

proposal to pass without expressing my opinion upon it. I wish I had power to control this Senate. If I had, this measure would be deferred for six months or until such time as the people of Canada, especially the farmers, who are more interested than any others; should have an opportunity of learning what this Treaty is. It would not injure the pulp and paper business, or any other industry, if we delayed for six months before putting this Treaty into force, in order to study its effects upon the welfare of Canada.

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: May I ask the honourable gentleman just one question? I have listened to him very carefully, and I must say that I am at a loss to know whom to believe. In another place Hon. Mr. Crerar, ex-leader of the Progressives, who is just as strongly in favour of the Treaty as the honourable gentleman is opposed to it, has given very good reasons to show that it should not hurt the farmers. Now, how are laymen to know which is right? Perhaps the honourable gentleman from Bedford can tell us why Mr. Crerar takes one view and he has taken the opposite?

Hon. Mr. POPE: I can tell you one reason, if you would like to have it.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Mr. Crerar does not own a farm and never did; I have always owned a farm and do now. That is the difference. I am not a political machine.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Then the next question is this—and I think it also arises out of Mr. Crerar's speech. He says that Canadian cheese has to compete with Australian cheese in England, and has competed successfully, too, for years. Now, if we can compete with Australian cheese in England, surely we ought to be able to compete with it in Canada, when we do not have to pay the freight that is payable on cheese shipped to England.

Hon. Mr. POPE: Can the honourable gentleman give me any reason why we should compete in the home market? Do you not think that the Canadian citizen has a claim on the Canadian market? What are we paying taxes for, and why are we here? I absolutely object to the Canadian citizen being placed upon the same footing as the rest of the world, so far as the markets of Canada and the profits to be made therefrom are concerned.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: I would like to inform the honourable gentleman that Mr. Crerar was a farmer.

S—45½

Hon. Mr. POPE: About as much a farmer as he was a blacksmith.

Hon. JOHN WEBSTER: Honourable gentlemen, I do not think I can be accused of speaking too frequently or taking up too much time in this Chamber, but this question is of such vital importance to the interests of the farming community, especially in the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, where dairying is carried on to a large extent, that I would not be doing justice to the tillers of the soil if I did not try to explain to the honourable members of this House who are not in a position to judge, the situation of the farmers in this country to-day.

You have just heard the honourable gentleman from Bedford (Hon. Mr. Pope) refer to the number of people who have left the farms. That movement is occurring not only in the Province of Quebec from which he comes, but also in the Province of Ontario, and the reason is simply that farming has not paid. The labour of the farmer is the poorest paid of any in the world to-day. I know of a farm within four miles of the town in which I live that was sold last week for less money than it would cost to build a house on it; and it is a good farm, too. That illustrates the situation of the farmer. He has had some very hard problems to meet, of recent years, particularly since the war.

Let us consider for a moment what the use of motor cars and trucks and the consumption of gasoline have meant to the farmer in this country. Motor cars have simply put the horses out of commission. There is no demand to-day for horses. The business road-horse has gone; the doctor's horse has gone; the mail carrier's horse has gone. To-day the farmer has to sell his surplus hay for whatever he can get for it, and if he is practical he will endeavour to feed it out at a profit. The fact that very few horses are used in the city, and that motor trucks and gasoline are used deprives the farmer of a market for his hay.

The honourable member spoke of the sheep trade. Many of you, honourable gentlemen, know what is done in Australia with a flock of old sheep that are not worth the transportation charges: they are driven down a precipice and drowned in the sea. They are not worth more than from 25 to 60 cents apiece. Many of you older men remember what was the price of wool when wool was admitted free into this country. The price of hides in my town was 1½ cents a pound. The farmer to-day would have to sell about 12 hides at that price in order to buy a pair of boots for