

Supply—Agriculture

Mr. MOTHERWELL: May I first read this memorandum:

The National Dairy Council is an association composed of representatives of the various branches of the dairy industry. It was originally formed for the purpose of advancing the dairy industry throughout Canada by taking such steps both legal and otherwise as would best bring about the end in view.

One of its first activities consisted in the efforts made to have legislation passed prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of oleomargarine in Canada. It has also been of considerable service to the dairy industry, through representations to the Board of Railway Commissioners, in having conditions improved and freight charges adjusted in connection with the transportation of dairy produce generally.

The organizations represented in the National Dairy Council are as follows:—

British Columbia Dairymen's Association.
 Alberta Dairymen's Association.
 Western Ice Cream Manufacturers.
 Alberta Producers' Association.
 Saskatchewan Dairy Association.
 Western Butter Manufacturers.
 Manitoba Dairy Association.
 Western Milk Distributors.
 Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario.
 Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association.
 Canadian Creamery Association.
 The Ontario Milk Producers' Association.
 Canadian Association of Ice Cream Mgrs.
 Condensed Milk and Powdered Milk Interests.
 Quebec Dairy Association.
 Montreal Milk Producers' Association.
 Montreal Milk Distributors.
 Canadian Produce Merchants' Ass'n.
 New Brunswick Dairymen United.
 Nova Scotia Dairymen's Association.
 Prince Edward Island Dairy Association.
 Holstein-Friesian Association.
 Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association.
 Canadian Jersey Cattle Club.

The newly elected president is Mr. F. E. M. Robinson, of Richmond, Quebec, while the secretary-treasurer is W. F. Stephen, of Ottawa, Ontario. The National Dairy Council obtains a grant from the federal government of \$5,000 per annum.

I gather from the remarks of the hon. member for Bow River that he thinks these gentlemen have something akin to protective ideas with respect to their industry.

Mr. ROWE: They should have too.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Does my hon. friend think that with these grants should go a condition that these people circumscribe their views with regard to certain questions? Should I say to Toronto, for instance, which gets a large number of grants: "You must not be so protectionist as you are." I do not see how I could do that effectively.

Mr. ROWE: You will never do it either.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Speaking quite seriously, I do not see how we can in a democratic country give grants of this nature and

[Mr. E. J. Garland.]

then dictate what the recipient shall or shall not discuss. I remember that when I was connected with a grain growers' organization myself in the old territorial days we got a very modest grant of \$250 from a Conservative minister of agriculture, and I can imagine what remark I would have made if he had said: "We will give you this grant but you must say and talk about the things I want you to talk about." I do not think I would have taken the grant under those conditions, and I likely would have had something to say besides. I cannot imagine any line of advice that could be given to the recipients of these grants that would not be considered wholly objectionable under our conception of democratic government. We are making dozens and scores and hundreds of grants of one kind and another all over Canada, and we have never thought of imposing any such conditions. I may say to my hon. friend that I have suggested to different organizations that it would be easier for me to continue the grants they were receiving if they were not so free in discussing controversial questions at certain times, but I have never thought of imposing any conditions upon them; I just pointed out my difficulties. We have an example of those difficulties right now in the criticism of the hon. member for Bow River, whose opinion I usually regard with high favour, but not this one.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I can imagine no circumstances under which the minister could be silent. As to this particular point the minister's difficulty is quite clear. I should imagine that precisely the same difficulty would meet the Prime Minister, say, when he was selecting his cabinet, that if it were made a condition that every member of the low tariff ministry must be really a low tariff man and never preach anything but low tariff, terrible complications would ensue in the present ministry, and I take it that it would be almost hopeless for them to attempt to carry on. So the same policy is to be carried out in regard to the National Dairy Council that prevails with the hon. gentlemen on the treasury benches now—let every man have his own opinions, let him give them out to the world if he wants to, but when election time comes around we will all tell the people how gallantly we are fighting for low tariffs; but in parliament when the session is on we will make sure there is no material reduction in the tariff.

Mr. ADSHEAD: With reference to the list of dairymen's associations which the minister has just read, I would draw his attention to