

ernment intends to introduce the measures that were passed last session but which did not become law, which measures I feel will naturally go through without any great discussion or any waste of time. The most important measures passed last session, in which we are more particularly interested, include rural credits, which is a matter of great urgency. We regret the circumstances which have kept this legislation in abeyance, and we hope that it will eventually become law and so prove of great benefit to the agricultural sections of the country. There is also the legislation dealing with the revaluation of soldier settlers' lands. This is an important piece of legislation and it is absolutely essential that it be pressed through the House as soon as possible in order to afford relief to those men who fought so valiantly for us but who find themselves to-day in a condition so onerous that it is almost impossible for them to stay on the land.

Another important measure is the old age pensions bill which I am glad to see the government proposes reintroducing. True, this particular measure is not of great magnitude; it only begins to touch the question. But to the extent that the government are making an effort to deal with the matter, we should give them our support. I notice also in the speech that the government purpose re-establishing the special committee for the revision of the rules of the House. Those of us who have been members of parliament for any length of time realize that the rules must be amended in some particulars to allow the business of the House to be carried on more expeditiously. When there were only two parties the rules were probably adequate, but with the advent of several parties and groups the situation has altogether changed and consequently the rules should be revised and brought up to date to meet present conditions and to facilitate the passage of legislation.

One of the items in the speech which I consider very indefinite and in respect of which I purpose reserving judgment is that dealing with the coking of Canadian coal. We have no intimation as to how far the government propose to go in this direction. Possibly they have in mind the coal situation in Nova Scotia, but I would remind the House that for decades past, industries in that province have received bounties and subsidies by the million, which bounties and subsidies have only made millionaires of a few people while they have impoverished the many. We therefore reserve our judgment in that regard, waiting with patience for the proposals of the government.

Dealing with the situation which this brings to our minds, that is, the maritime situation, there is one thought which I would like to impress upon this House. Before we start to tamper with this great problem, let us first of all be sure of our ground, and then let us be sure that whatever action we may take will be all-sufficient to meet the conditions as they exist in the maritime provinces. I do not believe we should deal with this problem in a piecemeal manner; we should do it thoroughly, and it will be more effective. When the report of the Duncan commission comes before the House I trust that we will be in a position to offer some constructive suggestions in that regard.

I also notice that the government propose to make some amendments to the Canada Grain Act. These amendments are not set out in the speech from the throne, of course, but I presume that one amendment likely to be brought forward will deal with the property rights of the farmer in respect to the routing and the destination of his grain. Hon. members will remember that two years ago we passed a new Canada Grain Act in which certain amendments were included which deprived the farmer of his property rights in routing the grain to a terminal of his own choosing. I opposed that amendment when the bill was before the House, and I oppose the situation as it is to-day. You cannot deprive any large class, such as the agricultural class, of their property rights without at the same time opening the door for the demand that other classes be deprived of such rights also, and therefore it is very important that the property rights of farmers in the routing of their grain should be restored at the earliest possible moment. If that right is not restored, we will have the situation in Canada of one class being deprived of certain rights while other classes are not so deprived.

There is still another matter touching the grain situation which is very important, and I must confess that we are looking for some way out of the difficulty. Under the Grain Act it is determined how our grain shall be graded, and the certificates of the inspection department are very important. In recent years we have enlarged our inspection system through the creation of new inspection points, and as a result we find that with the larger number of points where grain is inspected, the dissatisfaction of the farmer in regard to the grading has increased to a large extent. It seems unfortunate that such should be the case, but most farmers to-day feel that they can get a better grade for their grain by allowing it to go through Winnipeg and be inspected at that point. The point I desire