

be able to hear him better. We are going to have a real family reunion before we leave. May I quote from yesterday's Hansard?

Mr. BENNETT: May I make clear to my hon. friend that a citation from Hansard is always permissible except it be with respect to matters on which the house has arrived at a decision, or observations made during a debate on an amendment to the address or on going into supply, which must not again be referred to, for the reason that if you did the discussion would be interminable. The hon. gentleman certainly has a right to refer to what was said on Saturday because we are still sitting in committee of supply with respect to the very items he mentions.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: All I was complaining of this morning was that that was the first time in my life that I spoke on the Speaker rising to leave the chair for the house to go into committee of supply. It was the first time that I had heard that rule invoked this session, and it was against myself.

Mr. BENNETT: New experiences are always interesting.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: In reply to the Prime Minister on Saturday night, well after eleven o'clock, I stated that while we had discussed one agriculture item a long while, on four different days, it was because the minister refused or at all events did not bring down the information sought. The Minister of Agriculture replied, "That is not a correct statement." "According to Hansard the information was asked for on May 28, and was produced on May 29." This does not really amount to a very great deal except that if I let it go unchallenged I am afraid that the Minister of Agriculture will develop a penchant for saying what is not correct himself. We have had two or three manifestations of that already, especially in connection with Waterhen lake, and I do not want that habit to become chronic in him. On the 26th of May I endeavoured to get the record of the production of milk for the past ten years. I had a reason for that. There had been such a hullabaloo all through the last election about Australian butter and what not, that I wanted to show that the proper measure for estimating the condition of the dairy industry in any country was the production of milk, no matter what it goes into, no matter if it goes into a dozen different dairy commodities. I quoted figures of the production of milk from 1922 to 1929, showing an increase from ten billion pounds in 1922 to fourteen billion pounds in

[Mr. Motherwell.]

1929, or an increase of from 40 to 45 per cent. That is a good increase. The whole Tory raft over there went up in the air and looked like going up the flue.

Mr. BENNETT: If the raft went up in the air it would be difficult to go up the flue.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: They soon caught on to what I was aiming at and started to block the giving of the information. I think they were more to blame than the minister. I had asked for the information on the 26th, and then on the 27th, which was a Wednesday, the hon. member for Labelle gave an excellent speech on the Russian situation which occupied the time of the house to almost six o'clock.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Will the hon. member give the page of Hansard where he first asked for that information?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The estimates were taken up on the 26th of May. My hon. friend has the same Hansard as I have, but I will give the page for his convenience. It is page 2159, of May 26. I gave the information myself because the minister was looking rather helpless. I had asked him for the information, and he indicated by his appearance that he had not got it and I gave it to him, and immediately the hubbub started to show that my figures were wrong, and things went on for the next two or three days in that way. Then on the 28th of May the hon. member for Provencher brought down some figures that were practically all right, and there was some firing at those. It was not until the 29th of May, at page 2139 of Hansard, that the matter was finally disposed of. The minister brought down figures, but I defy anybody to find any meaning in them. They were brought down, I will not say intentionally but probably unwittingly, in such a way that they were not arranged in consecutive order, and I for one could not understand them. Then he gave some further figures which he said were mine; he would not take responsibility, however, but said they were mine. I accepted his statement, but found that the return was not official. Towards the end of the discussion the Minister of Agriculture said he had not wittingly withheld any information. Here is my reply to that:

When the committee resumed at eight o'clock we were in hopes that we should be able to get this vote through, and possibly the next one.

Hon. members on this side of the house will recall that.

But the minister has made a statement this evening which makes it impossible for the item