

much earlier date. Why? Because in Alberta we were at the beginning of the creamery industry. In fact, very few cows were milked in that province then, as most of them could only be milked by a man on horseback. There were only a few creameries in operation, and so we put in proper regulations at the very start. I recollect as a lad in Ontario taking a firkin of butter to the local store and trading it for goods which we needed. The grocer placed it behind the counter with other butter and mixed it all together. It was then renovated and perhaps deodorized and sent to the British market as Canadian butter. Naturally this gave our butter a bad name on that market. I remember that the province of Alberta first passed a grading law, Saskatchewan followed one or two years later, and Manitoba later still. The three Prairie Provinces could then sell their butter in Great Britain for two cents a pound more than the commodity commonly called Canadian butter brought. All this goes to show that if you are to get the best market you must have a standard grade for your product. The purchaser must know from the mark on the outside of the box what quality he is getting.

Such are the things that the Government can do for people on the farms, and so enable them to get the best possible return—and they need it badly enough—for the hard work they put in on the land.

I do not intend to say very much about wheat, as probably the matter will be discussed during the course of the session. I do want, however, for a moment to direct attention to the value of Canadian wheat production and wheat export. If our men on the land in the Prairie Provinces will take care of the structure of their soil and see that such things are done to it as will prevent their farms from blowing over onto their neighbour's, then we shall have a better system of farming over the whole Dominion. Those who have been on the land in Western Canada have faced great difficulties. After one experiences three or four years of drought one does not know quite what to do. Many a time I have watched for signs of rain. When a man has to face difficulties of that kind, I am afraid he does not worry so much about what he should or should not do with his land.

It seems to me the great need in this country is a decent price for the men milking cows and feeding cattle and carrying on our farms; which, after all, should be carried on in the family fashion all over Canada. Farming then becomes not merely an industry, but an institution, and our people begin to understand the land as it is understood by the

farmers in England and Scotland. This is perhaps best described by Tennyson in his Northern Farmer. When the old man was dying, a bit early, he thought, he very much regretted having to go, not on account of his family or the neighbours or anything of that kind, but of the land. While he had done some things not quite up to the mark, yet he hoped to be excused because he had been faithful to the land. He thought some other person might be more easily spared; so he said:

A mowt 'a taaen owd Joanes, as 'ant not
a 'aapoth o' sense,
Or a mowt 'a taaen young Robins—a niver
mended a fence;
But godamoighty a moost taake mea an'
taake ma now
Wi' aaf the cows to cauve an' Thurnaby
hoalms to plow.

When our people have that kind of high regard for the land on which they live, then we shall have in this country the kind of farming that will make for general success.

There are a few other things I should like to talk about, but I am not going to do so, because perhaps you know most of them better than I do. But I do hope the Senate Committee on Agriculture will function. I do not know who is chairman of that committee; so I am not aiming at any person in particular—

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: He is a man from Bruce county.

Hon. Mr. MARSHALL: Then his work will be properly done. But I think the Committee on Agriculture of this body can do a great deal of useful service. Of course in saying that, I suppose I am only doing what every new member does when he comes into this place. He thinks that he should revolutionize everything. But over a long period of years during which I have met many people of many kinds I have learned patience, and I will not be unduly pressing, although there are some things that I should like to see done to make life easier for the people on the farms.

During the last year I have had the satisfaction, and it was a grim satisfaction, of keeping track of all I had to spend on, and all I managed to make from the operation of 150 acres of land in the county of Bruce in the province of Ontario; and while I should not like to speak out of the fulness of my heart at the moment, I hope to be able before the year has gone by to tell some people—not members of this House—some truths they ought to know.