

*The Budget—Mr. Boulanger*

**Mr. Boulanger:** I could refer the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm to the speech I delivered last year in this house. He would find in it the names of the industries that have closed down in the province of Quebec. I mentioned about 20 of them.

**Mr. Ricard:** How many have resumed their activity since then? Four of them and you should say so.

**Mr. Pigeon:** The hon. member reminds me of the hon. member for Laurier (Mr. Chevrier). He talks nonsense.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Boulanger:** There is a great deal to be said on the subject of textiles. If I dealt with this matter for a few minutes, it was to awaken the suspicions of the members in whose ridings textile industries are found.

They will now have time to make ready to disprove the figures I gave tonight.

At that time, I shall take up again the subject of textiles at greater length.

In my region, the factories are reducing the number of their workers. The Dominion Textile had to close down for weeks, for want of orders. That happened mostly in Drummondville where the Dominion Textile specializes in the manufacture of fishing nets. This is because in the last few years, fishing nets have been imported from Japan and from other countries whereas those goods were manufactured in Canada three or four years ago.

The same applies to the material used in the manufacture of automobile tires. That material is now being imported.

As a result, workers find themselves out of a job. There are 528,000 of them in Canada and if the government does not take appropriate action, how many will there be in a month or two?

Those are the remarks I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker, in order that urgent steps be taken to put an end to imports in the field of textiles.

There is another matter I wish to bring to the attention of the house and this is agriculture. Today the farm people are discouraged on account of the legislation passed by this government.

It was said that the Conservative government would rescue agriculture, the family farm, the marginal farm.

What do we see? The Conservative party has left the farmer to his fate. He cannot sell the products of his farm at a price that

[Mr. Graftey.]

would give him enough to ensure the subsistence of his family. As a result, farmers are leaving the farm.

**Mr. Graftey:** Were you here yesterday?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Mr. Boulanger:** Now farmers are coming into the towns adding to the numbers of unemployed. They cannot find a job because they have no special skill nor the training required in industry.

What has the government done in this field to correct the situation?

**Mr. Graftey:** Were you here or not yesterday?

**Mr. Boulanger:** I must say to the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi that I was here yesterday and that I spoke on agriculture while he was absent. He is not here to be seen when we are discussing things which concern his riding. The hon. member was not in the house then and he is not interested either in agricultural matters.

**Mr. Pigeon:** He was here.

**Mr. Graftey:** I am always here, my good friend.

**Mr. Boulanger:** But when I spoke on agriculture—

**Mr. Graftey:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Graftey:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege. Some one just said that I was absent, and that I did not speak in support of the farmers in this house. Quite to the contrary, Mr. Speaker, I have often stood up for the farmers in this house. The hon. member should read my speeches.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I draw the attention of the hon. member to the fact that it is not relevant to the debate to discuss the attendance of other members and related matters.

**Mr. Boulanger:** Mr. Speaker, I have been provoked by insinuations to the effect that I was not in the house yesterday, when in fact I delivered a speech on agriculture. That is why I took exception to the statement of the member for Brome-Missisquoi.

Mr. Speaker, the subject of agriculture evokes the same reaction on the opposite side as the subject of textiles. However,