

The present policies adopted by the marketing boards bent on raising tariff barriers between provinces are clearly to be condemned. No one will object to some kind of order in the production and marketing of farm products that will ensure security to the producers as well as a reasonable return for their efforts. However, we cannot let certain groups be able to destroy our country by preventing some products from being sold in other provinces.

I do say "destroy our country", because never before has the Canadian common market, which is the very essence of Canada's existence, been threatened as it is now.

At the last session, during the study in committee of Bill C-197, which provided for setting up of national marketing agencies, it was rather obvious that some provinces, taking advantage of what I would call a mistake made by a marketing agency in Quebec, had made excessive and extremely dangerous reprisals.

I do not intend to exonerate the Quebec group which, while meaning well, probably wanted to go a little too fast and apparently committed a tactical error because it is one thing to prevent products from another province—in this instance eggs—from entering Quebec, and another to want a specific group of producers in another province to be allowed to supply the Quebec market.

In my opinion, and the comparison may seem somewhat stretched, René Lévesque and his group would have been unable to devise any better way of ruining the country than this embargo which several provinces have placed on certain products coming from Quebec and, since they can be mentioned, on broilers.

Ontario, particularly, should lift this embargo, that province being, in my opinion, little affected, if at all, by the decision made in Quebec by the egg marketing agency. At least 55 per cent of the Quebec egg market is still being supplied by Ontario, only 45 per cent of Quebec's egg consumption being produced locally.

There is some control applied, but Ontario eggs are not prevented from entering Quebec. A limit has been set as to the number of Ontario producers shipping to Quebec, and I am against that. Just the same, there is a difference between limiting the number of producers of a province allowed to ship their products to another province and preventing any producers of one province from shipping their products to another province. And that is the problem we are again facing today.

In short, what is the purpose of all this? Is it the intention to ruin a Quebec industry which made the mistake of being efficient, of being in the forefront, of being forward-looking, of being competitive, that is the broiler business.

It is claimed that the Quebec broiler producers do not pay their workers adequately. That is quite possible. I tried to check that and in some places I was told that it was not true. I agree that it is probably true in some cases, but I will not generalize by saying that the Quebec egg producers are not paid as they should be. It is likely that this new competition by the province of Quebec on

The Address—Mr. M. Lessard

other markets may have come as a surprise because it was so unexpected and in the past there was so little competition from Quebec producers. This is understandable because I am myself greatly surprised to see that we have been able, in the province of Quebec, to produce so much and to reach such a degree of efficiency that we can sell our products to our friends in British Columbia.

If the aim is to destroy this industry in Quebec, to bring it to heel, as we are told by some people, I have figures which prove that this war of the markets may take us very far, and that we all run the risk, as consumers, to have to foot the bill which will probably be quite high.

I have with me a table extracted from the report of the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Section, issued every four months.

It can be noted that for 1968 the total value of the Canadian agricultural production amounted to \$4,390,-767,000.

Who was producing it? The province of Quebec? No, at least certainly not alone. Ontario, the most industrialized province, was producing the most part of it with a total of \$1,328,163,000, followed by Saskatchewan with \$900,-491,000. Coming third was Alberta with \$808,770,000 and, fourth, Quebec with \$634,637,000. Then there was Manitoba with \$368,315,000, British Columbia with \$211,-914,000, and then Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The total figures do not necessarily tell the whole story. I tried to assess what could be the per capita production and I looked into the figures of the Canadian population as of June 1, 1968. So, I discovered, that, with regard to agriculture, Saskatchewan headed the list with a per capita production of \$938, followed by Alberta with \$530, Manitoba with \$380, Prince Edward Island with \$312, Ontario with \$182, Quebec with \$107, British Columbia with \$98, New Brunswick with \$80 and Nova Scotia with \$72.

There is no doubt that Quebec overproduces in some lines. Let us take the dairy industry, for example. There is no one who has not heard of over-production in the Quebec dairy industry. However, again looking at statistics, I find that for 1968, dairy production in Ontario was valued at \$248,214,598, while in Quebec it had totalled only \$232,781,566, that is 38.6 and 36.2 per cent respectively of the total value of Canadian production.

In short, even in the dairy industry, Quebec was accused of being responsible for the dairy surpluses while the volume of our production was even lower than that of Ontario.

Therefore, I ask you who is overproducing in Canada? Have we ever heard any recriminations against Ontario producers? Not that I know of, Mr. Speaker. Here again people have raised their voices against the Quebec producers. Too many Quebecers were producing too much milk. It is the only thing they overproduced.

Now it appears that we overproduce broilers. Hold on, that it has no sense whatever! In short, I ask the question once again: What do they really want? More unemploy-