

*The Address—Mr. Stephenson*

table appear in *Hansard*, so everyone may see it, and I would ask the privilege of tabling it.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Stephenson:** We have been told by the minister also how much better off Canadian farmers were under these long-term agreements. Well, how many long-term agreements have we now, as compared with what the farmers thought they were going to get? Now we find the minister presenting to this house the Agricultural Products Act, which would give him a virtual monopoly over all agricultural products in Canada.

**Mr. Gardiner:** That is the bill on which you should be making this speech.

**Mr. Stephenson:** In reading that legislation I find that if a farmer should violate any of its provisions he may be subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 or six months in jail or both. I am going to ask the minister if he still thinks that is a good act.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Which act?

**Mr. Stephenson:** Surely the minister is not going to say, like some others, "I did not hear you." Do you still think it is a good act as far as the farmers are concerned?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Which act?

**Mr. Stephenson:** The Agricultural Products Act, which you have on the order paper now.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Yes, it is a good act.

**Mr. Stephenson:** If it is good, how do you reconcile the statement apparently made by you at the meeting of the Ontario concentrated milk producers association on October 10, when you were reported to have said:

Mr. Gardiner said that consumers do not appreciate wartime sacrifices of farmers and . . . that farmers have not been able to make consumers realize how much farmers sacrificed under a government controlled price policy during world war II.

**Mr. Gardiner:** That is why we need the act. If the consumers realized that we would not need it.

**Mr. Stephenson:** The minister says the farmers suffered under this control policy, but now he wants to bring in legislation which will give him control over everything. The farmers in Durham county were not much interested in the political speech made by the minister the other evening, but they would like to know where our markets have gone for hogs, eggs, apples, honey, tobacco, potatoes and many other commodities. Incidentally I would like to ask the minister again when the department intends to carry out T.B. tests in my county. I have been asking for this during the last three years. I have had promises from the minister that it would

be done, but nothing has been done. We heard the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Blair) tell us that cattle were one source of tuberculosis in human beings. Then on the other hand we have the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) standing up and saying what a wonderful job has been done in chest X-rays for the detection of tuberculosis; yet here we have nothing being done at the source in order to prevent the spread of this disease.

**Mr. Gardiner:** If the hon. member will produce the veterinarians, we will do it for him.

**Mr. Stephenson:** I now want to say a word about the Minister of Agriculture's applesauce.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** We are getting plenty of it.

**Mr. Stephenson:** If there ever was an instance of applesauce being handed out by a responsible minister, the statement of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), to the effect that we cannot sell our apples in the United Kingdom because she is now producing enough of her own, hit an all-time high as the following official United Kingdom import figures show.

**Mr. Gardiner:** What is the hon. member reading from?

**Mr. Stephenson:** The official United Kingdom import figures. Here they are. From Australia, in 1947, imports to Britain were 92,707 hundredweight; in 1948 imports apparently were 1,108,995 hundredweight. From New Zealand there were no imports to Britain in 1947 but in 1948 she sent 357,529 hundredweight. In 1947 Canada shipped to Britain 663,145 hundredweight of apples. But in 1948 Canada did not ship an apple to Britain.

I should like to table that report also, if I may have the permission of the house to do so.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Stephenson:** My riding being particularly an apple-producing area—and by the way, some of the best apples in Canada are grown there—what I say to the minister is this. When the government saw fit to spend \$1,500,000 in the Annapolis valley to root up some of the trees before an election, the people in my riding want to know why some of this money was not spent to procure markets for their apples, or why they did not get a little slice of this money which apparently was spent.

**Mr. Gardiner:** They got a great deal of it indirectly.