

Farm Credit Act

The hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Vincent) replied yesterday to those statements of the hon. member for Bonaventure.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Bonaventure stated moreover:

We, from the Gaspé peninsula, have been too long forgotten. This tragedy has been with us ever since 1534, when Cartier took possession of our country by setting up a cross in Gaspé. Mr. Speaker, are you not of the opinion that this has been going on long enough? Are you not of the opinion that we have had our share of neglect?

A little further on he said:

The Gaspé peninsula has always been unrecognized, forgotten. It is time to put an end to such a situation. The Gaspé peninsula people, the farmers, the fishermen and the workers—

Mr. Chairman, I want to point out to the hon. member for Bonaventure that if the Gaspé peninsula has always been forgotten, it has been forgotten a longer time by the party to which he belongs, than by the Conservative party. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, since 1896, in a period of 66 years, the Liberals ruled this country for 46 years, and the Conservatives for 20.

An hon. Member: The people found out the Liberals were not so bad.

Mr. Belzile: This means that if the Gaspé people have been forgotten, if the Gaspé peninsula has always been the unknown country, it has been forgotten for 46 years by the Liberals and for 20 years by the Conservatives. I believe this is a venial sin, compared to a mortal sin.

And now, Mr. Chairman, to come back to the measure before us, the one providing for increased funds to the Farm Credit Corporation, let us say that money is the sinews of war, that it is also the sinews—

An hon. Member: Of Social Credit.

Mr. Belzile: —It is the sinews of the farming class, and there are problems, in this regard, not only on the provincial level, but also on the local level. In the consideration of this bill, both provincial and local levels must be taken into account.

Thus, in the practical administration of our legislation, we will have to act according to the needs of each of those areas, while taking into account the technical, climatic and economical conditions, on the local level, as well as the sale of our products, the cost price of the professional utilities, their transport rates, and also the transport rates of our farming products to the large markets.

Before concluding my remarks, Mr. Chairman, I would like to call the attention of the minister to a provision of the Farm Credit Act. I refer more particularly to loans granted under Part III of the Farm Credit Act. As shown in the *Canada Gazette* dated January 14, 1960, Part III of the Act provides that:

Every part III loan shall, whenever practicable, be secured in its entirety by farm land.

That is a kind of loan which we also call a supervised loan. Supervised loans, or loans under Part III apply to young farmers between 21 and 45 years of age.

Therefore, the problem faced by our young farmers is a dual one.

In the first place when a young farmer owns a piece of land large enough to turn it into a profitable farm, what he lacks is herds, buildings and equipment.

In the other case, the young farmer does not own enough land to operate a farm economically.

I am in full agreement with all those members who just told us that an impressive percentage of our farms do not produce a large enough income to support a family, but if we recognize the ill, we must apply the remedy.

If a 50- or 60-acre farm cannot today support the family of its operator as it did 20 years ago, it is due to the fact that there has been a rapid change in economic trends and that the agricultural class has also felt the impact of automation. It is useless to close one's eyes to such a situation.

Mr. Chairman, we recognize the fact that small farms are not economical, therefore it is useless to give assistance to someone who will be unable by himself, despite the best of intentions, to make a success of farming. We must therefore apply the only real remedy.

The solution I advocate is to expand the farm of the young and willing farmer and, through the Farm Credit Corporation, to provide him with the moneys he needs to establish a successful farming operation. We shall see then, Mr. Chairman, prosperous farmers, and this will be more encouraging than seeing two farmers operating with difficulty two small farms.

Mr. Chairman, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture to use his influence with the