If we were to go on with the Bill, I think it would receive a black eye—the House would have to put itself on record as not being prepared to pass it; and the position would then be much worse than it now is. For these reasons, I would advise my Leader not to go on with the Bill at this time.

Hon. GEORGE GORDON: The Bill is not on my file, and I have not seen it; but I would gather from the remarks of the Leader of the House that it concerns a loan by the Government to the western Provinces.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Not to the western Provinces any more than to the eastern Provinces.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: It is a loan.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: To any Province.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I am unable to see any reason why the Government of Canada should make a loan for this purpose. Have the various Provinces lost their credit? If they have not, I think this matter should be left entirely to the Provinces; and I think they should come to the Dominion Government for assistance of this kind only when their credit is gone.

I am in accord with my colleagues on this side of the House in protesting against a Bill of this nature coming down at such a late day in the Session.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I quite understand the feeling of the members of the Senate. I have moved the second reading of the Bill, but if my honourable friend opposite will move that the Bill be not now read a second time but be postponed to next Session for study and consideration, I will accept the motion.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Before action is taken, I would like to point out that if the Bill should pass there is no likelihood, in fact no possibility, of the Dominion Government making any loss; it is only to advance the \$10,000,000. I would like to find out, if I can, what division is proposed. Is the \$10,000,000 to be advanced to the different Provinces equally, or in proportion to their population or in proportion to their requests?

As I have said, so far as the West is concerned, there is no possibility of loss, and the Bill would serve a good purpose. There are many farmers in the West who are paying 8 per cent for farm loans. That situation was brought about chiefly by the action of the local Government which made rules and regu-