

will be successful, however, dictate that support cannot be withheld from the bill, despite its lack of assistance in meeting the fundamental problems and issues.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, I should like to say a few words on this bill. Before doing so, however, I wish to join with the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) in his remarks expressing the pleasure and delight of all members of this house at the splendid reception which was given on Monday last to Her Majesty the Queen.

When Senator Inman of Prince Edward Island rose to speak I was reminded of the welcome to the Queen by her province. In voicing an expression of my feelings, I do so not only on behalf of the Atlantic provinces, but the rest of Canada. We were indeed proud of the splendid program in Charlottetown on the 100th anniversary of the Conference of 1864, and also the splendid reception given Her Majesty by Charlottetown, that city small in size but great in heart.

Honourable senators, Bill C-121, to provide for the extension of credit to farm machinery syndicates, was thoroughly discussed in the other place, I believe for five or six days, and all the good and bad points were brought out.

I listened to the Leader of the Government speaking carefully of the good points yesterday, and I congratulate him on his presentation and explanation of the bill. Today, Senator Pearson mentioned that possibly the honourable leader, as a lawyer, would not know as much about the farming industry as do the farmers. Since listening to the remarks of the honourable leader, and those of the two senators who are farmers, I feel that possibly Senator Pearson's statement is true. However, the lawyers could be greatly interested in this bill. I can foresee a lot of legal business for the lawyers across Canada if the provisions of this bill get into full operation, and indeed the lawyers may become the beneficiaries rather than the farmers.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: What about the machinery companies?

Hon. Mr. Brooks: And the machinery companies, of course; it is understood that they will do well.

I am not going to repeat the arguments which have been used. The shortcomings were very well brought out by the two previous speakers. However, the Leader of the Government mentioned yesterday the fact that this scheme had been tried out in Great Britain. Possibly that is the only country in the world where it is being tried out; and I might add—as the leader also mentioned—

that it is not sponsored by the government in Great Britain. I believe it is sponsored by the Farmers' Union and by one of the great banks, Barclays Bank. He also said there were 600 syndicates in Great Britain. Britain has a great many farmers, and with 600 syndicates, if they had only three to a syndicate, it would mean that only 1,800 farmers had shown any interest in the syndicates; but I have not the least doubt their syndicates are much larger than that, just as they would be here.

There is no comparison between farming in Great Britain and in Canada. I think most of us during visits to Great Britain have seen their small farms. I remember when I was over there years ago, there was what one might call the "one-horse farm," just a few acres and that was before the days of mechanization. Now that the horse is no longer used and farms are becoming mechanized, I can understand three or four small farmers joining together to buy a tractor, because that is a piece of machinery which on a few acres of land would hardly be a necessity, even in these times of mechanization. As I say, I can understand a few British farmers joining together for that purpose, but can you compare that situation with that existing in Canada? Senator Inman mentioned the 100-acre farm, but I believe the smallest farms across Canada, and even in the Atlantic provinces, are 150, 200 or 250 acres.

In regard to the essential machinery, such as the tractors I have mentioned and, on the dairy farm, the milking machines and other machinery used by the so-called small farmer in Canada, these could not be shared with his neighbour. There is certain specialized machinery, as has been pointed out by Senator Pearson, which can be shared, but it is only specialized machinery.

Then again, it occurs to me that in these days of mechanization and automation, the farm too is becoming automated, as the leader mentioned yesterday. At least it can be said that the farms are becoming larger and larger. This is one of the results of this and other legislation.

Today, with so much machinery being used, the young people are leaving the farms. There are now fewer farms and fewer farmers than there were a few years ago, although we are producing more and more on the farms. Indeed, we produce so much we do not know what to do with it. A few years ago we had 600 million bushels of wheat on the prairie farms that we could not sell. I remember we also had millions of tons of butter we could not sell. We did give some of it away to hospitals, and similar institutions, and we sold some at very low prices to such countries as India. The same situation applies to