

It may however become necessary to raise the prices of certain commodities, as happened recently in the case of farm machinery, a measure which I cannot criticize because we have had ample evidence that the manufacturers could not produce at a profit. We may be sure also that they would not have taken steps to increase their production. They might even have curtailed their production, thus depriving our farmers from machinery they sorely needed in view of the scarcity of labour.

Our farmers have a greater need of equipment than in the past and a shortage of farm machinery would impair increased production. I take this opportunity of congratulating our farmers on their splendid effort during the war years when they intensified production while 400,000 of their number had left the land to serve with the armed forces or in various other fields.

May I remind my hon. friends in this house, Mr. Speaker, that if we do not grant the farmers all the means of production, the whole country will suffer. I confess that I find the price of farm machinery very high. A farmer needs a great deal of capital to secure everything he needs for profitable operation. If new increases raise production costs on the farm, the government must lend a helping hand as was done when the government increased the prices of bacon, eggs, butter and other agricultural products, or add to the farmers' revenue by grants of some sort.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the farmers want a more generous agricultural loan, similar to that extended to veterans by the government.

I compliment the government for the fine legislation implemented in favour of our veterans which does credit to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would now ask hon. members to consider the riding of Russell, which I have the honour to represent, because it truly reflects the whole of Canada. In the first place, its population is made up of all creeds and all races, French-Canadians, English, Scottish, Irish and others, living in perfect harmony.

In think my constituency is one of the best agricultural districts of Canada, on account of its production of butter, milk, cheese, pork and eggs. A large part of our farm products is sold in the beautiful city of Ottawa, the capital of our country, of which we are so proud on account of its growth and of its attractions, and which is remarkable for its fine people and its distinguished visitors.

[Mr. Gour.]

Although farming is the main occupation in my constituency, the district is noted for some very pretty small towns and attractive villages which hope for more industries. I take this opportunity of appealing to the government and to manufacturers and of informing them that they would receive a warm welcome in the county of Russell. To my mind, it would be beneficial to disperse our industries rather than concentrate them in large urban centres; since, in the event of another war, the atomic bomb could destroy a city in a few minutes, it would be advisable to scatter these industries throughout the rural districts where life is less expensive for the worker and where the farmer could sell his products closer to home.

In my constituency of Russell, one finds in Rockland, Orleans, Embrun, Russell, Casselman, Bourget, Clarence Creek, and elsewhere, ideal locations for any type of industry and capable workers who would certainly cooperate with any establishment set up in the district. The Rockcliffe and Uplands airports with which you are familiar are also in the vicinity, and you are well aware of the immense service they rendered the country in war time and of their present contribution.

I shall prove to you that we can rightly be proud of this fine constituency of Russell, because for 59 consecutive years, that is, since 1887, it has never failed to elect a Liberal member to the House of Commons in Ottawa.

We shall celebrate that diamond jubilee shortly and I wish to invite the Prime Minister and all the hon. members to join in with us in celebrating this glorious event and come back later when we celebrate the centenary. I do not think the representatives of Russell have taken too much of the time of the house and it is not my intention to abuse this privilege, as I believe that needlessly protracted discussions cost the country millions of dollars and tend to increase taxes.

The electors of my constituency feel that their interests are well taken care of by the Liberal party. A moment ago I congratulated the members of the cabinet for this unparalleled era of prosperity prevailing in my constituency and throughout Canada. This is proven by the fact that during the ninth victory loan the sum subscribed was higher than the total amount of all the loans launched during the first great war.